

Noah

cf. Genesis 6^{9ff}

⁹This is the account of Noah.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time - although once he had developed his time-travelling ark there were a few major disasters for which he would have been blamed had it not been for Dr Sam Beckitt and his *Quantum Leap* project in the late 20th Century - and he walked with God. Sometimes if he was tired he would take the bus with God. ¹⁰Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth - you can tell that it's a true story: who would *make up* names like that? If it was fictitious they'd be called Bob, Dave and Alan.

¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹²God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways and voted Conservative again at the last General Election. ¹³So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.

"Pitch? It'll be awfully dark inside. Would you not prefer some nice Laura Ashley wallpaper?" said Noah.

They eventually compromised on white with a hint of peach, washable anaglypta.

¹⁵This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. ¹⁶Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top - this to allow room for adjustment when the giraffes move in. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks [and in celebration of this, whilst

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Noah built the ark he would often break for refreshments of a Double Decker and a can of Top Deck]. ¹⁷I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.

"Except my ark?!" said Noah hastily.

"Except your ark!" assured God.

"What about the fish Lord?" asked Noah. "They quite like water!"

¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark - you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you.

²⁰Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. The animals went in two by two: lions, giraffes, rhinoceroses, dodos, sheep, dogs, elephants, muppets, cats, sphynxes, unicorns, moomins, yaks, panthers; they all went in two by two...except the woodlice - they went into a 2"x4". ²¹"You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them, but don't take any vindaloo curries or you'll be going for more than 40 days and 40 nights."

"What about Pot Noodles?" enquired Noah.

"Pot Noodles are good," affirmed the Lord.

²²When Noah went home to tell Mrs Noah what God had told him to do, she was furious.

"Oh I see," she started, "I ask you for weeks and weeks if you'll fix the shelving in the bathroom and decorate the spare bedroom and you say you'll get round to it and don't even lift so much as a finger in its general direction and then one

day you come strolling in and on the passing mention that you're going to build an ark the size of Buckingham Palace and that the whole earth is going to be destroyed in a flood. If you think that's going to get you off the hook then you are sorely mistaken..."

After a good ear bashing from Mrs Noah, Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

The Great Flood

7 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me this generation. Suddenly Noah and his sons leapt out from behind a tree dressed as pirates. "We does not know where this ark is, but we will finds it and boards it and cut the gizzards of all those whats on board!" And with that they swashbuckled all the way to Noah's garage, opened the door and there it was. They promptly boarded it and in unison shouted, "We are the Raiders of the Lost Ark!"

The LORD, who was patiently drumming his fingers on a cloud, said, "Look guys! Behave, or you'll not go! I'm serious!"

Noah and his sons, dropped their cutlasses to their sides and paid attention.

²Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals.