

The Ark and the Waters

WHAT WE FOUND

- The flood begins in grief, not fury: God is “grieved to his heart” over an earth “filled with violence” (6:5–6, 11).
- The flood is told as de-creation (day 2’s waters unsealed, 7:11) and re-creation (the ruach over the waters again, 8:1; the creation blessing repeated to Noah, 9:1). Noah steps out as a new Adam onto a washed world.
- But the new Adam falls too, and God’s own verdict stands: the heart is still evil from youth (8:21). The flood washed the world, not the heart. Judgment alone cannot fix us; God binds Himself to another way.
- The Bible’s first covenant embraces every living creature, and its sign is God’s bow hung in the sky; the Hebrew word is the ordinary word for a war-bow. Many readers have seen it as a weapon hung up, pointed away from the earth: every rainbow a picture of divine disarmament.
- St. Peter reads it all toward the font: eight persons “saved through water,” and “baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you” (1 Peter 3:20–21).

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

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St. Justin Martyr · *Dialogue with Trypho*

The eight persons saved in the ark figure the eighth day, the day of resurrection: through water into a renewed world, as the baptized pass through the font into the life of the Risen One.

VOICE OF THE CHURCH

St. Cyprian of Carthage · *Letters; On the Unity of the Church*

The ark is a figure of the one Church, the vessel of salvation God has provided; the Catechism still calls the Church “prefigured by Noah’s ark” (CCC 845).

VOICE OF THE CHURCH

St. Ambrose of Milan · *On Noah*

Noah’s obedient righteousness stood as a sermon: God’s patience giving a violent age time, the just man’s faith visible in what he did. The study’s image: plank by plank, before neighbors who saw no cloud.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

- Renew your baptismal promises deliberately once this week: bless yourself slowly with holy water and name what those waters did to you.
- Name your next plank in the long obedience God is asking of you, and tell one person what it is.

- When you see rain or a rainbow, say aloud: “You have hung up Your bow.”
- Read Genesis 10–11 before next session.

MEMORY VERSE

“I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.” (Genesis 9:13)

BEFORE NEXT SESSION

Read Genesis 10–11 before next session.

Catechism references: CCC 56–58, 71, 845, 1094, 1219, 2569.