

Survey: Do first.

What do you think? Which option, from left to right, is what God is like?

Choose one.

God is love	God is mostly love	God is more love than justice.	God is more justice than love	God is mostly justice.	God is just.
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If you disagree with this question, you can put down your own answer:

Part 1: *Reading* the Noah's ark story

When I approach Noah's story, am I reading it like I am reading a religious or moral story (e.g., like Aesop's fable *The Lion and the Mouse*) or philosophy (E.G., Marxist ideology)?

How Do you *read* the bible? Compare your approach with these points shared in the interview:

1. God is the author of the bible. His word is meant to be taken as a **whole**.
2. I can't believe in a good God, base my entire life on "Jesus died for me", but then be picky—only trust parts of the bible I like.
3. do I really seek the God who will reveal Himself in His whole word, or am I just creating my own god from the parts I prefer?

FAQs and links to answers

1. ***Where did all the water come from to cause the flood?***
2. ***How did Noah keep all the animals alive for all that time?***
3. ***What kinds of animals were on the ark?***
4. ***How long did the flood last?***
5. ***Where did all the water go?***

https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/?srsltid=AfmBOoo26ntFDIQD5rb3Zrv7lcMk_mb_2SnGHmcwp8qaUpM8xpi5ECQN

<https://creation.com/en/topics/noah's-ark>

<https://christiananswers.net/q-aig/aig-c010.html>

Questions:

Genesis 6:5,6

What did God see spreading throughout the world he had created?

How did God feel?

Note on the word “regret”: The Hebrew word used here is yin'nā'hem, from the root word nacham. The word is exclusively about emotions: a feeling of pain, sadness

Did anyone care about how God felt?

How do we know of God’s grief? Who did God tell?

Why could God share his feelings with Noah?

Genesis 6:8, 9

- “favor” means “graced. What is grace? (go back to Adam and Eve’s story)
- “righteous” is God’s own character.
- “blameless”—was Noah “sinless”? Noah was “good” and others were “bad”?
- “Walked faithfully with God”—what does this look like? Let’s see what happened.

Genesis 6: 12 to 14

God’s decision to destroy the world—does this *contradict* his loving nature, or **confirm** that God truly loves his creation?

How long did God wait?

- (Abraham was about 500 when he had his sons. 5:32
- When God spoke to Noah about the flood, his sons were married 6:18
- Noah was 600 when the flood came. 7:11

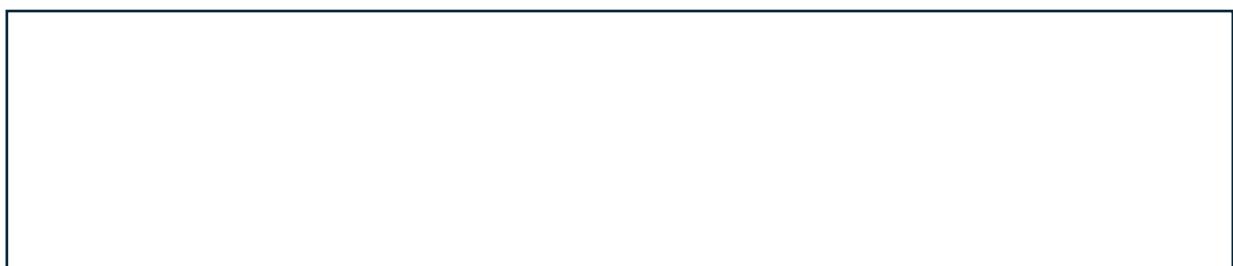
How many doors were there in the ark? 6:16

Who closed the door? 7:16

Does God extend love and grace? For a short or long time? Is this forever?

Back to the survey question. Is God a God of love or justice? Your answer?

Draw Noah’s answer:



Noah offered a blood sacrifice.

When Noah came out of the ark, what did he do first? What did this mean?

Adam had used fig leaves to cover himself. Did it deal with the problem?

What is the problem?

Genesis 2:17

Romans 6:23

God did the first sacrifice and used the animal skin to cover Adam's shame.

So now, What was Noah saying when he offered the animal/blood sacrifice?

(Use last week's lesson to help you. Abel offered the animal from his flock. Why did God accept the animal sacrifice and not Cain's fruit/vegetable offering?)

What does Abel's sacrifice mean?	What does Cain's offering mean?
I am separated from you. I deserve death. I am a sinner.	Is there a problem? I am okay. I think I'm not too bad.
I cannot help myself. God put my sin on this animal. This animal died in my place. I receive God's grace to me.	My own hard work and sincerity are enough to earn my way to God. I can help myself and I don't need God's grace.
I trust in the deliverer whom God will send.	I don't need that deliverer.

How does Noah's account change your mind?

- How does Noah's picture correct your understanding of God's nature?
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- Am I passive in my relationship with God? ("I follow *fate*—I can't change anything.") Can this challenge us to **partnership** with God—to walk with God, sit close to God and share his pain, work with God in his plans to save many people from judgement
- Can this change the way we work out disagreements? Perhaps it is not about being only loving (so anything goes). We call having standards is being "strict and ungracious."). So we argue from either end of love or justice.
- Rather, could we seek God for how we can demonstrate both love and discernment, upholding God-honoring standards while helping each other grow. How can this change how we seek to resolve conflict?