

Cast of Characters- Noah -

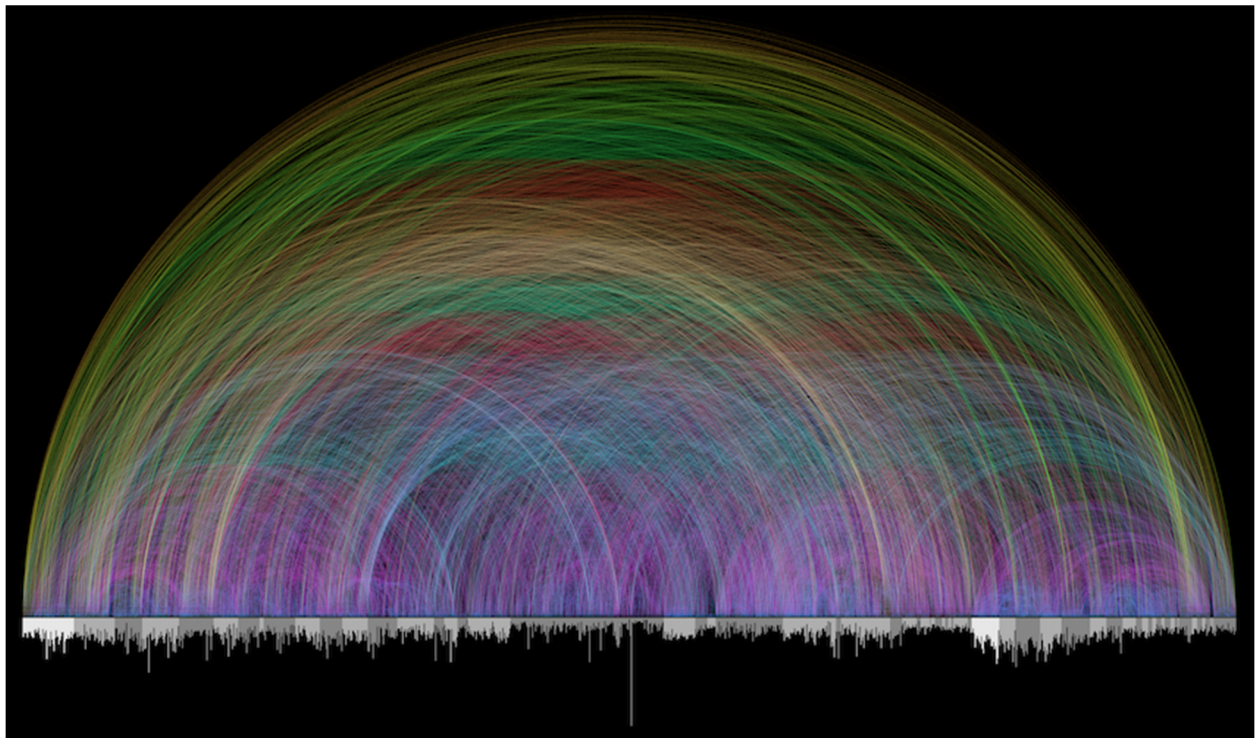
Introduction – Welcome and Why the Old Testament Matters

Good morning, church! I'm so glad you are here today. If you're a visitor or a guest, we are thrilled that you've taken time out of your schedules to join us. My name is Josh, and I'm the lead pastor here at Coastal Community Church. It's a joy to get to meet some of you for the first time and to continue walking with those of you who have been part of this community for a long time.

Last week, we started a new sermon series called *Cast of Characters*, where we're looking at the lineage of Jesus and the people God used in His story of redemption. We're also studying this in our community groups, and over the next several weeks, we'll continue exploring these stories together both in small groups and here in our services.

Today, we pick up the story with a man named **Noah**. Many of us know his story from childhood—Noah building the ark, gathering animals, and God saving him and his family from the flood. But today, we're going to look deeper. We're going to ask: Why did God flood the earth? Why was this devastation necessary? Why did God choose Noah? And what does all of this mean for us today as followers of Jesus?

Before we dive in, I want to remind everyone why it is so important to study the Old Testament. The Old Testament is not just background reading. It was the Bible that Jesus read. It was the Bible that the disciples knew. These stories of God's promises, God's covenants, and God's faithfulness shaped their trust in Him. And when we read the Old Testament, it helps us better understand God's character, His plans, and how His story of redemption moves from creation all the way to Christ.



In this picture, we can see this beautiful tapestry of how the Bible is interconnected. There are over 63000 cross references spanning thousands of years, and 40+ authors (really there is one). The Old Testament and the New Testament are not separate stories, they are one story, one Author, one plan of redemption. And today, as we look at Noah, we will see how God's covenant with him foreshadows the ultimate covenant we have in Jesus.

And for us today, when we read the Old Testament, we are better informed and more deeply transformed. These stories remind us that God's plan of redemption is one long story from beginning to end. It's not two different books, it's one book, one Author, one story.

From the very beginning, God's goal has always been that His glory would fill the whole earth. Genesis 1:28 says:

"God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.'" (Genesis 1:28, CSB)

That was God's intent, that His people, His image bearing creation would multiply His glory over the earth. But sin entered the story. And instead of God's glory filling the world, wickedness began to fill the world.

The Problem – Wickedness in the World

To understand Noah, we must first look back to where we left off last week.

In **Genesis 3**, Adam and Eve sinned. They disobeyed God, and sin entered the world. What was once perfect fellowship with God was now broken. Humanity was moved out of God's presence, and the shadow of death entered the story.

Then in **Genesis 5**, we see the genealogy of Adam through his son **Seth**. This line is important, it's where God's promise of redemption would continue.

From Adam to Noah, there are **ten generations**, about **1,600 years of human history**. That's how long it took for sin to spread so deeply that God would say the whole earth was filled with violence and corruption. Instead of staying holy and set apart, they compromised, And Compromise led to all out corruption.

Genesis 6 shows us just how dark the world had become:

Genesis 6:5–7 (CSB)

When the Lord saw that human wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time, the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and he was deeply grieved. Then the Lord said, 'I will wipe mankind, whom I created, off the face of the earth.'

That's a staggering description: *every inclination of the human heart was evil, all the time.*

That's total depravity. Humanity was consumed with sin.

And how did God respond?

Genesis 6:6 (CSB)

The Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and he was deeply grieved.

This is crucial. God's anger is not a quick temper, it's the holy grief of a Creator watching His creation destroy itself.

This is where we must hold two truths together:

- God is **just**, He cannot allow evil to reign unchecked even though it grieves him.
- God is also **good, merciful, and patient**.

Psalm 145:8–9 (CSB)

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and great in faithful love. The Lord is good to everyone; his compassion rests on all he has made.

So when people ask, “How could a loving God bring the flood?” the answer is this: because He is both holy and loving. In His mercy, He gave opportunities for repentance, we see this in the life of Noah. But in His justice, He could not let wickedness consume the earth forever.

Psalm 1 paints this contrast clearly for us:

Psalm 1:1–2, 4–5 (CSB)

How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night. ... The wicked are not like this; instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand up in the judgment.

In other words, God sees and distinguishes between the righteous and the wicked.

That was Noah's world. And if we're honest, it looks a lot like our world too.

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The Person – Noah Set Apart

And then, in the middle of all that darkness, we get a sentence of hope:

Genesis 6:8 CSB

Noah, however, found favor with the Lord.

Noah was different. Genesis 6:9 says:

Genesis 6:9 CSB

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God.

Now let's unpack who Noah was.

- Noah came from the line of Seth, the godly line preserved after Abel was murdered and Cain's line turned away from God. Noah inherited a heritage of calling on the name of the Lord.
- But more than that, Noah himself chose to walk with God. He stood out in a generation where everyone else was chasing wickedness.
- He was different. He was set apart.

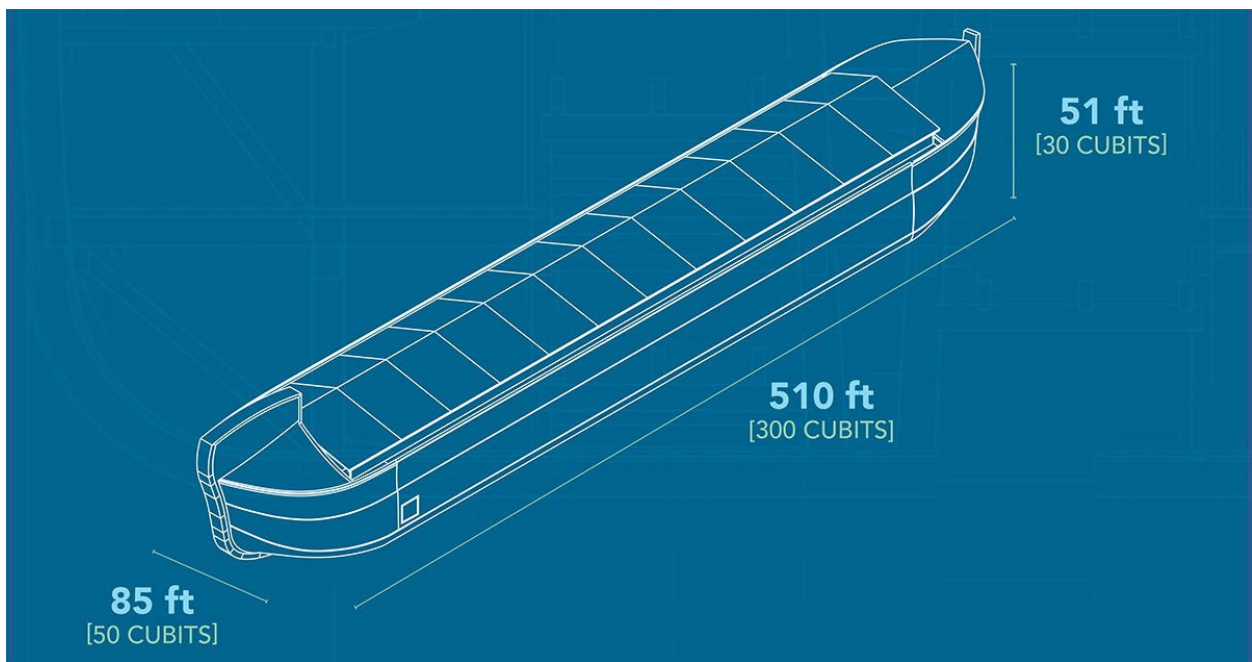
And Noah's difference wasn't private, it was going to become visible. God gave him a command that sounded impossible: "*Build an ark.*" Rain had never fallen before. The world had never seen a flood. **And yet Noah obeyed**. You are going to hear from me over and over again. Word like Surrender and Obey often in my sermons. We must surrender to our God and Obey His commands.

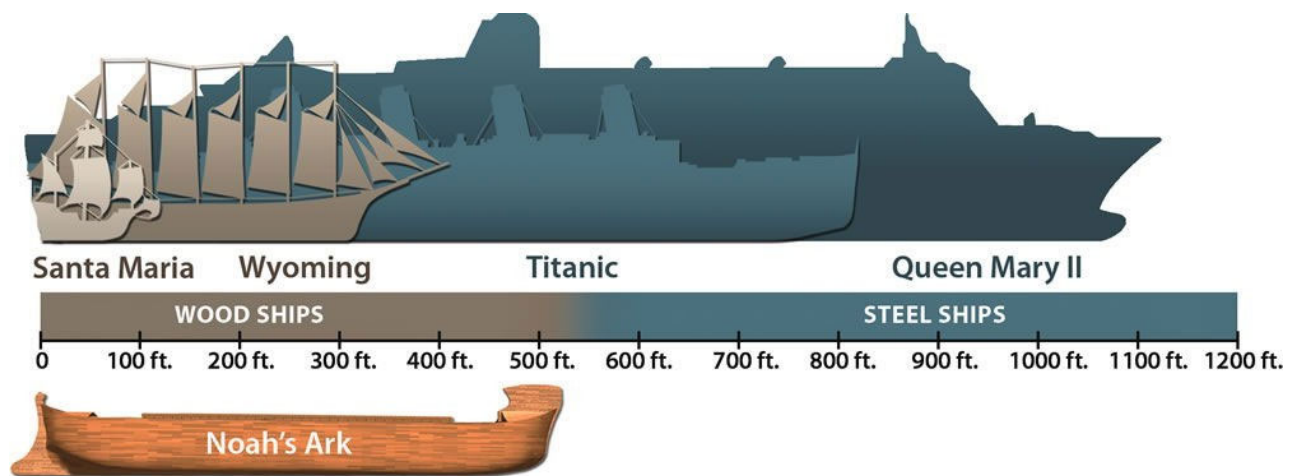
Hebrews 11:7 reflects on his obedience:

Hebrews 11:7 (CSB)

By faith Noah, after he was warned about what was not yet seen and motivated by godly fear, built an ark to deliver his family. By faith he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Think about that. For decades, Noah faithfully built the ark. He kept cutting the wood, laying the planks, and preparing for something he had never seen. He remained faithful. **Noah had to live as if what God said was true.**





Noah's life gives us at least three powerful examples:

1. **Noah obeyed even when he didn't understand.**
2. **Noah endured even when he was misunderstood.**
3. **Noah worshiped even after deliverance**

"Then Noah built an altar to the Lord. He took some of every kind of clean animal and every kind of clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar." (Genesis 8:20, CSB)

What would that look like for you?

But let's also be honest about Noah's failures. Genesis 9 records his drunkenness and shame. Like Adam before him, Noah was a sinner. His life reminds us that even the most faithful servants of God fall short. Noah points us forward to the One who would never fail. God's covenant stands strong, even in our brokenness.

The Covenant – God's Promise of Mercy

After the flood, God made a covenant with Noah and with all creation.

Genesis 9:12–13 says:

Genesis 9:12–13 (CSB)

And God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all future

generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.'

This was an **unconditional covenant**. God Himself promises never again to destroy the earth by flood. The rainbow is His sign of mercy.

It's important to understand: some covenants in the Bible are **conditional**, based on the obedience of God's people which we will see as we continue in this series. Others are **unconditional**, based solely on God's faithfulness. The covenant with Noah is unconditional.

But here's the key: even though God promised to never flood the earth again, sin still remained. Humanity's heart problem wasn't solved. Which means Noah's covenant pointed forward to something greater.

The Fulfillment – Christ the Greater Noah

Noah points us to Jesus.

- Just as Noah obeyed God and built the ark, Jesus obeyed the Father perfectly, even to the cross.
- Just as Noah and his family were saved through the ark, all who are in Christ are saved through His sacrifice.
- Just as the rainbow was the sign of God's covenant with Noah, the bread and the cup are the signs of the New Covenant in Christ.

Luke 22:20 (CSB) says:

In the same way he also took the cup after supper and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.'

The rainbow promised no more floods. The blood of Christ promises no more condemnation for our sin.

Application – A Call to Our Church

So what does Noah's story mean for us today?

- Like Noah, we are called to be **set apart in a wicked world**. The world around us may call us foolish, outdated, even offensive. But like Noah, we must walk with God when no one else does.
- Like Noah, we are called to **obey even when we don't understand**. God may ask you to trust Him in ways that don't make sense right now. Obedience means surrender, not certainty.
- Like Noah, we are called to **endure faithfully for the long haul**. Noah spent years building the ark. Faithfulness isn't measured in moments, but in a lifetime of trust.
- And like Noah, we are called to **worship God for His deliverance**. Our lives, our families, our church exist to make His glory known.

The Lord's Supper – The Greater Covenant

And now, we come to the Table. We are reminded again of the new covenant in Jesus. While the ark was God's provision to save Noah from the flood. The cross is God's provision to save us from the judgment of sin.

1 Corinthians reminds us that when we come to the table, we are to do this in a worthy manner. Let me remind us that when we take the Lord Supper, this is for those who claim Jesus as their Lord and Savior. If you have not made that commitment, I kindly ask you to refrain from this at this time. We are to examine ourselves to ensure we are in a right place with God.

Lord Supper - 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 says:

“On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.” (1 Corinthians 11:23–26, CSB)

As the rainbow reminded Noah of God's mercy, the bread and the cup remind us of God's ultimate mercy in Christ.

So as we eat and drink together, let us remember: God is holy. God is just. God is merciful. And in Christ, God has made a covenant that cannot fail.

Closing

From creation to the flood, from Noah to Jesus, from the rainbow to the cross, God has been writing one story.

A story of His glory, His justice, His mercy, and His covenant love.

Church, may we live as His set-apart people, walking with Him until the day His glory fills the whole earth forever.