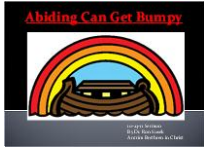


# Abide Can Be Bumpy

## (Noah's Ark of Safety)

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**Joke:** Man in heaven telling about the Johnstown flood. “There was a man with white hair who didn’t seem impressed.” That was Noah

## Introduction

Noah built an ark of safety—a foreshadow of the coming cross of Christ that brings us into the safety of salvation.

For nearly a year Noah and his family was in the ark

**Vital!** Much of the ride was bumpy **Genesis 7:11** “In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened”

- **Cradle** theory [Canopy of ice] combined with the fountains of the deep
- Had Noah depended upon experience he would have thought God had abandoned him
- **Abiding in Christ can be a bumpy ride**
- **Our Typical Responses:**
  - Did God abandon me?
  - Should I jump out of the boat?
  - Is God angry at me?

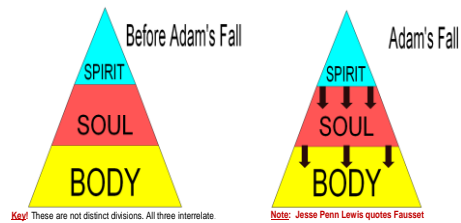
## Text: Genesis 5-7

### 1) Creation and Fall

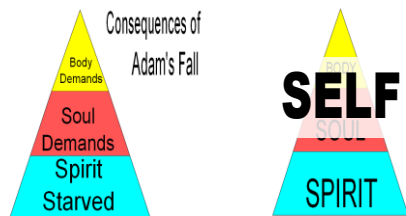
#### Genesis 5:1-3

**1** This is the book of the generations of Adam. **When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.**

**2** Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.



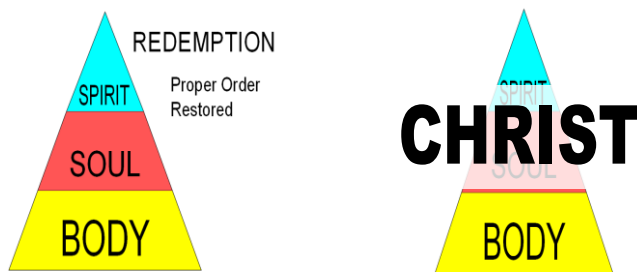
**Verse 3** When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.



**Genesis 6:3** “Then the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.’”

**Genesis 6:12** “And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.”

**Key Note:** Redemption restores mankind to proper order



## **2) Man's Conduct, Divine Grief**

**Genesis 6:5-8** “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

**6** And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

**7** So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

### 3) God always Seeks for a Man



**Genesis 6:8-9; 7:1** “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.  
**9** “. . . Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation.  
 Noah walked with God.”

**7:1** “Then the Lord said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation.”

#### Notes:

- Salvation comes from the Lord, but he searches for a man through whom his deliverance can come
- **Noah’s Walk** Pleased God
  - Noah was used to deliver the human race from extinction
- **David’s Walk** pleased God
  - David was used to establish the Messiah’s throne
- **Jesus’ Walk** Pleased God
  - He saved the world from its sins
- **Key:** To this day God searches for those who will walk before him. These are the people whose abiding will bear much fruit
  - Will the searching eye of God find you ready to be used?

### 4) Abiding Can Be Bumpy



➤ **Noah’s ark of safety** was not a time of emotional serenity

- Mockery while building the ark
- Turbulent waters
- Smelly situations
- Hard work feeding animals
- Unknown future

- **Noah's Key to Success**—pleasing God by obedience. **Genesis 7:5** “And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.”

## **5) God Provides Security Despite the Bumps**



**Genesis 7:16** “And the Lord shut him in.”

- The mocking crowds could deride him but not deter him
- The tempest could bump him but not destroy him
- The odors may have brought discomfort to his nose but not death to his heart
- While Noah built the ark, it was God who . . .
  - Designed the ark of safety (The mastermind of salvation)
  - Provided the ark of safety (The Creator of all things)
  - Secured the ark of safety (The Helper who shut the door)

## **6) God Bears Fruit through Those Who Abide**



- Noah restarted the human race
- Every person born from then to now is fruit of Noah's obedience
- Jesus said you will bear much fruit from abiding

## **Call to Action Write down your storm**

### **Three Providential Truths to Remember amid Floods**

#### **1) Providence is Purging**

- In Noah's day God was cleansing the earth of rampant evil
- When God sends a storm, wait for him to reveal the sin he wants to remove

#### **2) Providence has a Purpose**

- God purges us to perfect us for himself

- Noah indeed emerged with a greater knowledge of and relationship with God

### 3) Providence has a Plan

- God always has a greater plan that could not be fulfilled in your life without the flood
- Noah saved mankind.
- God has a plan for you as well

### Final Thought: What is God's Plan for You?



We only learn to walk with God by abiding in his ark of safety through the storms and floods of life

### **Three Don'ts for Abiding**

- 1) **Don't** fear the bumps
- 2) **Don't** jump out of the boat
- 3) **Don't** lose patience despite the duration of the flood

**Noah's Ark** : Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark .

**ONE**: Don't miss the boat.

**TWO**: Remember that we are all in the same boat!

**THREE**: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

**FOUR**: Stay fit. When you're 70 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

**FIVE**: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

**SIX**: Build your future on high ground.

**SEVEN**: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

**EIGHT**: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

**NINE**: When you're stressed, float awhile.

**TEN**: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

**ELEVEN**: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.