

Noah – the man who built the ark in trust in God



The Bible tells us that in Noah's day, people were becoming increasingly violent. Selfishness and injustice dominated their lives. God saw the suffering and wickedness of mankind.

But Noah was different from those around him. It is written of him: **'Noah was a righteous and blameless man amongst his contemporaries; Noah walked with God.'** (Genesis 6:9)

This does not mean that Noah was perfect. However, he was a man who strove to live according to God's will. He did not allow himself to be swept along by the wicked behaviour of his fellow human beings.

God's Commission

God told Noah that a great flood was coming and gave him an unusual commission: he was to build a huge ark so that his family and many animals might be saved.

And **'Noah did everything just as God had commanded him.'**

(Genesis 6:22)

Noah did not argue with God or make excuses. He trusted that God's command had a purpose – even if he might not have fully understood it.

Courage Against the Tide

Building the ark was a colossal undertaking.

Noah probably spent many years working on it. The Bible does not explicitly say that people mocked him. Nevertheless, one can imagine how unusual his behaviour must have seemed to others. Building a huge ship on dry land required a great deal of courage and perseverance.

Noah did not let himself be swayed by the opinions of others. He remained true to his mission.

Courage often does not mean not being afraid. Courage means doing the right thing, even though others laugh at it or do not understand it.

Trust in God

When the flood began, Noah and his family entered the ark.

Then it says: **‘The Lord shut the door behind him.’**

This short sentence reveals something important: Noah was not alone. God did not abandon him. Whilst chaos reigned outside, Noah was able to trust that God would keep his promise.

Even as the floodwaters slowly receded, Noah waited patiently for God’s sign. Only when God told him to did he leave the ark.

After Noah had reached dry land, he did something remarkable. He did not first celebrate his own salvation.

He built an altar and gave thanks to God. **‘Noah built an altar to the LORD.’**

God’s Covenant with Noah

After the Flood, God made a covenant with Noah.

As a sign of this covenant, God placed the rainbow in the sky.

He said: “I will place my bow in the clouds; it shall be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.” (Genesis 9:13)

To this day, the rainbow serves as a reminder that God remains faithful to humankind and bestows new life.

What can we learn from Noah?

Even today, people are constantly faced with the decision of whether to simply go along with the majority or to have the courage to remain true to their convictions.

Noah shows that it is worth trusting in God – even when the path is difficult. He reminds us that true strength does not lie in being stronger than others, but in remaining true to what is good.

Noah can be a role model, particularly for young soldiers. In the service, courage, responsibility and reliability are indispensable. But just as important is one’s inner compass: the willingness to do the right thing even when it is uncomfortable or when one seems to stand alone.

Noah’s story makes it clear: courage begins in the heart. Those who trust in God and take responsibility can offer hope even in difficult times.