

# The Man Who Walked with God

GENESIS 6:5-9:17



לֵי-קִשְׁתֵּי הַבַּיִת

**GENESIS 6:5-9**

God saw that people were treating one another badly. All they did was plan wicked deeds all day long. God said, "I will wipe out the humans that I created. I wish that I had never made them!" But in that wicked time there was one man, Noah, who was a *tzaddik*—a righteous person. Noah walked with God.

**GENESIS 6:14-22**

God said to Noah, "Make an ark of cedar wood and seal it with tar. It should have many rooms, a window at the top, and a door on its side. I am about to flood the earth, and everything on earth will die. But I will make a covenant with you, Noah. You and your family will enter the ark, along with two of each animal—one male and one female. Collect food for yourselves and for the animals and store it away." And Noah did as God commanded.

What do you think it means to "walk with God"? What kind of a person "walks with God"?



A covenant is an agreement or promise.

Many believe that Noah's ark came to rest on this mountain in present-day Turkey.

**GENESIS 7:6-23**

When Noah was six hundred years old, he brought his family and animals of every kind into the ark. Seven days later, the sky burst open. Rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights. The waters rose so high that even the tallest mountains were covered. All the animals and all the humans on earth died. Only Noah and those with him in the ark remained safe.

**GENESIS 7:24-8:9**

After forty days, God caused a wind to blow across the earth, and the rain stopped. After the flood had been on the earth one hundred and fifty days, the waters began to dry up. The ark came to rest in the mountains of Ararat. Noah opened the window of the ark and sent out a raven. The raven flew around, searching for a place to land. When the raven did not return, Noah sent out a dove. But the dove could not find a resting place and returned to the ark.

## Getting to Noah You



*Flashback!* You are Noah, and it is 100 years after the flood. Your many grandchildren have lots of questions about your days on the ark. Answer their questions about your experiences, so they can teach their grandchildren.

How did you react when God told you about the flood?

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What was hardest about being on the ark for so long?

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What was the most fun?

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## The Bird of Peace



### Question

Why did Noah choose the dove to be his messenger?

### Classic Midrash

The animals heard a rumor: Noah would take only his favorite animals with him on the ark. So they came to Noah to boast about themselves. The lion roared, "I am the strongest of the beasts. I must be saved." The elephant blared, "But I am the largest." "But I give eggs," clucked the hen.

Noah noticed the dove sitting quietly on a branch. "Why are you silent, little dove?" "I don't think of myself as better than the others," cooed the dove. "Each of us has something the others do not, something given to us by God." "The dove is right," Noah said. "That is why all of you shall come into the ark. But because the dove was modest, I choose it to be my messenger." (Isaac Bashevis Singer, "Why Noah Chose the Dove")

### Your Midrash

Complete the story below to create your own midrash.

One day on the ark, Noah overheard a rabbit and giraffe arguing. "We are too different to be friends," said the giraffe. "I agree," said the rabbit. Then the dove spoke up. "It is true that you are different. But here is why you should be friends:

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### GENESIS 8:10-14

After seven days, Noah again sent out the dove. This time, the dove returned with an olive leaf in its beak. Seeing this, Noah knew that the earth was beginning to dry. Noah waited another seven days and sent the dove again. This time, the dove did not return. The earth was finally dry.



*The olive leaf showed Noah that the waters had gone down far enough for the tops of trees to appear.*

### GENESIS 8:15-9:6

Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark with your family. Bring every living thing that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creeping things. Let them be fruitful and multiply on the earth." Then God blessed Noah and his family and said, "You may eat animals and plants, but you may not eat animals that are still alive. And you may not kill people, for they are created in the image of God."



*"Created in the image of God"? We've heard that before, when God first formed humans.*

### GENESIS 9:8-17

Then God said, "I will establish My covenant with you and with those who come after you, and with every living creature, forever. I promise never again to destroy the earth. I have placed a rainbow in the clouds. This is the sign of the covenant between Me and you."



*Why do you think God chose a rainbow as the sign of the covenant?*

## Standing His Ground



Our sages told this story: While Noah built the ark, his neighbors stood around and laughed. "What are you *doing*?" they asked. "God sees that people do wicked deeds all the time," Noah answered. "Soon God will bring a flood to destroy the world." Noah hoped that his neighbors would hear his words and change their wicked ways. Then God would not have to destroy the world after all. But even when Noah and his family boarded the ark, his neighbors still just stood around and laughed.

When everyone around us is behaving poorly, it can be difficult to do what is right. But Noah knew better. Noah showed kindness and respect to others, even though those around him did not. Perhaps that is why the Torah calls him a *tzaddik*, a "righteous person." Noah stood his ground. He did what he knew was right.

*The Bible tells us that Noah was a tzaddik, a "righteous person." The word tzaddik is related to the word tzedakah, "righteous giving."*



## Finding Courage

It takes courage to do what is right—especially if people around you are behaving poorly. Help Noah find his way through the maze to find the courage he needs.

