

Prophets in the Qur'an: Noah, Part 3

Prophet Nuh (Noah, peace be upon him) tirelessly dedicated himself to guiding his people toward the worship of Allah (SWT stands for “Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala” the Arabic for “Glorified and Exalted He is” —Allah is the Arabic and Aramaic name of God). His (Noah) mission was unrelenting—hour after hour, day after day, year after year. He left no opportunity unused, admonishing them with wisdom and compassion, calling them to the oneness of Allah both privately and in public gatherings.

Noah (pbuh) employed diverse methods in his appeal. He pointed to the signs of Allah evident in creation—wonders they experienced daily but often took for granted. These signs were manifestations of divine miracles, meant to stir reflection and gratitude. Yet, his efforts were met with staunch resistance. Whenever he urged his people to turn to Allah and seek forgiveness, they responded in defiance. They would plug their ears with their fingers, cover their faces with their clothes, and reject his words with arrogance.

The Prophet Noah’s (pbuh) unwavering dedication to his divine mission is perhaps best exemplified by its duration. He tirelessly called his people to believe in Allah (God) for an astonishing nine hundred and fifty years. The Qur’an mentioned this period explicitly remarkably: **“Indeed We sent Noah to his people, and he stayed among them a thousand**

years less fifty years.” [Qur’an 29:14] spent in inviting them to believe in the Oneness of Allah (Monotheism) and discard the false gods and other deities.

This extended period was marked not only by the passage of time but also by a consistent pattern of rejection. Each generation actively warned its successor against accepting Noah’s message, perpetuating a cycle of disbelief and hostility. Fathers instructed their children, from a young age, about their opposition to Noah, counseling them to reject his call upon reaching maturity. This ingrained resistance became deeply entrenched in their very nature, blinding them to the truth.

Despite the overwhelming opposition and the seemingly stagnant number of believers compared to the ever-growing ranks of disbelievers, Noah (pbuh) remained steadfast. Though saddened by his people’s rejection, he never succumbed to despair, continuing his divinely ordained mission with unwavering faith and perseverance.

After centuries of unwavering dedication, a turning point arrived in Prophet Noah’s (pbuh) mission. Allah (God) revealed that his efforts to convert the remaining disbelievers would be in vain. This divine decree is conveyed in the Qur’an: **“And it was inspired to Nuh (Noah): ‘None of your people will believe except those who have believed already. So be not sad because of what**



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they used to do.” [Qur’an 11:36]. This revelation brought a definitive end to Noah’s hopes for further conversions, marking a profound moment of both closure and grief.

In response to this divine knowledge and the persistent rejection of his message, Noah (pbuh) turned to Allah in supplication. His prayer, as recorded in the Qur’an, expresses the weight of his experience and the divine justice to follow: **“And Noah said, ‘My Lord, do not leave a single unbeliever on earth.’”** [Qur’an 71:26]. This prayer signifies the culmination of Noah’s mission and the impending divine judgment upon those who had persistently denied the truth.

With the revelation that no further conversions would occur and Prophet Noah’s (pbuh) subsequent supplication, the divine decree was sealed. Allah (God) accepted Noah’s prayer, and His judgment upon the disbelievers was pronounced: a devastating flood.

In preparation for this impending catastrophe, Allah instructed His devoted servant Noah to construct an ark. This undertaking was not left to human ingenuity alone; Allah revealed the necessary knowledge, provided precise instructions, and

offered divine assistance through angels. The Qur’an describes this divine command: **“And construct the ship (ark) under Our Eyes and with Our Inspiration and address Me not on behalf of those who did wrong; they are surely to be drowned.”** [Qur’an 11:37]. This verse emphasizes the divine oversight of the ark’s construction and the irrevocable nature of the coming punishment.

Following divine instruction, Prophet Noah (pbuh) selected a location outside the city, far removed from the sea, to begin the construction of the ark. He gathered the necessary wood and tools and commenced the arduous task, working tirelessly day and night.

The disbelievers, witnessing this seemingly absurd endeavor, persisted in their mockery. They taunted Noah, questioning his sanity: **“O Noah! Does carpentry appeal to you more than prophethood? Why are you building an ark so far from the sea? Are you going to drag it to the water or is the wind going to carry it for you?”** Their ridicule was relentless, designed to undermine his faith and discourage his efforts.

Despite the scorn and derision, Noah (pbuh) remained steadfast in his obedience to Allah (God). The Qur’an recounts his response to their taunts: **“And he was building the Ark, and whenever notables among his people passed by him, they would ridicule him. He said, ‘If you ridicule us, we ridicule you, just as you**

ridicule.” **“You will know upon whom will come a humiliating punishment, and upon whom will fall lasting suffering.”** [Qur’an 11:38-39]. His words were a firm declaration of his unwavering belief and a stark warning of the impending consequences of their disbelief.

The ark, finally completed, stood as a testament to Prophet Noah’s (pbuh) unwavering faith and obedience. He patiently awaited Allah’s (God’s) command, the signal for the flood’s commencement. This divine sign was revealed to be the miraculous gushing forth of water from the oven in Noah’s own home. When this extraordinary event occurred, it would mark the beginning of the deluge and the time for Noah to act.

The appointed day arrived, and as foretold, water erupted from the oven in Noah’s house. This unmistakable sign prompted Noah to immediately open the ark and summon the believers to board. Following divine instruction, he also gathered a pair—male and female—of every species of animal, bird, and insect.

The sight of Noah leading these creatures onto the ark only intensified the disbelievers’ ridicule. Their laughter echoed through the air as they mocked, **“Noah must have gone out of his head! What is he going to do with the animals?”** They failed to grasp the divine purpose behind this extraordinary undertaking.

The Qur’an describes this pivotal moment: **“And when Our com-**

mand came, and the oven gushed water, We said, ‘Board into it a pair of every kind, and your family—except those against whom the sentence has already passed—and those who believe.’” **But none believed with him except a few. And he said, ‘Embark in it. In the name of Allah be its sailing and its anchorage. My Lord is Forgiving and Merciful.’”** [Qur’an 11:40-41]. This passage highlights the divine command to board the ark, the limited number of believers, and Noah’s invocation of Allah’s name for safe passage.

Despite the divine call to board the ark, not all of Prophet Noah’s (pbuh) household joined him. Tragically, his wife was among the disbelievers and thus remained behind. Similarly, one of Noah’s sons, who had outwardly feigned belief while harboring disbelief in his heart, also refused to embark. The vast majority of Noah’s people persisted in their rejection and did not heed the call to safety.

Scholarly opinions vary regarding the number of those who ultimately boarded the ark. Some suggest eighty believers, while others indicate 72. Still, others mention a mere 10 believers. Regardless of the precise number, it is clear that only a small minority of Noah’s community responded to his prophetic call.

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