

LWML *Texas* District

May 2023

Bible Study

Rain

There is an old phrase that says, “April showers bring May flowers.” What are some wives’ tales you have been told over the years regarding rain?

One that comes to mind is “when it rains, it pours.” We often think of rain showers in regard to how dry the land is. During times of drought, we pray for rain to soothe the parched land, and then when rain has been in abundance, we begrudge its existence. It seems rather rare to appreciate it all the time. One year in late May, a high school choir was visiting London, England, and were baffled by the amount of rain they experienced. Of their ten-day trip, it rained for eight days. The students found it difficult to understand how the citizens could stand so much rain. The citizens moved around the city with ease, not fazed by the unending precipitation. The students were mostly unprepared. A small number had umbrellas and light rain ponchos. However, by the end of their trip, each student was nicely equipped with an umbrella and a brightly colored rain jacket. They adapted to the rain, but still appreciated it when the rain lifted each day.

As a follower of Christ, we also experience rain. We feel prepared for some challenging storms. Yet, there are other times when the rain we are enduring feels like the flood Noah experienced back in Genesis 6–9. Read Genesis 6:5–22.

What was the cause of the flood? How was Noah unique from those around him?

Something that has always been intriguing is how Noah’s sons are saved in the ark, yet they aren’t mentioned as righteous. Could it be they were spared from the destruction of the flood because their father “walked with God”? We do not know their character before the flood. We do know how they reacted after the flood towards their father.

Read Genesis 9:20–27. What was Noah’s response to each son? How do you think these statements would impact their futures?

Peruse Genesis 10. Are there some names that you recognize? Can you place any of their impact on the Hebrews later on in the Old Testament? Think about your own experiences, how are people blessed by your faith before and during storms?

The unrighteous perished in the flood, yet eight were saved. Read Hebrews 11:7. Why did Noah build the ark? What was the reward for his faith?

Read Isaiah 54:9–10. What does God promise?

He made a promise to Noah back in Genesis 9:11–17. He promises again in Isaiah that His covenant of peace will not be removed.

In another passage about water, Jesus had finished preaching the sermon on the mount. He got in a boat, and His disciples followed Him (Matthew 8:23). Read Matthew 8:24–27. Jesus is exhausted and napping. Have you ever been so tired you could sleep through anything? A time when you’ve worked too hard, given so much, or simply missed quality sleep because of other stressors in life?

Jesus had just preached for hours to the crowd, people were coming to see Him for healing, wisdom, miracles, and to listen to him. He was ready for some rest after all of that. Storms arise quite frequently on the Sea of Galilee. As He slept the storm grew, as did the fear within the disciples. Jesus simply speaks. He rebukes the wind and the waves, and the storm stops. What

positive thing comes from Jesus calming this storm? How are the disciples impacted by Jesus' actions?

In Isaiah 43:2, we are told where God will be when we endure difficult times. Where will He be found?

We are promised times will be difficult. We are told there will be struggles in this life.

Just as Noah was saved by faith through the most trying of times, a worldwide flood, we too are saved by faith in Jesus through the difficult times, the storms of this life. We can trust Jesus has our backs just as He did for the disciples when they were, literally, in a sinking boat. Jesus rebuked the waves. He spoke and it was done. We can trust that in all circumstances, God hears us. He hears our prayers. He is faithful regardless of the storms we find ourselves in, whether we create them, or simply find ourselves enveloped in them.

God knows the plans He has for us. Read Jeremiah 29:11, Isaiah 25:1, and Romans 8:28. What do these verses have in common? What stands out to you as key words in each verse?

Just as the Lord was faithful to the Israelites when they were exiled in Babylon, so also the Lord remains faithful to us still today.

God's purpose will prevail. We can rest amid the storms knowing God's purpose will bring about beauty, His glory, and better days ahead after the storms pass. We can appreciate the rain for the growth that comes through it. The rainbow still reminds us today of God's faithfulness and His enduring love through and after the storms of life. We can even be comforted that God will use our story to bless others through the work of the Holy Spirit.

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