

STORY
OF
THE GREAT FLOOD.

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S T O R Y
OF
THE GREAT FLOOD.

Sometimes, after very heavy rain, rivers overflow their banks, and sweep away villages, drowning many people. But a far more dreadful event happened once. The whole world was drowned. All the people perished except one family.

In many countries, accounts of this great flood have been handed down. In the Hindu sacred books, it is said that a fish told Manu to build a ship, in which to save himself. But the true history of the flood is to be found in God's Holy Book, called the Bible.

At first there were only one man and one woman in the world. They had sons and daughters, and after a time the earth became full of people. But they were very wicked, fighting, and stealing, and killing one another. The great God who made the world cannot bear wickedness. At last He said He would drown all the people except one good man, and his wife, and children. The name of this man was Noah. He lived a long time ago.

God told Noah that He was going to send a great flood to punish the wicked people. Noah and his family were to be saved by building a large ark, a kind of ship, which would swim upon the top of the water. The ark was to be made of wood, covered

with pitch to keep out the wet. There were to be three great rooms, one above the other. The ark was bigger than many houses all put together. It had only one door and one window.

It took Noah many, many years to build the ark. He told the people that God was going to drown the world, and begged them to leave off their wickedness. But they would not mind. They went on eating and drinking, not thinking of God, nor trying to please Him. Noah was mocked as a foolish old man.

God told Noah to take some of all sorts of beasts and birds into the ark with him ; but first he was to get food for them to eat. Of beasts like cattle and sheep,

he was to take seven ; of those like lions, only two.

When the ark was ready, a strange sight was seen. From the jungles, the fields, and the air, some of all kinds of beasts, birds, and other creatures, came to the ark, and went in at the door. The wicked people may have said, "What can all this mean?" But they had still more reason to be frightened.

Noah then went into the ark with his wife, his three sons and their wives, eight persons in all. God afterwards shut the door of the ark. Now the black clouds gathered, and the rain poured down in torrents, never stopping for forty days.

The waters gradually rose. Some people climbed trees, but

the water soon reached to the tops ; others mounted high hills, but the flood followed them.



Meanwhile, the ark was floating on the water, all inside being safe. How much the wicked people, when they saw this, must

have wished that they had minded Noah !

At last the rain stops, and nothing is heard but the sound of the waves as they dash against each other. The ark alone is to be seen on the shoreless ocean:

God remembered Noah in the ark. He caused a wind to blow, and the waters began to go down. After about seven months, the ark rested on the top of a high mountain. In two or three months more, the tops of the mountains were seen.

Noah waited forty days longer. He then wished to know whether the waters were dried up. Going among the birds, he chose a raven, and let it out of the window. The raven did not like the ark. Although there were no trees

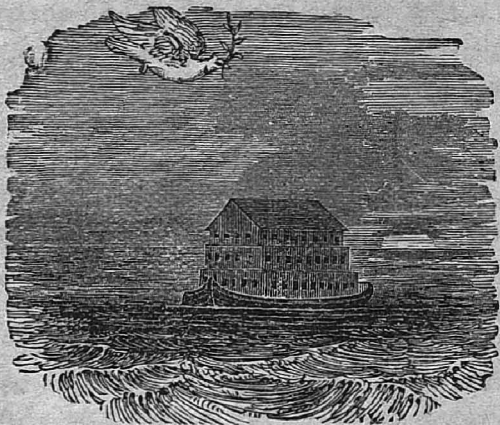
to be seen, nothing but water, the raven would not go back to Noah, but went flying about, resting outside the ark.



When Noah saw that the raven did not return, he went again among his birds, and chose a dove. The gentle little dove saw no-

thing but water, and soon came back to the ark. Noah put out his hand and pulled her in.

After waiting seven days, Noah sent out the dove again. This time the dove saw some trees.



She did not stay, but plucked off a leaf with her beak, and came back to Noah.

Noah kept the dove one week

more, and then sent her out again. This time she did not return. Now Noah knew that the earth was dry, but he waited in the ark till God told him to go out.

At last God told Noah to leave the ark, with his wife, his sons, and their wives, and every living creature that was with him.

How glad Noah must have been to come out safe and well! He saw again the green hills and fields; but where were all the wicked people? Not one of them was left.

The very first thing Noah did was to thank God for his great kindness. He offered some of the animals in sacrifice. God was pleased, and said that He would never more destroy the earth by a flood. The rainbow was to be



a sign that God remembered His promise. Through the children of

Noah, the world again was peopled.

Although the earth will never again be destroyed by a flood of waters, God's Holy Book tells us that it will be burned up. At the last day, God will judge all persons who have ever lived. We must give an account of whatever we have done. Afterwards the rocks will melt with the heat, and the flames will rise above the tops of the highest mountains.

How can we be safe when the earth is burned up? God does not now tell us to build an ark of wood, but to take refuge in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us. If we seek pardon of our sins from God in the name of Jesus Christ, He will hear us, and blot them out. Just as the

ark carried safely all who were in it through the dark waters of the flood, so all who trust in Jesus Christ as their Saviour, will be taken by Him to heaven before the fire of vengeance is poured down upon the earth.

Prepare for that dreadful day. Do not be heedless like the people in the time of Noah. Jesus Christ is the true ark. By believing in Him, you, as it were, enter in, and you will be safe.

