

## Sermon Discussion

### 30 January 2022

Read Genesis 6:11-8:22

#### Dig Deeper

The ark was about *137 metres long* (about 1 ½ football fields), *23 metres wide* (7 standard parking spaces), and *14 metres high* (a typical four-story building). It had three decks and over *9,000 square metres* of deck space. There were *over 28,000 cubic feet* of space in it. This is the capacity of approximately 860 railroad boxcars. It had a capacity of almost *14,000 gross tons*.

In v. 18, we see the first occurrence of the word **“covenant”** in the Old Testament. There were two basic kinds of covenants in the ancient Near East. The first is called *a parity covenant*. It was one that equals made. Examples: Abraham and Abimelech (21:22-32), Isaac and Abimelech (26:26-33), and Jacob and Laban (31:44-54).

The second is called *a suzerainty covenant*. It was one that a superior (e.g., a king) made with an inferior (e.g., a vassal). Examples: the Noahic Covenant (Genesis 9:1-17), the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 15:18-21), the Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 19-Numbers 10).

God graciously invited Noah to enter the ark with his family (7:1). This is the first occurrence of the offer **“come”** in the Bible. This invitation continues throughout Scripture, the last offer being in Revelation 22:17. God extends the invitation to people, He urges them to take advantage of the perfect provision He has made for their preservation, and He offers it in a time of impending judgment and gloom.

**Noah’s “altar”** is the first altar mentioned in the Bible. His “burnt offerings” were for worship. A burnt offering made atonement and expressed the offeror’s complete personal devotion to God (*see Leviticus 1; Romans 12:1-2*). As the head of the new humanity, Noah’s sacrifice represented all humankind.

1. “God said to Noah” in v. 13 is followed by several verses of fairly explicit instructions that present what God said to Noah. How is God’s “saying” to Noah similar to God’s “saying” to us? How is it different? Why is that?
2. How would you answer this question from a person searching for truth: “Why would I want to worship a God who destroys the entire earth because He was disappointed in His own creation?”
3. In v22, “Noah did all that God commanded him.” What does this tell us about Noah? How is the statement in v. 22 related to the description of Noah’s character and Noah’s relationship to God in v. 9?

4. What did God “remember” about Noah and the others in the ark that caused Him to end the flood (8:1)?
5. What does Noah do as soon he comes out of the ark? What does this tell you that Noah knew about approaching God?

### **Application & Prayer**

- Noah did according to all that God commanded him. Noah passed God’s difficult test of faith. Do you do all that God commands you? What are some specific commands that you struggle with?
- Are you trusting God in the storms of your life? When things seem to be out of control, where do you turn? Do you think that God doesn’t remember (know) your situation? Does God seem to be silent at times in your life? See Isaiah 43:2. Trust God in the storms of life. He cares for you and He is in control.
- Reflect on the implications of Genesis 6:11-8:22 for your own life today. Consider what you have learned that might lead you to praise God, repent of sin, and trust in His gracious promises.