

**A FAST Biblical Portrait: Noah**  
***One Man Who Made a Difference***  
John Kain, 2010

*The story of Noah is not just about a large boat and a lot of water. It is an ancient story about one man and his family who were devoted to God and who did not go along with the ways of the world. We read in Genesis 6:12 that “God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.” Grieved that he had even created mankind, God told Noah that he would send a great flood and wipe out the people who were choosing evil.*

Noah was given a strange and, from a human standpoint, impossible task: he was to build an immense boat that God would use to preserve Noah’s family and certain members of the animal kingdom. As if the actual construction wouldn’t be challenge enough, Noah was surrounded by godless unbelievers who scoffed at his work.

**Courageous Action in the Face of Conflict**

Despite the craziness of the assignment and the ridicule of his neighbors, Noah persevered. Instead of conforming to his culture, Noah continued to trust in God and to obey his command. This godly man kept working, probably for more than 50 years, on the major project assigned to him. Described in the New Testament as a “preacher of righteousness” (2 Peter 2:5), Noah apparently warned the people of God’s coming wrath as he hammered and sawed.

Once the ark was completed, the Lord brought the animals, in pairs, to the ark. When the animals and all the members of Noah’s family were aboard, God closed the door of the ark (Genesis 7:1-16). And the rains did come—for forty days and forty nights.

After the flood receded, Noah offered a sacrifice to God which was received by the Almighty as a “pleasing aroma.” Based upon Noah’s persevering faithfulness to his God-given assignment and God’s faithfulness to his people, God “said in his heart” that he would never again “curse the ground because of man” or “destroy all living creatures” despite the continuing problem of evil in the hearts of men (8:21). This was followed by a covenant or solemn promise that “never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth” (9:11). The covenant was sealed with a beautiful sign: “Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the

everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.” (9:16).

Noah did not get sucked into the evil of his culture; instead, he obeyed God’s command to complete a unique God-given task. Not going along with the world saved Noah’s family. Similarly, not going along with our world and its ungodly messages saves us missteps, pain, and estrangement from God.