

FLOOD LEGEND: AFRICA



The Masai people of Africa have one of the few African legends of a worldwide flood. This story tells of a righteous man that God loved who was named Tumbainot. He was married and had three sons. There were a lot of people at that time, but they did not want to obey their god's commands. When one man killed another man, their god could not overlook this tragedy and decided to destroy all mankind. Only Tumbainot found grace in the eyes of God. God commanded Tumbainot to build an ark of wood and go into it with his family. They took all kinds of animals with them. When they were on board and had all the supplies, God caused it to rain so long and hard that everyone drowned except those in the ark. When the rain stopped, Tumbainot let a vulture out, with an arrow attached to its tail feathers. The vulture returned without the arrow. The waters went down and the ark landed on a grassy plain. They got off, and Tumbainot saw four rainbows.

Does this sound familiar to you? Check out the true account of the Flood of Noah's time in Genesis 6-9!





number of flood legends are found in China. These include the tale of Fuhi. The Chinese consider Fuhi to be the father of their civilization. He, his wife, three sons, and three daughters escaped a great flood. They were the only people left alive on the whole earth. After the flood, they had many children from whom the whole earth was repopulated.

The Miao tribes in China also have a tradition that echoes very clearly the account of the Great Flood given in Genesis. Their flood legend features Noah, his wife, and their sons Lo Han, Lo Shen, and Jah-hu. They built a big, wide boat that the family, animals, and birds got on and floated through the waters. Noah sent out a dove to find out if the floodwaters had gone down and bring him tidings. When the waters went down, Noah and those on the boat got off and made a sacrifice to the Mighty.

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Among the Greeks are found a number of legends about Deucalion. According to the myth, Deucalion was the king of his country. Their god, Zeus, wished to destroy all humans. Another god, Prometheus, warned Deucalion and his wife that this was about to happen. Deucalion built a large chest and stored in it what they needed. He and his wife entered into it. And the rains then started. They lasted nine days and nights until the whole world was flooded, except for Mount Olympus (the home of the gods) and Mount Parnassus. There was so much water that all men perished. The wooden chest landed on Mount Parnassus, and when the rains stopped, Deucalion and his wife got out. They sacrificed to Zeus to thank him for their escape.

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Flood Legend:
MEXICO



In Mexico, there is an ancient Toltec account of a global flood. This story recounts how there was a first world which lasted less than 2,000 years. Then a great flood came and destroyed the first world, covering even the highest mountains with water. A few people escaped the flood in something like a "closed chest." Following the flood, these people began to multiply so that many people were once again on the earth.

The Aztecs also have a flood legend. According to their story, the Creator told Tapi to build a boat for himself to live, and to take his wife and a pair of every animal that was alive with him in the boat. Then the rains began and the mountains became flooded. All the people and the animals not on the boat were lost in the water. The rains finally stopped. Tapi knew the water was gone when he let a dove loose that did not return to him.

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FLOOD LEGEND:
NORTH AMERICA



Among the Choctaw people originally from Mississippi, another legend tells of a prophet who had been sent to warn the people of a coming flood by the high god, but people ignored him and the warning. When the flood began, the prophet got upon a raft and after drifting for months, saw a black bird, a crow. It flew away when he tried to signal it. After awhile, he spotted a bluish bird, a dove, and signaled to it. The bird flapped its wings, making sounds of pain and grief, and then guided the prophet on the raft toward the sun. He landed at an island the next morning, an island filled with animals of all kinds. The prophet then blessed the dove and cursed the crow.

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