

Noah and the Great Flood

God told Noah: *"build an ark, 450 feet long and three stories high, and cover it with tar so it will not leak."*

God said to Noah: *"I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my **covenant** with you; and you shall come into the ark, you and your family. And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kind, of every creeping thing on the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come into the ark with you, to keep them alive. Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them."*

Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Noah believed and trusted that what God told him was true, and he finished the ark. When the ark was finished, one male and one female of every living thing entered. Noah, his wife, his sons, and their wives also entered the ark. Then it rained for forty days and forty nights, covering the earth with water. Then finally, the rain stopped.

The ark floated on top of the waters for 150 days after the rain stopped. Then a wind blew over the earth, causing the waters to go back, and the ark came to rest on the top of Mount Ararat. At the end of another forty days, Noah opened the window and sent forth a raven. The raven went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. But the dove found no place to set its foot, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth, and returned to Noah on the ark. Noah put out his hand and took the dove and brought it into the ark.

Noah waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark. The dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive branch. Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove again. It did not return. Noah knew it was time to leave the ark, and his family and all the living things came out of the ark onto dry land. They had been in the ark for over eight months.

God then said to Noah: *"I make my **covenant** with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth. As a sign of this **covenant**, I will set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the **covenant** between me and the earth."*

That bow is our beautiful rainbow.