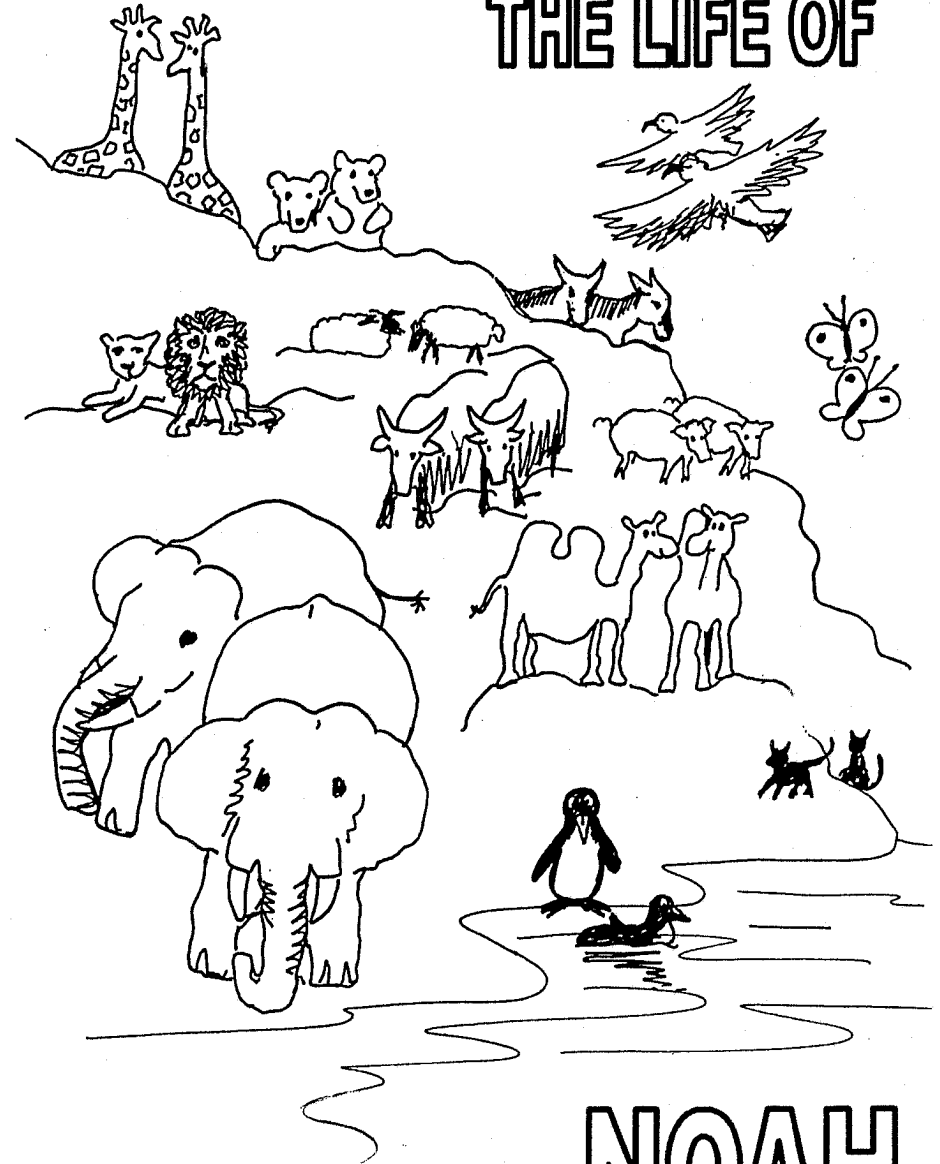


God saved Noah from the judgment that He brought upon the earth
and He can save us through Jesus.

BIBLE HEROES : 1

THE LIFE OF



NOAH



THE LIFE OF NOAH

We can read about Noah in the book of Genesis in the Bible. At this time the people of the world were very bad and God felt sorry that He had ever made human beings because they treated one another so badly. God was angry at all the wrong He saw.

There was one man, called Noah, who still followed God's ways and listened whenever God spoke to him. God warned Noah that because the people were so evil He would send so much rain that a flood would rush over the earth until every living thing had been drowned. However, Noah and his family would be saved. God said that a large boat called an ark must be built. He told Noah the exact size and explained the smallest details. All the family was to help. It is probable that crowds watched as trees were cut down and the boat started to take shape. Can you imagine how they might have jeered and wondered how the ark would be launched?

The ark had to be big enough to hold pairs of all kinds of animals and birds. Then they had to be rounded up and gathered into the ark before the rains came. Two of every living creature was taken into the ark. There was one male and one female of each kind. Animals which were considered clean were taken in by sevens. There were many animals in the ark elephants, tigers, giraffe, bears, camels, hippos, monkeys and all kinds of birds and creeping things. There were eight people in the ark; Noah, with his wife, their three sons and their three wives. Once the animals, Noah and his family were inside the ark the door was then closed by God.

Soon dark, heavy clouds burst and the rain came pouring down. Rivers began to overflow and filled the valleys. As the water level rose higher, the ark began to float. Everywhere people were trying to escape. Even climbing to higher ground they could not escape but were drowned. However, the ark was lifted higher upon the flood, higher in the end than the highest mountain. Everything living on the

earth was drowned and the sea covered the whole world. Then the rain stopped. It had rained non-stop for forty days and forty nights.

The ark was like an enormous wooden box, about 133 metres long by 22 metres wide and 13 metres deep. It had three storeys inside. To keep the water out it was covered with a sticky tar. It must have been very dark inside. The only light came from one window in the roof. Inside the ark Noah and his family looked after all the animals, carrying food and water and caring for them. It must have been strange to see all the animals living together and perhaps many of them slept for long periods.

God watched over Noah, his family and the animals inside the ark all the time. Slowly the waters came down and after 150 days the ark came to rest on top of a mountain called Ararat. Three months later peaks of other mountains began to be seen. After forty days Noah opened the window in the roof and let out a raven. It flew away but did not return. Noah then sent out a dove. She could find nowhere to rest and came back. Noah took her back inside. Seven days later she flew out again, this time returning with an olive leaf in her beak. After another week he sent her out and when she didn't return Noah knew that they could open up the ark. God then spoke to Noah and told him to bring forth all the living creatures out of the ark. What a noise the animals must have made as they rushed off to find new homes. They had been in the ark for a year and ten days.

Noah and his family came out into the daylight, breathing in the fresh air. It was a clean new world. Noah built a mound of stones and offered sacrifices to God thanking him. God said there would always be times to plant and harvest, hot and cold, summer and winter, day and night while there was an earth. He promised Noah that however bad people might become He would never flood the world again. To remind Noah, and us, of this promise God has given the rainbow in the sky – which can be seen when the sun shines through the rain.