

God made a covenant with Noah.

As the Book of Genesis continues, we learn that God is greatly displeased with human beings. They were not being faithful stewards of the world.


Then God sent forty days and nights of rain. God allowed the floodwaters to rise above the highest mountains. All life outside the ark was lost.

Eventually the floodwaters went down, and Noah, his family, and all the animals left the ark. In gratitude, Noah built an altar and offered God a sacrifice on it. God was pleased with this sacrifice and made a covenant, or agreement, with Noah. God promised that even if humanity failed him again, he would never send another flood to destroy life on earth. The symbol of this promise was a rainbow. God told Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all mortal creatures that are on earth" (Genesis 9:17).

This story revealed an important religious truth: God's forgiveness and love, and humanity's goodness, can overcome all evil. Through Noah God made an everlasting covenant with all humanity. For that reason all people are called to friendship with God.

There is great meaning in the symbols found in the story of Noah. For the Church the flood water is a symbol of the waters of the sacrament of Baptism. Through Baptism we are freed from original sin and all personal sins. Through Baptism God offers us his forgiveness and his love.

Noah and his family were brought through the flood to new life. Through the waters of Baptism we are brought to a new life in Christ. Through the waters of Baptism, God begins a covenant relationship with each Christian. Just as the world was washed and made clean by the flood, we are washed and made clean in the baptismal water.

 Design a stained-glass window that reminds you of God's friendship with all people.



 Genesis 6:7—9:17

So to Noah, who was a just man, God said, "I have decided to put an end to all mortals on earth; the earth is full of lawlessness because of them. So I will destroy them and all life on earth" (Genesis 6:13). Then God commanded Noah to build a great arc and fill it with two of every living thing, male and female, along with his wife and family.