

8

Flood and the Covenant with Noah



8.1 Picture - Noah's Ark

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth.

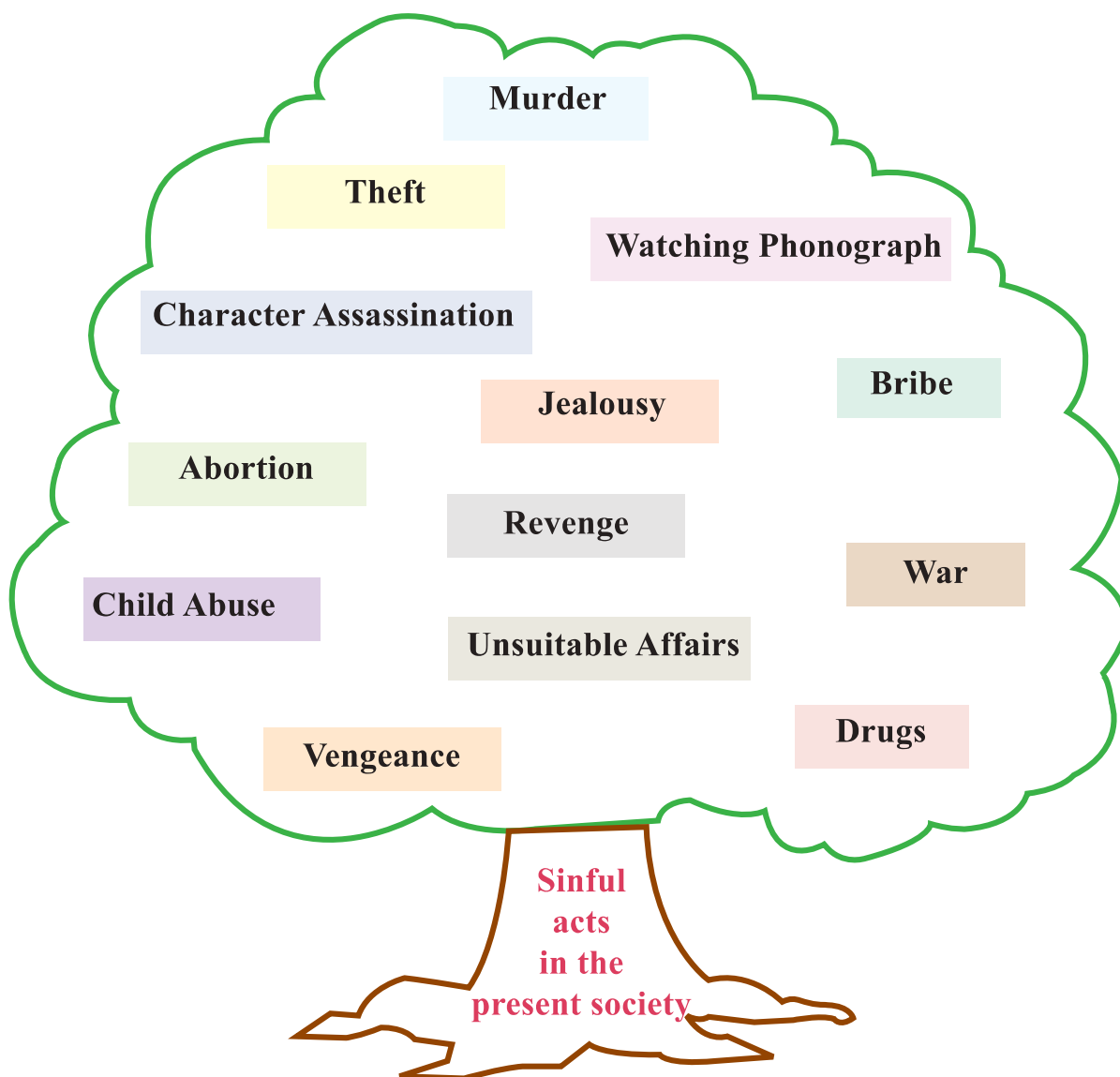
(Genesis 6:11-12)

The above quotation shows that the cause of the flood was the wickedness of man. Due to sin, God was sorry, and therefore, He was going to punish man. The pinnacle of the creation is the man and man's sin has influenced the whole creation negatively.

And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh; for the earth is filled with violence through them; behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

(Genesis 6:13)

The above quotation shows that the purpose of the flood is not to destroy man, but to destroy the sin, spread on earth by man.



The above diagram shows the sinful acts in the present society. All these have a destructive repercussion on the whole of the creation. Think, what can be done to eliminate these sinful acts. We have to shun away from sinful acts.



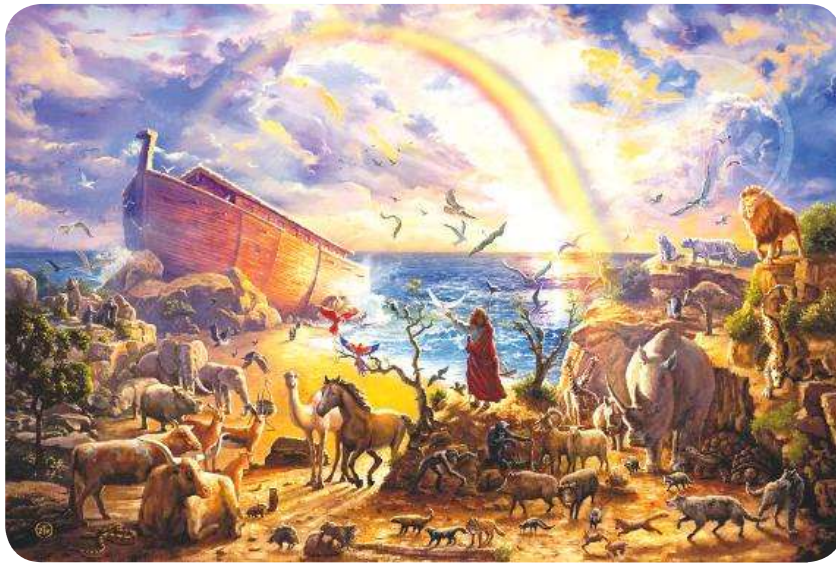
8.2 Picture - Noah with his sons

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.
... Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his
generation; Noah walked with God. And Noah had
three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

(Genesis 6:8-10)

Although the sin increased and its destructive influence became the rule of the day, God made available new ways of redemption. Though God decided to destroy the creation, which was affected by sin, the act of choosing Noah, his family and the representatives of the animals shows His mercy. Thus, Noah is selected as a beginner of a new creation. He was chosen because of his goodness.

Just as Noah, we must live as righteous people. We must be sincere. Just as Noah, we have to live a righteous life. Then we will be at the disposal of God's mercy.



8.3 Picture - Flood

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened.

(Genesis 7:11)

The promise, given to Noah was realized as it was said. Noah was safe from the flood.

From the Holy Bible, it is clear that because of Noah's great qualities, he was favourable in the sight of God and he became a friend of God. We can have the inspiration from the life of Noah how we are to live in order to receive God's mercy.

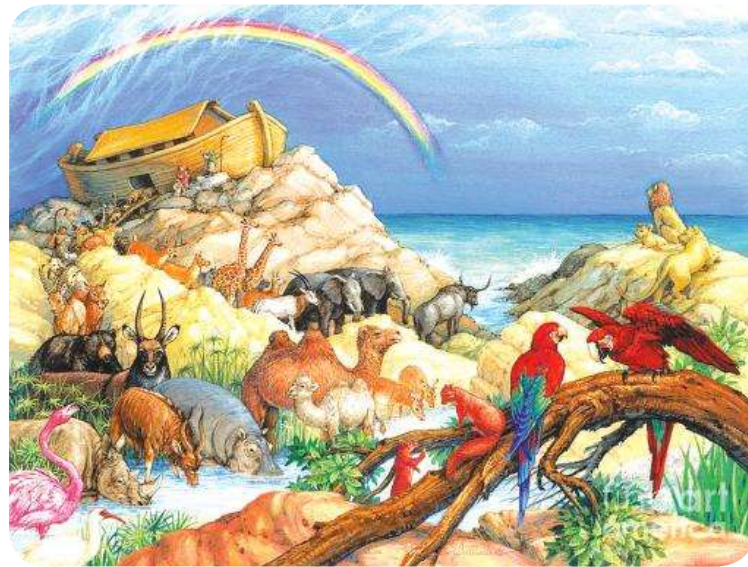
And when the LORD smelled the pleasing odor, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.

(Genesis 8:21)

God decided not to destroy the whole world once again by flood and gave a promise. It is evident from the Bible quotation, below. The mercy of God is also evident. It is an affirmation that divine protection and providence will be available to the future generations.

I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

(Genesis 9:15)



8.4 Picture - After the flood

And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

(Genesis 9:12-13)

God made a covenant with the whole creation. Sign of affirming the covenant was the “rainbow” (bow). It was a unilateral covenant.

Rainbow is a sign of the end of flood. So it is a sign of divine providence. In the Old Testament, rainbow was a sign of divine sympathy, mercy and love. God rebuilds the relationship with man by the promise of not destroying the world by flood. Rainbow was the external sign of the covenant with Noah.

God has fulfilled the promises of covenant with Noah. In the same way, we have to fulfill the promises, given to others in the home, school and the parish.

Activity



- 1. Write five things that you take as a student to eradicate sinful acts in the society.
- 2. Write three things that you do to show the divine mercy to others.
- 3. Write in the Table how you are going to fulfil the promises, given to your parents, teachers and friends.

Parents	Teachers	Friends
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	3	3

- 4. Write three examples that you are to imitate from the life of Noah.



For Life

- ★ Refuse sin.
- ★ Fulfil the promises, given to others.
- ★ Be honest.