

# NOAH AND THE ARK: GOD'S GREAT DEMAND FOR FAITH — WHAT NOAH HAD TO BELIEVE GENESIS 06: 13–22

## *Introduction*

Noah lived in troublesome times, probably the most troublesome times in human history. Man had become corrupt and wicked: there was not a godly person left upon earth. Imagine! Only Noah and his dear family still believed and followed God.

The Bible says that Noah had *great faith*, so great that he is listed in the *The Bible's Great Hall of Fame* (see Heb 11:7). Just what Noah believed is discussed here in this passage of Scripture (Gen 6:13-22). The things God called upon Noah to believe are unbelievable, yet Noah did just that: he believed God. He believed what God said, accepted God's Word, and did what God commanded. This is the subject of this great passage of Scripture: *Noah and the Ark: God's Great Demand for Faith — What Noah Had to Believe*.

(Remember: Noah was apparently 480 years old when God confronted him and told him to build the ark (see note, Gen 7:5-9; see 6:13; 5:32, see 7:6).

- I. Belief 1: God's Word — God was going to destroy both man and the earth (v. 13).
- II. Belief 2: God's command — build an ark in the middle of nowhere (vv. 14-16).
- III. Belief 3: God's means of destruction — a flood of water (v. 17).
- IV. Belief 4: God's promise of personal salvation (v. 18).
- V. Belief 5: God's commission, the awesome task of saving two of every living animal upon earth (vv. 19-21).
- VI. Belief 6: God's way of salvation, a salvation that demands obedience (v. 22).

## **I. *Genesis 06:13 Belief in God's Word — The Coming Judgment***

First, Noah had to believe God's Word, that God was going to destroy both man and the earth. God said two things about the coming judgment.

1. God revealed that He was going to put an end to all people. He was going to destroy all mankind, both them and the earth. Picture God confronting and revealing this fact of judgment to Noah. Lying there in prayer, prostrate before God, Noah must have been stricken with utter terror. The picture of no life and no earth — total destruction — was bound to be a terrifying thought. Note the end of the verse where God re-emphasized that judgment was coming: Noah must listen and heed the fact. Noah must prepare and do exactly what God said, for God — beyond all question — was going to destroy both mankind and the earth.
  2. God revealed why He was going to destroy man: because man had filled the earth with violence (v. 13). By violence is meant all the forms of sin and corruption that
-

violate God and man. The first society and civilization upon earth were corrupt and filled with violence (Gen 6:1-7, 11-12). Not just most persons, but every person, had forsaken God and corrupted his way upon earth. Ungodliness was running wild: people were engaging in all forms of immoral and sexual misbehaviour. They were living selfish lives, seeking and coveting more and more of this world and its possessions and pleasures. Lawlessness and violence were sweeping the earth: robbery, theft, assaults and senseless killings were happening daily within every community.

*“God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh [all mankind, every living person] had corrupted his way upon the earth” (v. 12).*

Man was not taking care of the earth nor himself. He was not offering himself and the earth as a sacrifice to God, not following God nor praising and worshipping God. Man was not fulfilling his purpose for being upon earth. Contrariwise, he was corrupting himself and the earth, doing the very opposite of what God had purposed.

God had no choice: He had promised that *a godly line of believers* would always be upon earth, *a godly line* through whom He could send the Saviour to the world. Therefore, man had to be wiped off the earth and a new beginning had to be made. But how? How could God wipe mankind off the earth and still fulfil His promise to save man? There was only one way: by choosing one man and his family and saving them through the destruction of the earth. That man was Noah.

Remember what we have already learned about Noah in the former passage of Scripture:

⇒ Noah was a godly man, a man who walked with God (v. 9).

⇒ Noah and his family were the only godly people left upon earth.

Imagine being the only godly person upon earth! Standing all alone in one's confession of God, in worshipping and witnessing for God. Imagine not knowing another godly person upon earth, not a single person who worships and lives for God. Noah was a man of faith, a great man of faith. The first thing Noah had to believe was this: judgment was coming. God was going to destroy both man and the earth.

**Heb 9:27** *Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,*

**Psa 96:13** *He comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.*

**Thought 1.** There was a reason why God could wait no longer, why God had to go ahead and destroy the earth: there was only one godly family left. There was the possibility that this family could become influenced by the world and its ways and turn away from God, or that the worldly of the earth would react and kill Noah and his family because of his witness for God against their ungodly lives. Consequently, God had to destroy the earth and save the family. God needed Noah and his family to carry on the godly line and to fulfil His promise to send the Saviour to the world.

**2 Pet 3:9** *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

## II. *Genesis 06:14–16 Faith to Build the Ark in the Middle of Nowhere*

Second, Noah had to believe God's command to build an ark in the middle of nowhere.

Visualize one man building a boat the size of one and one half football fields — about 150 yards long — on the outskirts of some city out in the middle of nowhere. There was no seaport any-place close by, no boat ramp by which the boat could slide down into the water, no way conceivable to ever get the huge boat into the water. Imagine what the neighbours and community would think and be saying about the man: “Strange, eccentric, queer, a fanatic,” to say the least.

This was Noah. God's call to Noah was one of the most difficult calls ever issued a person. God had a great mission for Noah to carry out, but Noah would have to trust God completely and fully.

=> Noah would have to believe God's Word explicitly — accept exactly what God said.

=> Noah would have to obey God's Word, do every single thing that God said.

Simply stated, Noah would have to cast himself wholly upon God and His Word. If Noah did what God said, the world would think him strange, would ridicule and mock him. The world would not understand his behaviour, why he was so fanatical about God and so against the pleasures and things of the world. Noah would have few, if any, friends throughout the world, except his own family. And even some of his family would most likely not understand him. Just think of the accusations and ridicule Noah suffered while he was building the boat and preaching the coming judgment and righteousness of God (2 Pet 2:5).

Was Noah willing to pay the price? Willing to give his life up totally to God, to obey and follow God's Word explicitly? Willing to do everything God said? Willing to carry out every single command?

Here is what God told Noah to do, and remember, this was the ancient world we are talking about. There were no modern ship building factories and no major seaports in the ancient world. God told Noah to build an ark, a huge structure. The specifications were exact and detailed.

1. The material was to be *gopher wood*. What kind of wood was this? We are not sure, but most Biblical scholars believe it was probably cypress, an evergreen tree which is very adaptable to ship building and is long-lasting when water-soaked. Some forms of cypress even grow in swamps.
2. The ark was to have some separate rooms, that is, cabins or areas, positioned off to the side (v. 14). These, of course, would provide separate areas for the animals and food and provide living quarters for Noah and his family.
3. The ark was to be waterproofed by sealing the boards — both inside and outside — with pitch. This must have been some type of tar or asphalt material.

4. The ark was to be of enormous size. The exact measurement of a cubit or foot in that day is not known. But if we even take the smallest length of 18 inches for a cubit, the size of the ark would be equal to a modern ocean liner:

=> 150 yards long      => 25 yards wide      => 15 yards high

Note that the dimensions are box-shaped: the ark was a huge box-like structure built only to float, not manoeuvre, through the water.

5. The ark was to have an opening (tsohar, skylight) for ventilation and light. The opening was to be within 18 inches of the top; that is, the opening was to run all the way around the ark. (This is the meaning of the Hebrew according to H.C. Leupold (H.C. Leupold, *Genesis*, Vol. 1, pp. 271-72). The ark also had one or more hatch or drop-like windows (Gen 8:6). Note how adequately God provided for light and ventilation in the ark, both a skylight and windows. These, of course, would have been openings with wood partitions that could be either lifted up and braced or swung open on some kind of hinge.
6. The ark was to have only one door.
7. The ark was to have three decks, to be three stories high.

These were God's instructions to Noah: he was to build a huge ark — a mammoth box-like structure — in the middle of nowhere, in a place where there was no seaport. Again, was Noah willing to pay the price? Was he willing to believe God's Word, God's instructions? Imagine Noah prostrate on his face before God receiving these instructions. He was bound to be shocked at such an unbelievable command, stricken with all kinds of questions, amazed at receiving such incredible instructions from God. God, of course, knew all about Noah's emotional shock, all about the questions rambling through Noah's mind. And God knew how to meet Noah's need and how to answer the questions. Just what God had to say to Noah will be seen in the remaining notes of this passage. But for now, the point to see is the great faith that was being demanded of Noah, that Noah was being asked...

- to believe the unbelievable
- to do the incredible
- to accept God's Word at face value
- to obey God by standing up for God and His Word, by standing against the ridicule and mockery of the world

**Thought 1.** Several lessons can be learned from the command of God to build the ark.

- 1) We must believe God — accept His Word — no matter how incredible it may seem. We may be as Noah was bound to be — questioning and not understanding — but we must *trust and obey* God and His Word, all of His instructions to us.
- 2) The Hebrew word for *pitch* (kopher) is the same word for *atonement*. It means to *cover*. The picture is this:

=> The pitch sealed the ark and made it secure from the destruction and judgment that was to fall upon the earth. In this the pitch is a type or picture of Christ. The blood of Christ seals the believer against the destruction and judgment that every person has to face in the future. Christ bore the judgment of sin for us; He has paid the atonement — the sacrifice — for our sins.

*Lev 17:11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.*

*Rom 5:11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

3) The one door into the ark pictures this: there is only one way to God, only one door that leads to the safety and security of God's salvation. That way and that door is Jesus Christ, God's very own Son.

*John 10:9 "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture."*

*John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

*Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*

*Rom 5:2 Through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.*

### GENESIS 6: 14–16 THE ARK

The ark was a box-like structure of enormous size. It was huge, built only to float, not to manoeuvre through the water.

James Montgomery Boice says this about the ark:

*Several things can be said about these measurements to begin with. First, if this was the size of the ark, it was of great proportions, greater than the size of any ancient sailing vessel. In fact, it was not until 1858 that a vessel of greater length was constructed: the Great Eastern (692 by 83 by 30 feet). Second, it can be shown through simulated tests in water that a box-like structure of the ark's dimensions is exceedingly stable, indeed, almost impossible to capsize. Whatever our judgment about the carrying capacity of the ark, therefore, there is an obvious presumption in favour of the design having come from God. For how would Noah or anyone else at that time know how to construct such a large seaworthy craft except by revelation?*

*What about the "millions and millions" of species? There is some difficulty in determining what is meant by the biblical word "kind," as in "two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along*

*the ground” (v. 20). If this corresponds to our modern classification of “family,” the maximum number of families represented on the ark would be about seven hundred. But suppose the word actually corresponds to our word “species”? In that case, the number would be much higher — but not beyond the ark’s capacity.*

*Tim LaHaye and John Morris in their book, *The Ark on Ararat*, cite the following table of the number of animal species put forward by Ernst Mayr, one of America’s leading taxonomists.*

Mammals	3,700
Birds	8,600
Reptiles	6,300
Amphibians	2,500
Fishes	20,600
Tunicates, etc.	1,325
Echinoderms	6,000
Arthropods	838,000
Mollusks	107,250
Worms, etc.	39,340
Coelenterates, etc.	5,380
Sponges	4,800
Protozoans	28,400
<b>Total Animals</b>	<b>10,72,300</b>

*That is a large number, of course, but not all these species had to be on the ark. Obviously the fish did not. Nor did the tunicates, echinoderms, mollusks, coelenterates, sponges, protozoans, most arthropods, and most worms. Simple subtraction brings the previously large number down to approximately 35,000 or 70,000 individual animals, one male and one female. Moreover, although we usually think of large animals when we think of the ark (elephants, hippopotamuses, giraffes), most land animals are in fact quite small. The average size is less than that of a sheep. Since 240 sheep fit comfortably in an average size two-deck railroad car and since the volume of the ark would have been equal to 569 such cars, calculations show that the animals to be saved would have fit into approximately 50 percent of the ark’s carrying capacity, leaving room for people, food, water, and whatever other provisions may have been necessary.*

*As LaHaye and Morris note, “Such simple calculations are certainly not beyond the abilities of the scoffers. What does seem to be beyond them is the willingness to try to see if the biblical story is feasible.” (Tim F. LaHaye and John D. Morris. *The Ark on Ararat*. (Nashville and New York: Thomas Nelson, 1976), p. 237; James Montgomery Boice. *Genesis*, Vol. 1, pp. 262-263.) □*

### III. *Genesis 06:17 Flood, God's Means of Destruction*

Third, Noah had to believe God's means of destruction, that God was going to bring a flood of waters upon the earth. Remember: Noah was probably prostrate, flat on his face before God. He was bound to be in a state of shock as God told him to build a huge ark in the middle of nowhere. Now terror struck his heart. God declared that He was going to destroy every living creature upon earth, both man and animal. Note that three things are stressed about the coming judgment.

1. God Himself was going to launch and execute the judgment. Note the stress in the Hebrew: "*I, even I* do bring a flood of waters upon the earth" (v. 17). It was God Himself — Elohim, the Mighty God, the Sovereign Lord of the universe — who was going to cause the waters to burst forth and destroy man.
2. The flood and judgment were definitely coming, coming beyond all question. Again, this is seen in God's emphasis: "*I, even I*" will do it. It is not a matter...
  - of wondering if judgment is coming
  - of questioning if judgment is coming
  - of perhaps judgment is coming

The judgment of every living thing is coming. "*I, even I*" — God Himself — is going to execute the judgment.

3. All flesh — every living soul — upon the earth shall be destroyed and die. Genesis 7:22 says that this refers to the people and animals upon *dry land*, not to the fish and water animals. Water, of course, does not destroy these, although some water creatures would have been destroyed by the pressure of the water shooting up from the subterranean caverns when the crust of the earth broke open. (See note, Gen 7:10-12.)

**Thought 1.** We must all face the judgment of God and give an account for how we have lived upon earth. Judgment is sure: judgment is coming and cannot be escaped. How can we be so sure of this? Because it is God Himself who has spoken and declared that judgment is coming. We must listen and heed the declaration of His Word.

**Mat 16:27** "*For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.*"

**Mat 25:31-34, 41, 46** "*When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.' ...Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels....Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.'*"

**Heb 9:27** *Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,*

**2 Th 1:7-9** *And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.*

**2 Pet 2:9** *If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.*

**2 Pet 3:7-10** *By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.*

**Jude 1:14-15** *Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."*

**Rev 20:11-15** *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

**Psa 96:13** *He comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.*

**Jer 17:10** *"I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."*

**Eccl 3:17** *I said to myself, "God will bring into judgment both the righteous and the wicked."*



#### IV. *Genesis 06:18 God's Promise of Personal Salvation*

Fourth, Noah had to believe God's promise of personal salvation, that God was going to save him and his dear family. Noah was bound to be shaken to the core and stricken with terror. Imagine his emotions: he had just been told that the whole earth was to be destroyed, all life, both human and animal; and it was to happen soon, during his lifetime. His home, his community, his city, his world — all the earth, his neighbours, his friends, his relatives — all were to be destroyed. There was to be nothing whatsoever left upon earth. The earth with all life was to be destroyed. The images flashing across Noah's mind must have been terrorizing. (Note: the images of so terrorizing a judgment are most likely what made Noah such a fearless preacher of righteousness and judgment. He saw that judgment was coming. He believed God and His Word.)

God knew Noah's thoughts and emotions; therefore, God knew that Noah needed to be comforted and assured. Noah needed the promise of God, that God would save him and his dear family. But remember: Noah had to believe God's promise.

Now, note that God promised and established His covenant with Noah. God told Noah that the covenant was now his — personally his — to carry on. What covenant? There was only one covenant in existence that fits into the context of the coming judgment to destroy the earth: the covenant of *the promised seed*, the Saviour of the world, that God had promised to send to save the world. (See note 5, Gen 3:15 for. Also see Gen 9:11 where God enlarges His covenant with Noah.)

Noah knew this fact: *the promised seed*, the Saviour, was coming to restore believers to the perfect paradise Adam had known. Remember, Adam was still living when Noah's father, Lamech, was born. In fact, Lamech was 56 years old when Adam died (see *Genealogy of Christ*, Gen 5:27-32). As pointed out earlier, Adam was bound to have shared his glorious experience with God in the Garden of Eden with his descendants. Any of us would have done the same with all who were willing to listen. The godly line of believers would have, of course, listened to Adam. Adam would have also taught — to the point of indoctrination — the great promise and great covenant of God. The Adamic covenant was the promise of being saved eternally, of having the tempter, that old serpent, the devil, destroyed (see Rev 12:9). The covenant was the promise that evil would be completely destroyed and righteousness fully restored to earth, perfectly restored. Noah, therefore, knew that God was choosing him to carry on the godly line through whom *the promised seed* and Saviour would come.

Noah was able to rest in the glorious promise of God: God would save him through the flood and eternally through the coming seed and Saviour of the world. *The promised seed* and Saviour was to come through his very loins. God was establishing His covenant, the covenant of *the promised seed*, with Noah. But again, Noah had to believe and trust the promise of God.

**Psa 37:39** *The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD; he is their stronghold in time of trouble.*

**Isa 12:2** *Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.*

**Isa 25:9** *In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."*

**Zep 3:17** *The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."*

**John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

**Acts 2:21** *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

**Rom 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Rom 10:9-10** *That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

**Rom 10:13** *For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

Note: God tells Noah who is to enter the ark. God is very specific. He spells out exactly who is to be saved: only Noah and his immediate family.

Note also, this is the first time the word *covenant* is used in Scripture. However, this is not the first covenant God established with man (see *Covenant*, Gen 2:15-17 for the first covenant; note 5, Gen 3:15).

## **V. Genesis 06:19–21 God's Commission: Save Two of Every Animal**

Fifth, Noah had to believe God's commission, the awesome task of saving two of — every living animal upon earth. Imagine the weight and pressure — the heavy sense of responsibility — that must have swept across Noah's mind and settled in his heart when God began to give Noah this awesome task:

=> to capture two of every living creature upon earth.

=> to bring them all into the ark.

=> to make sure one is a male and one a female.

=> to store enough food and water to feed them all, enough food to last one whole year (see *The Flood*, Gen 8:6-14).

=> to keep them alive within the ark.

The very idea of saving two of every species of animal must have overwhelmed Noah. God was commissioning him to reach out and save the creatures of the world. The task was an awesome weight to put upon a man's shoulders. This God knew, but note the help God promised. The animals would come to Noah to be saved (v. 20). What does this mean? Did the animals sense the coming storm and disaster, as animals often do? Or did God act upon the animals and cause them to approach the ark?

Scripture does not say, but both methods of gathering the animals are probably true. Noah would unquestionably need God's help to complete such an awesome task.

**Thought 1.** Noah's great commission is a picture of the great commission given us. God has given every believer the charge to reach out and save mankind from the coming judgment. We must go forth and proclaim Christ, the Saviour of the world. We must do all we can to proclaim the Saviour to all people everywhere.

**Mat 28:19-20** *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

**Mark 16:15** *He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."*

**Acts 1:8** *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

## **VI. Genesis 06:22 Salvation Demands Obedience**

Sixth, Noah had to believe the way of salvation, that he had to obey God to be saved. This is a phenomenal verse: Noah believed God and all that God said. Noah believed these facts:

=> God was going to destroy the whole earth.

=> God had spoken to him personally, spoken and instructed him to build and enter the ark of safety (vv. 14-16).

=> God was going to save him and his dear family.

How do we know that Noah believed these facts? Because he obeyed God and built the ark. He did all that God commanded him to do — *all*. Noah knew that the only way he could ever be saved was to obey God, to do exactly what God had said. If he rejected God and disobeyed the Word of God, Noah knew he would perish along with all those who denied and rejected God. Thus Noah believed God: he accepted everything that God said and did exactly what God commanded.

**Thought 1.** The greatness of Noah's belief can be seen in this: many people do not even believe that the great flood took place, that Noah ever built an ark. Despite all

the incredible evidence that points toward the flood and toward Noah's ark, they still choose to walk in their denial of God and His Holy Word.

Noah's great faith is seen in this: he had no evidence. He had nothing but the sheer Word of God, yet he acted upon God's Word. He believed everything that God said, and did all that God commanded. What a great example for us to follow!

**Mat 7:21** *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”*

**John. 15:10** *“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.”*

**Eph 5:6** *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.*

**2 Th 1:7-8** *And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

**Heb 5:9** *And, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.*

**Rev 22:14** *Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.*

**Deu 5:29** *Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!*

**Josh 1:8** *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ■*