



## Devotional Guide for April 1-7, 2024

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

### Monday, April 1<sup>ST</sup> "Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord"

**Scripture: Genesis 6:1-8** NIV

For the month of April, we will be exploring four people in the Bible who I would call 'Altar'd People;' that is, they were transformed, because of their worship at the altar of the Lord. The first person is Noah, who is introduced to us in the first 8 verses of Genesis ch. 6. Moses, the author of Genesis, was describing the history of the world at that time—filled with violence and wickedness. This constant evil brought forth God's judgment on the world. Noah represented the minority who remained righteous to God, despite all of the prevalent evil around them.

*Question: Can you imagine how difficult it would be for Noah and his family to remain righteous, in the midst of a world turned against God?*

### Tuesday, April 2<sup>ND</sup> "Noah did everything as God commanded"

**Scripture: Genesis 6:9-22** NIV

For me, here is the epitome of the righteousness and obedience of Noah, found in the final verse of this passage: "Noah did everything just as God commanded him" (v.22). Noah built a rectangular ark, six times longer than it was wide, and ten times longer than it was high. Estimates suggest that all the land animals could fit into the ark with more than half of it remaining for other uses. This is the first occurrence in the Bible of God establishing a covenant, and is it is with later covenants, God promises salvation and preservation.

*Question: Would you have been as obedient as Noah with such a strange and unusual assignment from the Lord?*

### Wednesday, April 3<sup>RD</sup> "As it was in the days of Noah..."

**Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44** NIV

The pervasiveness of sin always seeks to get a life-threatening grasp on our lives. Jesus, thus, warns unbelievers (and believers who are not living with alert faithfulness), that the end will come as a complete surprise, just as the flood did for the people who paid no attention to Noah building the ark. The rising water "took them all away" (v. 39), i.e., they perished in God's judgment on the earth.

Jesus repeats the point that no one can know when He will return. His followers, however, must always be prepared and alert. Christ likens Himself to a burglar, not in that He comes to steal something, but in terms of the surprise factor. Just as wise homeowners never leave their houses unprotected, Jesus' followers should never stop being ready for His return.

*Question: If Jesus were to return today, would you be ready?*

### Thursday, April 4<sup>TH</sup> "Noah built an altar to the Lord"

**Scripture: Genesis 8:15-22** NIV

Back to the story of Noah, Genesis 8 reveals a similar command that God had given, back at the creation of the world—for animals and humans to "be fruitful and increase in number" (v.17). God repeats it here, as a new world begins, with the land having been cleansed from the defilement caused by the spilling of blood, due to human violence. As Noah and his family step foot on solid ground again, he constructs an altar, to offer a sacrifice to worship the Lord. God frankly acknowledges the human condition that will not be remedied by this judgment. He promises to not again destroy life on earth by a flood, but He will continue to judge people, and He will move forward with His plan of redemption for all (see Genesis 12:1-3).

*Question: How would it have felt to be 'high and dry' on land again?*

### Friday, April 5<sup>TH</sup> "God waited patiently in the days of Noah..."

**Scripture: 1 Peter 3:13-22** NIV

Almost everyone suffers at some point in life, and many eventually ask, "Why me?" Suffering that we may bring on ourselves may be understandable, but it is spiritually confusing when innocent and even righteous people suffer (see the book of Job). Peter addresses a particular kind of suffering that is unique to Christians who, through either the misunderstanding or malice of others, become targets of various forms of persecution, because of their faith in Christ. God does not take pleasure when His people suffer, but it is His will that they do what is right, even if suffering is the result. The flood, back in Noah's day, was the most severe judgment the earth has known, because of the severe evil of the time. Yet in His mercy, God did not destroy the human race completely. The entire human race deserves to perish in sin, but God will save those who accept His gifts of grace, mercy, and salvation.

*Question: How does your obedience to God's commands connect with the gifts of grace, mercy, and salvation in your life?*

**Sunday, April 7, 2024**

**8:30 and 10:45 am** (Livestream @10:45 am)

**Genesis 8:15-22** NIV and **1 Peter 3:13-22** NIV

Pastor's message: **"High and Dry! (Noah)"**

Worship theme: **"Altar'd People"**

