

LESSON 5

Name _____

Noah and the Flood Genesis 6–9

Directions: Read the scripture passage listed above and related biblical footnotes to help you to fill in the blanks for each item.

1. In the writing of the scriptures, the biblical authors used many different forms of literature. Sometimes they even borrowed stories and myths from other cultures and expanded them to communicate a truth about _____.
2. The story of Noah is really two stories from two different biblical sources. That is why there are conflicting details in the story. The biblical sources go back to an ancient Mesopotamian story of a great flood known as the _____. (see footnote on 6:5-8)
3. The biblical authors, however, took this account and added further details to it so to make clear the meaning they wished to convey, the meaning God inspired them to _____.
4. Read the story of Noah and the Flood in Genesis 6:5—9:17. You may notice that there are several conflicting details in the story:
 - A. For instance, Genesis 6:19 says that Noah took two of each animal on the ark, one male and one female. Genesis 7:2-3 says, however, that Noah took with him _____.
 - B. Again, in Genesis 7:4, the Lord promises to bring rain down on the earth for forty days and forty nights. Genesis 8:3-5, however, says that the flood lasted _____.
5. The fact that there are conflicting details suggests that the story of Noah was written by how many different sources? _____
6. The two sources are not kept separate like in the two stories of creation in chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis, but they are _____.
7. Obviously, many of the details are not meant to be taken literally. Can you imagine Noah trying to catch two of every living thing, like bison from North America, pandas from China and koala bears from Australia when Genesis 7:4 says that the amount of time available for catching them all was _____.
8. The author also says in Genesis 7:21-23 that all living creatures in the world died in the flood. Only those in the ark were supposedly saved. This, of course, would not be true. What creatures would have survived the flood? _____
9. The story of Noah should be seen as a parable rather than an historical narrative. Once again, the message is what is important, not the details. The Bible presents us, not with historical truth, but truth that is _____.
10. The first symbol of a covenant or agreement between God and humanity in the Bible comes in Genesis 9:11-17. What is it? _____
11. The biblical story of the flood teaches us that our God is a merciful God. Even when people become caught up in their own evil, God is always willing to forgive and give us another _____.

Lesson 5 continued

Review Items

12. In these first stories of Genesis, we begin to learn about God.
 - A. Genesis 1–2 shows us that God is an all-powerful _____.
 - B. Genesis 1:31 points out that everything that God does is _____.
 - C. Genesis 2:18 and 2:21 shows God to be very sensitive to various human _____.
 - D. In Genesis 8:21-22, God does not hold a grudge. God is very _____.

13. In contrast, human beings are pictured as
 - A. full of pride and self-seeking, putting themselves on the same level as _____.
 - B. jealous of each other to the point where they hurt one another, as in the story of Cain and _____.
 - C. evil, so much so that God decided to destroy the world in a _____ and start over.

14. The Torah (the first five books of the Bible) is the story of God establishing his kingdom on earth. It will be the call for all people to become holy, faithful, loving, strong, and one family. In a word, all people are to become more like _____.