

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
Paul Gunn, Pastor

**NOAH: MAN, VERSION 1.5**

Genesis 8, 9 and various scriptures

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**INTRODUCTION:** I'll explain the title of my sermon, Noah: Man Version 1.5 as I go. I'll be preaching from Genesis.

Here are my points:

- Noah was spared; Jesus was sacrificed.
- Noah was remembered; Jesus was forsaken.
- In Noah's day, people were punished. With Jesus, people are pardoned.
- Noah built an altar; Jesus eliminated it.
- The rainbow-covenant was earthly; the Jesus-covenant is eternal.

This is my third and final message about Noah. You may think you are drowning or that you need a boat to take you away from here. I've only heard and preached solo messages about Noah. I don't recall a series of sermons about him. But there is so much information here, and I hope these messages spark your own thoughts.

You may recall from previous Bible lessons that the Bible calls Adam "the first man" and Jesus, "the second man." The two are compared in the New Testament. We know that the first man blew it with sin and the second man made it right. Also, Adam is called the father of all mankind, yet here we have Noah. Not only are we descendants of Adam, but we are descendants of Noah. After Adam, the population grew quickly but with the flood, we had a serious bottleneck in population and the human race started all over. So we have Adam, Man Version 1.0, then Jesus, Man Version 2.0 - and in the middle we have Noah - so let's call him Version 1.5.

**NOAH WAS SPARED, JESUS WAS SACRIFICED**

**EXPLANATION:** In the first part of Genesis, we learn that God was completely dissatisfied with the world population except for one man and his family. He decided to start the human race all over with that family. God used the efforts of one man to save the whole human race. They were saved from death, but we read in Genesis 9 about how sin continued after the flood. The sin of Adam and Eve made it through the narrow bottleneck of the human race on the ark and continued afterward.

Romans 5:12 *“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, so also death was passed on to all men, because all sinned.”* The human race almost perished except for this one man and his family, but sin passed on.

Fast forward many years and God provides salvation of the soul through Jesus, but his method of saving us was the opposite of that of Noah. He spared Noah. God did not spare Jesus. One Christian writer said, “The *Noah* attempt to save man was based on the salvation of one man. The *Jesus* attempt to save man was based on the sacrifice of one man.”

In Acts 4, Peter was preaching to people hearing the Gospel for the first time. He said, <sup>12</sup> *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

So Noah was spared, Jesus was sacrificed. Next,

## **NOAH WAS REMEMBERED, JESUS WAS FORSAKEN**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 8:1

*But God remembered Noah and all the animals and livestock that were with him in the ark. And He sent a wind over the earth, and the waters began to subside.*

Did God ever forget Noah? The Hebrew word for “remember” also means “mindful.” God was mindful of Noah all along. Noah was in the middle of God’s will, and he followed God’s command and everything went according to God’s timing. It’s when we start trying to help God out that our timing gets messed up. We need to follow his timing.

After forty days and nights of rain and after being on the ark for some 150 days, trapped on there with his family and with some in-laws, did Noah wonder if God forgot about him? Did he think the rest of their lives would be spent on the ark? As time passed, God confirmed to Noah that he was indeed faithful. How wonderful to be remembered by God.

Jesus, as he suffered on the cruel cross, said in Matthew 27:46, *“My God, my God why have you forsaken me?”* This scripture is one of the most debated and puzzling scriptures in the Bible. How is it possible for an all-present, all-powerful, all-knowing God to forsake something? The Greek word for “forsaken” means to leave behind, to desert, to leave in the lurch, to abandon. That’s what God did. When Jesus died on the cross, he took on my sin and your sin and died in our place. God turned his back because he could not look upon sin. To look upon sin would make him less than perfect. God remembered Noah, but he forsook Jesus. And he did it because he first loved us.

## **IN NOAH’S DAY, PEOPLE WERE PUNISHED. WITH JESUS, PEOPLE ARE PARDONED**

In Genesis 6, people were so evil, God wanted them gone. Can you imagine that? There was no hope for them, there was no possibility of redemption because they were not repentant. In all the years that Noah constructed the ark, there were no converts. They had plenty of time to repent, didn’t they? They had a lifetime to repent. They got what they deserved. You might say that sounds cruel, but the scripture is clear in Psalm 14:1-3 *The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.* <sup>2</sup> *The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.* <sup>3</sup> *They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.*

This truth is repeated in the New Testament in Romans 3:10.

Through Jesus, however, no one who repents and believes is eternally punished. If you sin on this earth, you’ll pay the price for it. But this earth is passing quickly and what really matters is eternity. Jesus was punished for us.

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 53:4-6

*Surely He took on our infirmities and carried our sorrows; yet we considered Him stricken by God, struck down and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. 6 We all like sheep have gone astray, each one has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all....*

Skeptics of scripture will say that the OT and the NT are so different that they cannot be about the same God. They'll say the God of the OT is the God of wrath and the God of the NT is the God of love and justice. But really, it's the opposite. God is the God of justice in the OT because the people got what they deserved. He is God of wrath in the NT because he took out all of his wrath against Jesus who never sinned.

Because of Jesus, the believer will never know God's wrath. When you come to faith in Christ and you say, Jesus, forgive me of my sins. I want to live in you. You won't drown in your sins like the people of Noah's day. You will be forgiven.

**NOAH BUILT AN ALTAR; JESUS ELIMINATED IT**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 8:15-20

*Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup> "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. <sup>17</sup> Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it." <sup>18</sup> So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. <sup>19</sup> All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another. <sup>20</sup> Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.*

The first thing Noah did when he exited the ark was worship God. And Noah planned before the flood to worship God afterwards. There was no question in Noah's mind that the ark was going to float. He took provisions for worship.

**APPLICATION:** Are you facing a challenge in your life? I'm sure, everyone here

is. Be faithful to the Lord during your ark experience. And be planning on having a great celebration of worship after you make it through. Be like Noah.

**EXPLANATION:** In chapter 7, we know Noah took extra animals that were considered clean. Because people needed forgiveness of sin and the way it happened then was for an animal that was considered clean to die. You might think that's cruel but really, it's full of grace. People should die for their own sins, but the fact that an animal could die in place of a person demonstrates God's grace.

Some of you who've studied this scripture for a long time will know what I'm talking about here. If you don't understand, just listen. Noah built the first altar in the Bible, long before the Law of Moses. How did he know that's what God wanted? God must have told him.

Numerous times I've told you about the sacrificial system. The only way for the people to be right with God over sin was for innocent animals to die. You'd think having to do that would make a person think twice before sinning. Sacrifices on altars were also just part of the worship experience. When we read about it today, we really don't understand it – we might even be puzzled. But that's just the way it was. That system went on for thousands of years, to the point that sacrificing an animal was just like another day at the office for many people, which was not God's intent.

With the Law of Moses, the sacrificial system used in worship was codified and was an elaborate ordeal. It took planning and effort.

When Jesus was crucified, he was the one and only-needed sacrifice for sin. There are no animal sacrifices needed anymore. Maybe we'd think twice if we knew we would sacrifice an animal when we sinned. Maybe we should think twice when imagining Jesus on the cross.

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 11:11-14

*Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his*

*footstool. <sup>14</sup> For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

When people sacrificed animals, they were made right with God and forgiven “for the time being”. In an illustrative way of understanding it, they were only accumulating a sin debt which was deferred until the time of Christ.

When people saw Jesus in his day, it started to come together for those who understood the scriptures. He came to set up a heavenly kingdom. With Jesus’ atonement, there was no need for a physical altar where animals were sacrificed. The altar is now one’s own heart. We come to God in worship and because of Jesus we can approach his throne of grace with confidence because Jesus has paid the price.

**ILLUSTRATION:** We have a point at the end of our service called the invitation, which is also called the “altar call” in some traditions. I’ve adopted that term because I like what it means. It is a place of surrender. It is a place of sacrifice.

## **THE RAINBOW-COVENANT WAS EARTHLY; THE JESUS-COVENANT IS ETERNAL**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 9:8-11

*Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: <sup>9</sup> “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”*

There are three types of covenants:

- When a lesser party is obligated to a greater party
- When equal parties obligate themselves to each other
- When a greater party obligates himself to a lesser party. This is the type of covenant of God. He is the greater party and he obligated himself on our behalf. He did the same with Noah and all of creation.

Later in the Old Testament, God made a covenant with Abraham to bless him and his descendants. This is the second covenant where God obligates himself on behalf of a lesser party and it was for a specific race of people.

With Jesus, however, we have an eternal covenant. This is another covenant where God obligates himself on behalf of a lesser party. It is not earth specific like the covenant with Noah. It is not race-specific as with the covenant with Abraham. It is an eternal covenant offered to all who believe. When Jesus comes on the scene, everything changes. God, reaching down from heaven, made a way for us to come to him without the need for priests or animal sacrifices on altars.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and I Corinthians all quote Jesus at the Last Supper: “*This is the covenant of my blood...*” Obligating himself to us.

II Corinthians 3:6 Because of Christ, God gives us competence to share the covenant: *He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant.*

The book of Hebrews spends a lot of time talking about the new covenant. I challenge you to read it. It’s actually pretty easy to understand. Hebrews 8:13 *By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.*

At the end of the book of Hebrews, the writer (who I believe is Paul) said in chapter 13:20: *Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,<sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

**CONCLUSION:** The Jesus covenant, the blood covenant, is an eternal covenant for all people of all time. It is not a covenant bound by earth. It is an eternal covenant to all who believe.

I titled this message, Noah: Man, Version 1.5.

Man 1 -- Adam, brought life, but he was imperfect.

Man 1.5 -- Noah, saved human life, but he was imperfect as well.

Man 2.0 -- Jesus, also called the second Adam, was perfect and gave his all for us.

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

Find me at [www.thbc.com](http://www.thbc.com). Click on sermons or YouTube channel: Pastor Paul Gunn  
Thanks to Jennifer Anderson for her editing assistance.

Sincerely, Paul Gunn  
Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
Nashville, Tennessee  
USA