

**“ALL WASHED UP”**  
**The Story of Noah in Scripture, Drama, and Song**  
**Music and lyrics by Terry Osman; Dialogue by Ken Onstot**  
**Directed by Bruce Preuninger and Ken Onstot**  
November 15, 2009

Cast:

Noah  
Angel 1  
Angel 2  
Angel 3  
Neighbor 1  
Neighbor 2  
Neighbor 3  
Shem  
Ham  
Japheth  
Noah’s wife  
Angel 4  
Angel 5  
Angel 6  
Scripture Readers

## Act 1: Preparations

Scripture Reading: Genesis 6:11-19

Scene 1: Noah and the Angels

(Noah is hammering together some boards on a work bench as three angels approach him from behind.)

Angel 1: Noah. (Noah, not hearing, continues hammering.) Noah! (No response. The angel goes over and yells in his ear.) NOAH!

(Noah, startled, hits his thumb with his hammer.)

Noah: Owww! (Hold thumb while jumping up and down in pain.) Why, you ... (He gets ready to hit the person who startled him, then suddenly discovers it is an angel.) Who are you?

Angel 1: I'm an angel of the Lord.

Angel 2: We're all angels. Can't you tell? (They model their wings.)

Noah: But what are you doing here?

Angel 1: We were sent to you with a message from God.

Noah: Yeah, right. (Looking around.) Is this some kind of reality show—Survivor, Mt. Ararat?

Angel 2: Oh, it's real, all right.

Angel 1: And you might say it's about surviving. (The Angels laugh at their little joke.)

Angel 3: Look, Noah, God has a job for you.

Noah: Oh yeah? What does God want?

Angel 3: What does God want? Well, duh. God wants a world where people live in peace, sharing with each other and helping each other; not this mean, violent, greedy, polluted world you are living in right now.

Noah: Well if God created the world, isn't God responsible for the mess it is in?

Angel 1: Is a parent responsible for everything that a child does? Giving people life does not guarantee that they will use it wisely. Anything good can become bad if it is twisted or misused.

Noah: And you think life in the world has been twisted and misused?

Angel 1: Don't you?

Noah (shrugging): I suppose. But what can be done about it now? It is too late to start over.

Angel 2: Is it?

Noah: What is God going to do, wipe us all out? (He starts laughing, but quits when he realizes that the angels are not laughing.)

Angel 3: Look, Noah, get a clue. God wants you to build a boat...a very large boat.

Noah: Here in the middle of the desert? What for?

Angel 1: Do you remember how God pushed back the water at creation to form the dry land? Well soon God will release the water to flow back again. Everything will be covered: the mountains, the trees, buildings, everything.

Noah: But that will destroy the world?

Angel 3 (to the other angels): He's starting to get the idea.

Noah: Are you saying that God has completely given up on the world?

Angel 2: No. That's why you are supposed to build a boat. It has to be big enough to hold your entire family and two of every kind of animal—one male and one female. God wants to start over.

Noah: This is crazy. Do you know how much a boat like that would cost or how long it would take to build? Where will I get the wood for it? Who will pay for it? Who will run the farm while I build it? And how do I explain to my wife what it is doing in our front yard two hundred miles from the nearest mud puddle?

All the angels: Hey, Noah.

Noah: Yeah.

All the angels: How long can you tread water?

Song: *"Build Me a Boat"*

Scene 2:

Noah and the Neighbors

(Noah is still pounding nails. Three neighbors approach him.)

Neighbor 1: Hey, buddy. Would you mind telling me what you are doing here?

Noah: I'm building a boat.

Neighbor 2: Well would you mind getting it out of the street? It's lowering our property values.

Noah: Soon your property won't be worth very much anyway.

Neighbor 3: What are you going to do with that thing anyway? It's two hundred miles to the nearest mud puddle. Where are you going to put it in the water?

Noah: Maybe the water will come to it.

Neighbor 1: Well we don't appreciate all this racket. We're trying to have a little party, see—a few drinks, some laughs, a little action with the ladies, if you know what it mean. All this sawing and pounding wrecks the mood.

Noah: I'm sorry, but the Lord told me to build it.

Neighbor 2: Oh, great, one of those religious fanatics. Why don't you build a bomb shelter instead? At least they are underground.

Neighbor 3: People have predicted the end of the world for centuries, and look, we're still here!

Neighbor 1: Yeah, I don't believe in all that fear-of-God stuff. I believe we were put here to look out for ourselves. So if you'll excuse me, I'm going back to the party. (To the others) Come on, let's go. (They start to leave, but Noah stops them.)

Noah: Wait. Before you go, can I ask you a question?

All the neighbors: What?

Noah: How long can you tread water?

*Song:* "Poor Old Noah"

Scene 3:

Noah and His Sons

(Shem is sawing a board. Noah comes in bringing another board.)

Noah: Hurry up, son. I see clouds on the horizon. You know how nervous I get when I see clouds.

Shem (slamming down the saw on the boards): I've had it! We've been building this boat since I was old enough to hold a hammer. I've wasted the best hundred years of my life on this thing. Maybe that doesn't matter to you. You were 500 years old before we even started. But me ... I haven't gotten to go anywhere or doing anything. I've spent my entire life building this stupid boat.

(Ham and Japheth come in carrying another board.)

Ham: You know what I think? I think it will never rain. I think we've been wasting our whole lives obeying a God who does not even exist.

Noah: Hush! (He looks around.) Watch what you are saying. God doesn't like that kind of talk.

Ham: Well I don't like this kind of work. (He and Japheth set down the board in front of the work bench.)

Noah: We're almost finished.

Japheth: And then what? We have to go out and find two of every kind of animal, one male and one female. Have you ever tried to distinguish a male and female mosquito?

Ham: Yeah, and who's gonna get close enough to the alligators to check?

Japheth: And how are we supposed to get them all into the boat? Did God say, "If you build it, they will come"?

Ham: Say what you want, but I'm not getting into that boat for 40 days and 40 nights with a bunch of lions, snakes, and wasps.

Japheth: If God wants to start life over again, let him start with something useful... like dairy cows.

Noah: God is not saving us because we are useful. God is saving us because we are loved.

Shem: God is saving us so he has someone to clean out the bottom of the boat.

Noah: Just be glad God has not decided that you are more trouble than you are worth.

(Sound effect of thunder.)

Ham: What was that?

Japheth: It's getting darker.

(Sound effect of rain.)

Shem: This is just a little shower, right?

Noah: Boys, I think it's time to load 'em up.

*Song:* *"Load 'Em Up"*

## Act II: The Voyage

Scripture: Genesis 7:11-16

Scene 4: Noah and His Wife

(Noah is back to hammering boards. His wife approaches.)

Wife: Are you still hammering? I thought when we got on the ark you'd be finished.

Noah: I've got to fix the chicken coop before the coyotes get to them.

Wife: How much longer do you think we'll be stuck in this thing? We've been here almost a year.

Noah: I don't know. It quit raining after 40 days, but it takes a long time for the water to go down. It shouldn't be much longer. (He goes back to hammering.)

Wife: Was all this necessary?

Noah (stops hammering): You mean the ark? I'd hate to think where we would be without it.

Wife: No, I mean the flood. Was it really necessary for God to wipe out all those people and animals?

Noah: I don't know. It wasn't my decision.

Wife: But doesn't it bother you? I know there were problems in the world: crime, war, pollution. I'm not saying everything was good. But isn't there some way God could have fixed the world without destroying it?

Noah: The wages of sin is death. When people turn their backs on God and God's commandments, they end up destroying themselves and the whole creation. Injustice produces hate, which produces violence, which produces war. Before it's over the whole creation is messed up. The world cannot bear sin forever. Sin must be washed away, or the creation itself will not survive.

Wife: Couldn't God do anything to save it?

Noah: That's what this ark is about—saving the creation, keeping it alive.

Wife: But won't sin come back again. As the population grows and spreads, won't we end up with the same problems we had before?

Noah: I've wondered about that. Flooding the world isn't going to solve the problem. Somehow people need to be changed. We need the kind of water that washes away sin without washing away people.

Wife: Is there such water?

Noah: I don't know. Maybe there is. Maybe when this is over God will find a way to make us holy, even while we are still sinners.

Wife: Either that, or we'll be all washed up!

*Song:* *"All Washed Up"*

### Act III: Beginning Again

Scripture Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Scene 5: Noah and the Angels

(Noah is once again at the work bench. He picks up a hammer and starts to pound in a nail, but shakes his head and puts down the hammer. He looks tired and sits on the bench. Three angels approach.)

Angel 4: Noah.

Noah (turning around and seeing the angel): Oh no, not you again. What does God want now?

Angel 6: The same thing God has always wanted: a world where people live in peace loving God and each other.

Noah: Well, now you've got it. There is no one left to fight, no one left to steal, no one left to thumb their nose at God. All that's left down here is mud. Is God happy?

Angel 5 (putting a hand on Noah's shoulder): You and your family are still here. That makes God happy.

Noah: Yeah, but I don't know why. There is nothing left for us to do.

Angel 4: Are you kidding? There is everything left to do. You are the beginning of a whole new creation, a chance to make the world a place of beauty and abundance like the Garden of Eden.

Noah: And what happens when someone eats forbidden fruit? It will happen again, you know. Someone, somewhere is going to sin, and the whole mess will start over. What will God do then? Wipe us all over again? What is the point of building anything if God is just going to destroy it?

Angel 5: God is going to make a covenant with you, Noah—a binding promise to you, your descendants, and all the animals you kept alive on the ark. God promises never again to destroy the world with a flood.

Noah: Sure, and every time it rains we are supposed to hold our breath and wonder if God will keep that promise.

(A rainbow is projected on the all.)

Angel 4: Noah, look over there. You see those colors in the shape of an arch. That is a sign which God will put in the sky as a reminder of God's promise. Whenever the clouds form and the rain falls, that rainbow will remind you of God's covenant—a promise that will never fail.

Noah: But what if *we* fail? Will God keep that covenant with us, even if we fall back into sin?

Angel 6: Don't you get it? God isn't out to destroy the world; God wants to save it. In the end God will give the world not the water of death but the water of life. God so loves the world that he will do whatever it takes to save it. The rainbow will be a sign of that promise.

*Song:*

*“A Rainbow in Your Heart”*