

Prophet Nuh (as)

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Noah, also known as Nuh, is recognized in Islam as a prophet and messenger of God. Noah's mission was to warn his people, who were plunged in depravity and sin. God charged Noah with the duty of preaching to his people, advising them to abandon idolatry and to worship only God and to live good and pure lives. Although, Noah preached the Message of God with zeal, but his people refused to mend their ways, leading to building the Ark and the Deluge, the Great Flood. Noah's preaching and prophet-hood spanned 950 years according to the Qur'an.

Noah's mission had a double character: he had to warn his people, asking them to ask for repentance and, at the same time, he had to preach about God's mercy and forgiveness, promising them the glad tidings God would provide if they led righteous lives. References to Noah are scattered throughout the Qur'an, and there is even an entire chapter carrying his name ([Qur'an: 6](#))

Noah is praised by God in the Qur'an, which shows his great status amongst the prophets. In the Qur'an 17:3, God states: "Verily he was a devotee most grateful." Also, in the Qur'an:

Noah cried to Us, and We are the best to hear one's prayer. We delivered him and his people from a Great Calamity, and made his progeny inherit planet earth, and We left this blessing for him among generations to come in later times: "Peace and salutation to Noah among the nations!" ([Qur'an 37: 75 – 79](#))

Also in the Qur'an 3:33, it states: "Allah did choose Adam and Noah, the family of Abraham and 'Imran above all people," (Qur'an:9)

The Qur'an states that Noah was inspired by Allah, like other prophets, such as Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Jesus, Elijah, Aaron, Jonah, David and Muhammad, and that he was a faithful messenger. Noah had firm belief in the Oneness of God, and preached Islam.

He continuously warned his people of a painful doom that was coming and asked them to accept one God instead of worshipping idols, such as Wadd, Suwa', Yaghuth, Ya'uq and Nasr. He told his people to serve God, and said that nobody but God could save them. He said that the time of the deluge was appointed and could not be delayed, and that the people had to submit to God.

God commanded Noah to build a ship, the Ark, and as he was building it, the chiefs passed him and mocked him. Upon its completion, the ship is said to be loaded with pairs of every animal, and Noah's household, and a group of believers who did submit to God. The people who denied the message of Noah, including one of his own sons, drowned.

Narrative in Islam

According to Islam, he conveyed the message for over 950 years. Islamic literature recounts that in the Generations of Adam, many men and women continued to follow Adam's original teachings, worshiping God alone and remaining righteous. Among Adam's descendants there were many brave and

pious men, greatly loved and revered by their respective communities. Exegesis goes on to narrate that, upon the death of these elders, people felt enormous grief and some felt prompted to make statues of these people in remembrance of them. Then gradually, through the generations many forgot what such statues were for and began to worship them, (as Satan slowly deceived each generation) along with many other idols.

Early preaching

Noah began preaching to his people both verbally and by example. He would praise God consistently and he urged his people to do the same, warning his tribe of the punishment they would face if they did not mend their ignorant ways. The Qur'an states that Noah repeatedly told his people: "O my people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him. Indeed, I fear for you the punishment of a tremendous Day!" (Qur'an:22)



Noah's ark depicted in a 14th-century manuscript of Rashid al-Din's world history, the Jami al-tawarikh

Early on, a few were moved by Noah's words, but the powerful and wealthy members of the tribe refused to accept his call. The unbelievers at the time were impelled to rebel by various evil motives. Firstly, they were extremely envious and jealous of men superior to them in any way. Secondly, the people were ignorant of the weak and lowly, who were frequently superior intellectually, morally and spiritually. As a result of their ignorance, they said: "Are we to believe you, when those who follow you are the low class among us." Noah responded: "Their judgment rests only with my Lord, if you could but understand this." When Noah preached the faith of God to them, all they did was degrade the messenger, abuse the message and call the whole warning a fabricated lie. He then went on to explain the Message in greater depth, ensuring them that it was not a message of destruction, rather a message with mercy from God, and that their acts would lead to their destruction if they did not accept the faith. He questioned them, asking why they would not accept what would benefit them in the future. Noah went onto further, and told his community that he asked of no reward from them, telling them his only reward would be from God. But his people threatened to stone him to death.

Accusation

As time passed, Noah became firmer in his preaching. When the unbelievers began insulting those who accepted God's message, believing that Noah would send those faithful away to attract the wealthy unbelievers, Noah revealed that they - the arrogant and ignorant rich - were the wicked and sinful ones. His people accused him of being soothsayer or diviner. Noah declared that he was by no means a fortune-teller, pretending to reveal secrets. Noah also denied accusations claiming that he was an angel, always maintaining that he

was a human messenger. When the people refused to acknowledge their sinfulness Noah told them that it was not Noah, but God that would punish them - however God pleased. (Qur'an:21)

Prayer

The Qur'an states that Noah prayed to God, telling Him that his preaching only made his people disbelieve further. Noah told God how they had closed their minds to accepting His message, so the light of truth has no effect on their thinking. Noah told God how he conveyed His message both in public and in private. Noah spoke of how he had told his people the rewards they would receive if they became righteous, namely that God would supply plentiful rain as a blessing, and that God would also guarantee them an increase in children and wealth.

Building of the Ark

According to the Qur'an, one day, Noah received a revelation from God, in which he was told that no one would believe the message aside from those who have already submitted to God. Noah's frustration led him to ask God not to leave a single sinner on earth. God decreed that a terrible flood would come and He ordered Noah to build a ship (Ark), which would save him and the believers from the dreadful calamity. Ever obedient to God's instruction's, Noah went out in search of material with which to build the vessel. When Noah began building the Ark, the people who saw him working on it laughed

at him. Their conclusion was that he was mad. Noah worked tirelessly until, at last, the Ship was finished.

Family

Little is known of Noah's personal history before his call to prophecy. However, Ibn Kathir records him to have been the son of Lamech and grandson of Methuselah, one of the patriarchs from the Generations of Adam. Noah was neither the leader of the tribe nor a very rich man but, even before being called to prophecy, he worshiped God faithfully and was, in the words of the Qur'an, "a devotee most grateful." (Qur'an:42)

Noah was married to a woman whose name is not mentioned in the Qur'an. Some Islamic historians such as Al-Tabari have suggested that the name of Noah's wife was Umzarah bint Barakil but this cannot be confirmed. Noah had four sons whose names were Ham, Shem, Yam and Japheth. According to the Qur'an, one of Noah's sons was a disbeliever who had pretended to have faith in front of Noah, and who refused to come aboard the Ark, instead preferring to climb a mountain, where he drowned. (Qur'an:43)

The Qur'an states that Noah's wife was not a believer. The sons of Noah are not expressly mentioned in the Qur'an, except for the fact that one of the sons was among the people who did not follow his own father, not among the believers and thus was drowned in the flood. (Qur'an:44) Noah's wife (Naamah) is referred to in the Qur'an as an evil woman.

When God emphasizes upon the notion that everyone is for themselves on the Day of Judgement and that marital relations will not be to your aid when the judgement takes place, the Qur'an says: Allah sets forth an example for the unbelievers, the wife of Noah and the wife of Lut: they were respectively under two of our righteous servant's, but they were false to their husbands, and they profited nothing before Allah on their account, but were told: "Enter the fire along with others that enter! (Qur'an:46)

Archaeology

Noah's ark has led to a number of expeditions being made to find it in the modern age. These expeditions have been made in the Anatolian region, in what is now the Republic of Turkey.

Mount Judi, based on an interpretation (Qur'an: 11 - 44). It is believed that after coming down from the ark on this mountain, Noah and the survivors of the flood built a settlement to the south of the mountain. It is located east of Cizre at the headwaters of the Tigris River, near the modern border with Syria, and that of Iraq.

Mount Ararat, based on an interpretation of Genesis 8:4, which states that the ark landed in the "Mountains of Ararat", though a number of scholars contend that this Biblical phrase does not refer to a specific mountain, but a broader region, with "Ararat" being Hebrew for Urartu.



Mount Judi in southeast Turkey, as seen from Şırnak in the north



**The Durupınar site on Mount Tendürek, near Turkey's eastern border with
Iran**



The greater and lesser peaks of Mount Ararat, north of the Durupınar site.

Ashure



An Ashure made of Grains, fruits and nuts

In remembrance of Noah, Ashure, also called "Noah's Pudding", a Turkish dessert, is made out of grains, fruits, dried fruits and nuts. These are believed to be the few ingredients left on the ark, used by Noah and his family to celebrate the end of the flood.

Tomb (Allah knows best)

There are several sites that are claimed to be the Tomb of Noah:

- Noah's Mausoleum in Cizre, Şırnak, Turkey
- Noah's Mausoleum (**Sunni Islam**) in Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan
- Imam Ali Mosque (**Shia Islam**), Najaf, Iraq
- Al-Karak, Jordan
- Karak Nuh, Beqaa, Lebanon