

30 People in the Bible You Need to Know

#3 Noah | February 4, 2018

A short biography

- Noah was 500 years old when he is first mentioned, and 600 years old when he enters the ark (Gen. 5:31, 7:6).
- Noah was the first person to be authorized to be a meat eater (Gen. 9:3).
- Noah's children, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, along with Noah himself, became the origins of all of modern humanity.
- With Noah, the dispensation of Government began, because Noah was authorized to sentence a murderer to capital punishment (Gen. 9:6).
- Noah's story reveals that *clean* and *unclean* animals, along with animal sacrifice, existed before the Law was given at Mt. Sinai. Therefore, assuming that something is required based on a pre-law example is a flawed assumption.

Noah was chosen for the task of saving humanity from the flood for a very specific reason

- Genesis 6:9 – Noah was **perfect in his generations**.
- If you believe that the earth was destroyed because of bad behavior, you miss the entire meaning of the flood, and create a childish, monstrous image of God.
 - Note that **the imagination of a man's heart is evil from his youth** (Gen. 8:21).
 - These words were spoken *after* the flood. The behavioral characteristics of man were the same before and after.
 - If God destroyed the world because of behavioral characteristics, He did so under the flawed assumption that the destruction of the earth would change the hearts of man.
 - Since God cannot make bad assumptions, there must be *something more* than behavioral issues that are at the root of the flood's purpose.

- Genesis 6:1-8 is integrated into and theologically necessary for an understanding of vv 9 and following.
 - The **sons of God** (always angelic beings in Biblical cross reference) had procreated with the **daughters of men** (a plain-spoken phrase meaning exactly what it says) (Gen. 6:2)
 - In this, the offspring was the **giants** (Hebrew: Nephilim) (Gen. 6:4).
- The word **perfect** (tamim) means *unscathed* and is often translated *without blemish* when referring to animal sacrifices.
- The word **generations** is related to *descent*. The word is plural, so cannot mean *morally perfect in that particular generation*, but must mean *perfect in his lineage*.
- Absolutely every contextual, grammatical indication is that Noah was chosen for his role in the ark because his DNA was not tainted by the Nephilim.
 - Genesis 6:11-13 uses the word **corrupt** five times (three nouns, two verbs).
 - The corruption is not moral corruption, but chemical corruption.
 - The chemical corruption was in **all flesh** (v. 12).
 - Noah was the *incorrupt* man who could repopulate the earth.

Spiritual Insights from Noah

- Most people imagine Noah preaching to the multitudes, begging them to repent, as his sons built the ark.
- Nothing in the story indicates that anyone other than Noah and his family was invited into or allowed into the ark.
- Such a belief comes from the prevalence of non-dispensational thinking, which assigns every *current* activity of God with *past* activity of God, and vice-versa.
- The invitation into the ark was given by God alone, and had a very specific audience (Gen. 7:1).
- The invitation into the ark was given based on Noah's **righteousness**.

- In contrast, the salvation offered by God through the work of Christ (our ultimate Rest), is open to all (John 3:16) and on the basis of grace (Titus 3:5-7).