



St Peter's Yateley Home Groups
Autumn Term 2023 – The Big Picture
Part 1 - The Old Testament
Week 2 – Wednesday 13th September - emPower



“Noah – The First Hero”

The Aim of the Session

Noah is the first major example (type) of a “saviour” who is appointed by God to fulfil a role that involves extreme obedience, personal sacrifice and commitment to the task against opposition and ridicule. An example of how God works for us to learn from.

- **Welcome**

Who is your hero?

- **Worship**

Read Matthew 5:14-16. Pray that we may stand in the light in such a way as to reflect it to the community around us.

- **Word**

- What makes a hero?
- What do they have to do in order to be labelled as such?
- Does it matter if they are flawed?
- Which “flawed” heroes would you recognise?
- How does the world see heroes today?

Read Genesis 6:6-18, 8:14-18 and tell the story of Noah's Ark to each other.

- Did God really have regrets? (6:6,7) Didn't God see it coming?
- Did God believe that “starting again” would solve the problem (6:13)?
- So what did God hope to achieve? Was this realistic?

If God is eternally omniscient (he knows everything throughout time!) then his thoughts and conclusions are somewhat meaningless in human terms, because he knew that people afterwards would be just as bad as the lot who drowned. So we have to look at it a different way.

- If God could make the earth appear in an instant at his command (Genesis 1), then surely he could start all over again in the same way. Why didn't he?
- What was God saying about his own character through his anger and wrath?
- What need in human beings was God trying to demonstrate?
- Why didn't he just leave it until Jesus came along?

Noah wasn't perfect – there is a story in Genesis 9 which shows he wasn't!

- So if Noah wasn't perfect, what was different about him that God noticed?
- Why was this the case?
- And why did God chose to use him, of all people?

Read Hebrews 11:7 and 2 Peter 2:5 to see what other Bible writers had to say about Noah.

Noah was what theologians describe as a “type” of Christ – someone who reflects the life and ministry of Jesus and helps us to understand God's work of Salvation. Such people (and we will meet more of them in the coming weeks) help us to understand what Salvation is about.

Note

The ark was coated in pitch as a protective covering and the Hebrew word for pitch is kaphar. Everywhere else in the Old Testament the word kaphar is translated as atonement, usually referring to the process where a sinful person is reconciled to God and protected and saved from judgement. The pitch on the roof of the ark was the Covering atonement, the protection for the 8 people in the ark against the wrath of God seen in the storm that washed away the world. As the first example of a Saviour, Noah introduces the idea of atonement, the covering over of sins to avoid the wrath of God. The story of Noah tells of a God who wants the world to reflect his character of justice and holiness, it introduces the idea of our need for a Saviour and it speaks of God revealing his eternal love.

When we look at the Big Picture of the Bible and the Story of God's Love ...

- What does the story of Noah tell us about God and people (and note it is only the 6th chapter of the whole Bible!!!)
- What does the story of Noah tell us about God revealing to the world what Salvation is all about?
- What does it tell us about the nature of the people God can use?

- **Works**

Share what you have learned about Noah and this story.

In Philippians 2, Paul says Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.

- How can God use people who reflect his light to become shining stars?
- Is God wanting to use you in this way for some particular purpose?
- What might it cost you?

Pray about it!

Next session ...

Week 3 - Beginning 17th September – “**Abraham**”