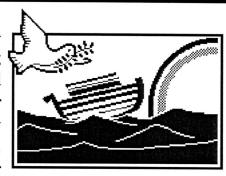
מָבוּל

The Flood

The story of Genesis (*B'reishit*) is the story of mankind's rebellion against God, and God's loving plan to bring mankind back to Him. Once Adam and Chavah had sinned against God by disobeying His word, they were no longer allowed to be in the garden of Eden, the place where they had enjoyed God's friendship and place of serving Him. Instead, they were expelled from the garden to make their own way. But the problem was rebellion against God. This



same spirit of rebellion was passed on to Adam and Chavah's children, and they passed it on to their children as well. Everyone that was born, was born with a rebellious heart.

Mankind became more and more evil, thinking that they did not need God, and even that there were other gods more important than the Creator. And they began to do all kinds of things that were wrong. Instead of being sorry for their rebellion against God, they just became more and more rebellious.

When God saw what mankind had become, He was very sad. He wondered why He had created mankind in the first place, and wished He never had. Yet He had promised that He would bring a savior for mankind, and God always keeps His promises. So though He would punish mankind severely, He decided to show His mercy and grace to one man and his family. This man was Noach, whose name means "rest." God would preserve mankind through Noah and his family.

God was planning to bring a flood of water upon the whole earth, a flood that would wipe out mankind as well as many of the animals. So He told Noach to build a big boat, and to take his family inside the boat, along with many, many animals. When the water came upon the earth for 40 days and nights, the water was so high that it covered the mountains. No one survived the flood except Noach and his family, and the animals who were in the ark, the big boat Noach had built.

Finally the rain stopped, and the fountains from the ground quit pouring water on the earth. The sun came out and the water started to dry up. Finally, the ark came to rest on one of the high mountains, and Noach and his family came out. God promised Noach that He would never again bring a flood like that upon the earth. So God gave Noach and his family a sign: He put the rainbow in the sky every time it rained to remind them of His promise. The rainbow is a message from God that He will never wipe out mankind with a flood as He did before.

The Flood: God Preserves Mankind through ...

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remembered window female eight male flood unclean clean water olive rainbow rebelled mountains ark dove forty seven mabul raven Noach two

