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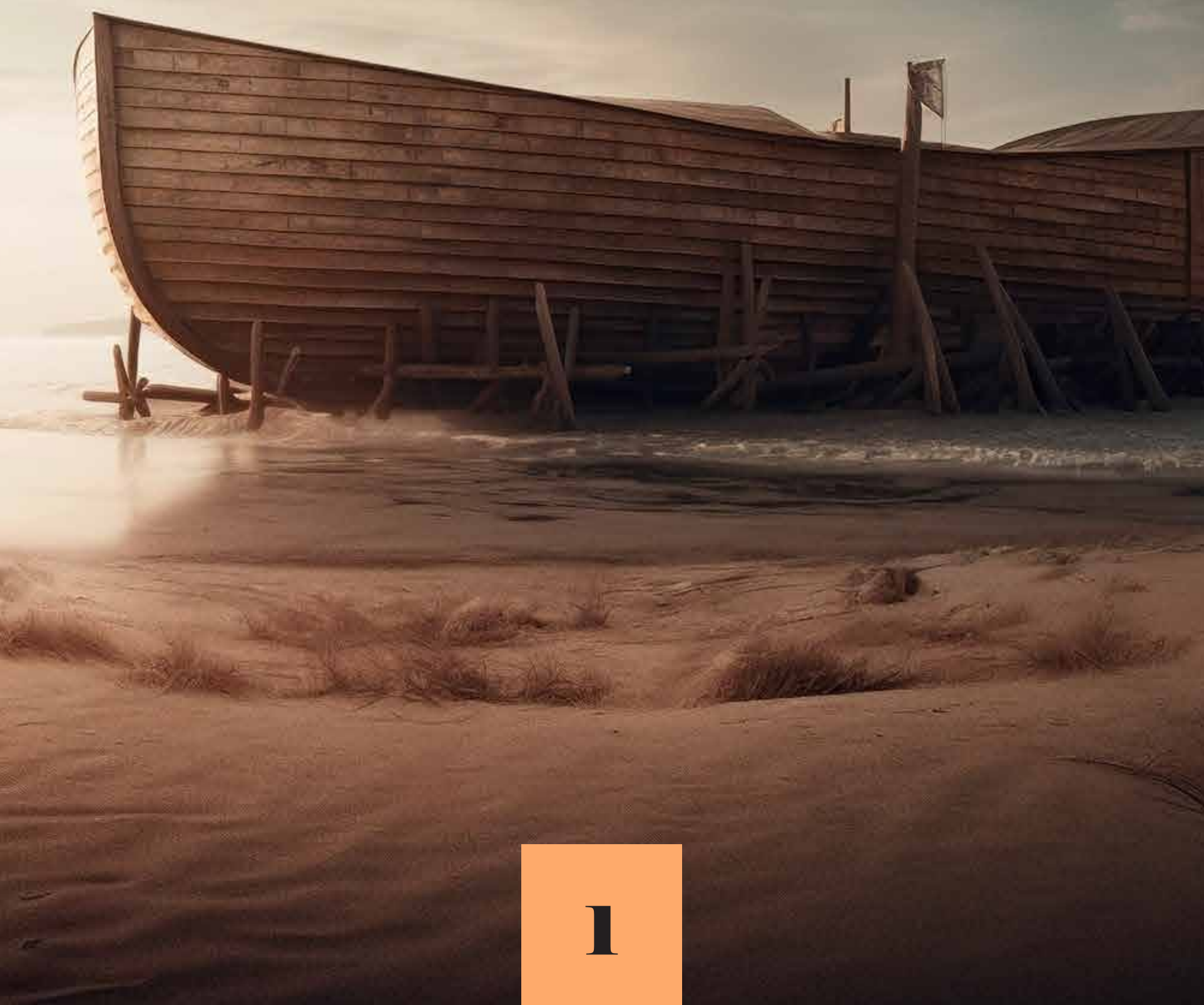


Noah

A Mighty Messenger of God

Noah was the first of the greatest Messengers of God. He was sent at a time when people had become engrossed in the worship of false gods for the first time in human history. They had altered the original teachings that humans had been following since the start of creation. God selected and commissioned Noah for the mission to call people back to the pure and original way God intended for humanity. This Way, namely, Islam, the original state of submission to God, which was originally taught by Adam, the father of humanity, and passed on to later generations. The story of Noah is one that is mentioned multiple times in the Quran. A whole chapter of the Quran, #71, is named after Noah.

Let us take a brief look at his life...



Before Noah

Since the time of Adam, people had worshipped God the Creator exclusively, according to Islam. This is the original way of humans and the True Religion of God. This continued for many generations until Satan inspired humans to alter the way of God in a gradual process of evil inspiration. Eventually some people constructed idols representing righteous people and started worshiping them and seeking their intercession to draw closer to God. The practice became so prevalent and dear to the people of Noah, they said, "Do not renounce your gods!" (71:23 - referring to the idols and gods they used to worship.) God then commissioned Noah to call people back to the worship of God alone and the rejection of false gods. He would remain amongst his people for 950 years, preaching and ministering the Way of God. "We sent Noah out to his people. He lived among them for fifty years short of a thousand..." (29:14)

Noah Invites His People

Noah dedicated nearly a millennia calling his people to the exclusive worship of God. He invited them to God's Way in every possible manner and displayed great perseverance and forbearance in doing so. Noah's ministry is described in the Quran by the following quote, "My Lord, I have called my people night and day, but the more I call them, the further they run away. Every time I call them, so that You may forgive them, they thrust their fingers into their ears, cover their heads with their garments, persist in their rejection, and grow more insolent and arrogant. I have tried calling them openly. I have tried preaching to them in public and speaking to them in private." (71:5-9) God tells us that Noah wanted his people to seek God's mercy and forgiveness so they would receive His blessings and grace. "I said, 'Ask forgiveness of your Lord: He is ever forgiving. He will send down abundant rain from the sky for you; He will give you wealth and sons; He will provide you with gardens and rivers.'" (71:10-12)

Noah's People Mock Him

Instead of realizing the error of their ways, Noah's people began to argue and debate with him, pouring scorn on his teachings and mocking his followers. "But the prominent disbelievers among his people said, 'We can see that you are nothing but a mortal like ourselves, and it is clear to see that only the vilest among us follow you. We cannot see how you are any better than we are. In fact, we think you are a liar.'" 11:27

Noah's people referred to him as mortal, wanting an angel to be sent in his stead. His followers were poor and needy and not from the elite of society, so his people assumed that due to the status of Noah's followers, his message was not befitting for the rich and noble. They assumed that these worldly traits were the measure of success.

Noah Invokes God's Help

After nearly a millennia of calling his people patiently to God without much success, "It was revealed to Noah, 'None of your people will believe, other than those who have already done so, so do not be distressed by what they do.'" (11:36)

Noah beseeched God for support against his enemies. "Noah said, 'Lord, do not leave any of the disbelievers on the earth.'" (71:26) At the same time, Noah supplicated to God that He should save his followers and have mercy upon them. "My Lord, forgive me and my parents and whoever enters my house a believer and the believing men and believing women." (71:28)

The Great Flood

God told Noah to build an ark. "Build the Ark under Our eyes and with Our inspiration." (11:37) Noah's people would pass by and see him building an ark on dry land and mock him. Once the ark was built, God told Noah to place on the ark a pair of every kind along with the believers (11:40). The skies then opened with rain and the earth gushed forth with water. The Ark "...sailed with them through waves like mountains." (11:42)

Only the believers on the Ark survived the flood. Everyone else drowned. God says, "Then it was said, 'Earth, swallow up your water, and sky, hold back,' and the water subsided, the promise was fulfilled. The Ark settled on Mount Judi, and it was said, 'Gone are those evildoing people.'" (11:44)

God praises Noah for his patience and perseverance and relates this story to us in the Quran multiple times so that we may learn its lessons.





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