

Discovery Adventure #4
Buried Beneath the Waves
Genesis 6

Water burst like a bomb from the bottom of the ocean, turning into a tsunami that buried the cities and even the mountaintops with tons of water. More water poured from the sky in unending sheets of rain.

Everybody died.

Almost.

In this exciting story we learn the answer to an important question about God.

Will God really punish sin? He's patient and loving, so He will probably just forgive everyone in the end -- or that's what a lot of people think. Many don't believe there will be eternal punishment in hell, even though the Bible speaks often of that dreadful place.

Let's look in our Book of Secrets and see if we can discover how God REALLY feels about sin and judgment.

God gave Adam and Eve children, and their children had children. Before long the world was filled with people. They were all sinners because of Adam and Eve's sin. Imperfect parents can't have perfect children, so all the people were sinners. And were they ever bad! Each person wanted to be the god and to choose for himself. They didn't want to obey God.

Soon the world was full of filth and cruelty. Did He decide to overlook all this rebellion and nastiness? Nope.

God said, "That's enough."

We can see in this story that God is a holy God. He hates wickedness. He will allow people to go only so far in sin before He stops them and punishes them. This time he planned to

send a flood of water to destroy all the sinful people and to stop their disgusting ways.

All? Almost. One man found grace in the eyes of God. Noah loved God and served Him. Noah was a sinner, but he trusted God to send the Messiah to save Him. God told Noah about His plans to destroy the world and told Noah to build a ship. Because Noah believed God, he obeyed, even though it must have been hard.

Can you imagine how everyone laughed at Noah as he and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, built the giant boat? There he was, building a ship, and there wasn't an ocean anywhere near. Many scientists think that it had never rained up to that time. God watered the earth with a heavy dew on the ground each day, instead.

When Noah said water would come from the ground and from the sky, the people must have cracked up laughing. Is it hard to keep doing the right thing when someone is laughing at you? Yes, it's hard! But Noah and his family kept on, year after year, building the boat, which is also called an "ark."

While he was building, he kept on preaching, too. Noah warned the people that God hated their sinful ways. He urged them to trust in God for salvation, but no one listened.

The day came when Noah received more orders from God. God told him to stock the ship with food and to bring animals on board. He was to bring two of every kind of animals, except for the animals that were good to eat. Noah was to put seven of those on board.

Eventually, the boat was loaded with food and with animals. Noah, his wife, his three sons, and his sons' wives went in. Although Noah had invited, warned and begged, for years, not one other person believed and got on the boat with them.

And the door slid shut. No human hands touched it. God, Himself, shut them inside. Can you imagine how Noah and his family felt when they saw the door closing?

And then.....nothing. For a whole long week they sat inside the ark on dry land while the crowd outside laughed at them. Not a drop of rain fell.

Then the storm came.

God broke up the earth and water shot out. He poured water from the clouds. Before long the wicked people saw their mistake. They probably tried their best to get into the ark, but it was too late. God had shut the door, and they couldn't get in. Many probably ran for high ground, but that was no good, either. The water soon covered the entire earth. When God sends a judgment, there is no running and no hiding.

All the wicked people drowned in the water that day. They refused to believe God, and they died. But Noah and his family believed and obeyed. They stayed safe and dry on the ark. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. The water probably was rough, but Noah had followed God's exact instructions for building the boat, and the ark stayed safely afloat.

Noah and his family stayed on the boat a long time – more than a year. At last, though, the water went down and they were able to get off. Can you imagine how glad they must have been to be on dry land again?

The first thing they did was to build an altar and make a sacrifice to God. As they killed that innocent animal, they were saying they knew they deserved to die for their sins. The animal's blood didn't save them, but it was a sign that they knew Jesus would come one day to pay for their sins so they could escape the forever-death and punishment in hell.

God saw the sacrifice, and it pleased Him. He made a promise never to destroy the whole earth with a flood again. As a symbol of that promise, He put the rainbow in the sky. Ever afterwards, when there is rain there is a rainbow, a sign of God's promise.

God's Secret Message for You

So what does God think about sin? He hates it! He will always judge sin.

I hope you won't be like the people who didn't believe Noah. They thought God didn't care about their sin because they weren't punished right away. But God will always do just what He says. Those people had to face God's anger. People who refuse to believe God and insist on being their own god will see God's anger, too. They will see it forever in Hell – a real place where sin gets the punishment it deserves.

I hope you will, instead, be like Noah. He wasn't perfect, but He believed God. He obeyed God. Because he trusted God, he was saved from the flood. By trusting Jesus and obeying Him, you, too, can be safe from God's anger. Just as the ark took the beating from the waves, Jesus took the punishment for the sins of His people. He, alone, can keep us safe from the judgment our sins deserve.

Brain Glue

Why did God destroy the world with a flood?

Because the people were wicked

What instructions did God give Noah?

He told Noah to build a boat (ark).

What did Noah do while he was building the ark?

He preached to the wicked people.

Who went on the ark with Noah?

Noah's wife, his three sons, and the sons' wives

Name Noah's three sons.

Shem, Ham, and Japheth

How many animals did Noah take on the ark?

Two of the unclean animals and seven of the kind that were good for food

How long did it rain?

It rained for 40 days and 40 nights.

What happened to the wicked people who refused to obey God?

They drowned.

What did Noah and his family do when they came out of the ark?

They offered a sacrifice to God.

What sign did God give that He would never again destroy the whole world with a flood?

He put a rainbow in the sky.

Think About It

Is it hard to do the right thing when other people laugh at you?

What is more important – what other people think about you, or what God thinks about you?

Would you have been on the ark with Noah and his family?

Are you trusting in Jesus' sacrifice so you can be safe from God's judgment?