
A Multidisciplinary Comparative Analysis of the Story of Prophet Noah in the Qur'an and the Bible

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Abstract

This study examines the story of Prophet Noah in the Qur'an and the Bible through a multidisciplinary comparative approach encompassing theological, historical, literary, and socio-religious perspectives. The aim of this research is to identify the similarities and differences in narrative structure, theological emphasis, and moral messages conveyed by both sacred texts, as well as to understand their implications for religious understanding among believers. The method employed is a qualitative library research approach with a comparative narrative analysis, utilizing primary sources from the Qur'an and the Bible alongside relevant secondary literature. The findings reveal that the Qur'an presents the story of Prophet Noah thematically, emphasizing the dimensions of prophetic preaching (da'wah), steadfast faith, and the rejection of truth by his people. In contrast, the Bible offers a more chronological narrative, focusing on God's covenant, the salvation of Noah's family, and the manifestation of divine law. From a literary perspective, the Qur'an employs a concise and symbolic rhetorical style, whereas the Bible provides a more descriptive and historical account. Theologically, both texts affirm the oneness and justice of God, yet differ in their emphasis on the mechanisms of salvation and the nature of the relationship between God and humanity. In conclusion, despite differences in narrative approach and theological focus, both traditions convey shared universal values such as faith, obedience, patience, and moral lessons derived from past communities. This multidisciplinary approach enriches interreligious understanding and opens pathways for more inclusive dialogue within comparative religious studies.

Keywords: *Prophet Noah, Qur'an, Bible, Comparative Analysis, Multidisciplinary*

A. Introduction

The story of Prophet Noah is one of the significant narratives found in two major religious traditions, namely Islam and Christianity. In both the Qur'an and the Bible, Prophet Noah is portrayed as a messenger of God who warned his people against moral deviation and called them back to the true teachings of monotheism. This narrative functions not only as a religious historical account but also as a medium for conveying universal theological and ethical values (Gabriel Said

Reynolds, 2018). Therefore, the study of the story of Prophet Noah becomes significant, particularly from a comparative perspective that can reveal similarities and differences between religious traditions.

In the Qur'an, the story of Prophet Noah is presented thematically and scattered across several surahs, such as Hud, Nuh, Al-Mu'minun, and Ash-Shu'ara. The main emphasis of the Qur'anic narrative lies in the aspects of preaching, steadfast faith, and the doctrine of monotheism as the core of prophetic mission (M. A. S. Abdel Haleem, 2008). This non-chronological presentation indicates that the Qur'an places greater emphasis on moral and spiritual messages rather than historical details. In contrast, in the Bible, particularly in Genesis chapters 6–9, the story of Noah is presented chronologically and descriptively, including technical details such as the construction of the ark, the duration of the flood, and God's covenant with humanity (Salsabila et al., 2024). This approach demonstrates that the Bible seeks to position the narrative within the framework of salvation history.

A number of studies have examined the story of Prophet Noah from various perspectives. For example, the comparative study by Gabriel Said Reynolds highlights the interaction between Qur'anic narratives and Biblical traditions, while David Marshall's study emphasizes the importance of an intertextual approach in understanding prophetic stories (Muhammad Abdel Haleem, 2010). In addition, Brannon Wheeler's research shows that prophetic narratives in Islam are closely connected to Jewish-Christian traditions, yet with distinct theological emphases (Brannon M. Wheeler, 2002). Nevertheless, most of these studies remain partial and have not integrated a multidisciplinary approach encompassing narrative, theological, moral, and historical aspects simultaneously.

A multidisciplinary approach is important in this study because it enables a more comprehensive analysis of the story of Prophet Noah. By combining perspectives from exegesis, theology, history, and religious studies, this research can reveal how each scripture constructs meanings concerning the relationship between God, humanity, and the moral consequences of human actions (Angelika Neuwirth, 2019). Furthermore, this approach also opens broader opportunities for dialogue within comparative religious studies.

In the context of a pluralistic global society, a comparative study of the story of Prophet Noah becomes increasingly relevant. A deeper understanding of the similarities and differences between religious narratives can strengthen interfaith dialogue and foster mutual respect (Catherine Cornille, 2008). Therefore, this article aims to analyze the story of Prophet Noah in the Qur'an and the Bible through a multidisciplinary comparative approach that integrates narrative, theological, and moral dimensions comprehensively.

B. Method

This study employs a qualitative approach using the library research method combined with a multidisciplinary approach. This approach was chosen because the object of the study consists of religious texts that require not only textual analysis but also understanding from various scholarly perspectives such as theology, philology, hermeneutics, and narrative studies (Sugiyono, 2019). The multidisciplinary approach enables the researcher to examine the story of Prophet Noah more comprehensively, both in terms of narrative structure, symbolic meanings, and the theological messages contained in the two sacred texts.

Within its methodological framework, this research applies a comparative analysis focusing on the comparison of narratives between the Qur'an and the Bible, particularly the story of Prophet Noah. The analysis integrates a thematic interpretation approach in Qur'anic studies with a narrative criticism approach in Biblical studies (Danandjaja, 2014). This approach aims to identify similarities and differences in aspects such as narrative structure, characterization, plot development, as well as the moral and theological messages conveyed in each religious tradition.

The data sources in this study are divided into primary and secondary data. The primary data include the text of the Qur'an along with authoritative exegetical works such as *Tafsir al-Mishbah* by M. Quraish Shihab and *Tafsir al-Azhar* by Hamka. In addition, the primary data also include the Bible, particularly the Book of Genesis chapters 6–9, which contain the narrative of Prophet Noah. Meanwhile, the secondary data are obtained from academic books, international journal articles, and previous studies relevant to comparative scripture studies, hermeneutics, and the study of religions. These sources are used to enrich the analysis and provide broader scholarly perspectives on the interpretation of both texts.

The data collection technique was conducted through close reading, recording narrative elements, identifying major themes, and collecting various interpretations from exegetical sources. Data analysis was carried out descriptively and comparatively by emphasizing a systematic comparison between the two texts in linguistic, narrative, and theological aspects. To ensure the validity and reliability of the data, this research applies source triangulation by comparing various interpretations from Qur'anic exegesis, Biblical commentaries, and modern academic studies (Moh. Nazir, 1999). This approach aims to minimize bias and produce a more objective and comprehensive analysis in understanding the story of Prophet Noah in both religious traditions.

C. Result and Discussion

1. Narrative Structure of the Story of Noah in the Qur'an and the Bible from a Multidisciplinary Perspective

The study of the story of Prophet Noah in the Qur'an and the Bible demonstrates that although both scriptures narrate the same figure, there are fundamental differences in their narrative structures that can be analyzed through a multidisciplinary approach, including literary criticism, theology, history of religion, and hermeneutics. This approach enables a more comprehensive understanding of how each sacred text constructs meaning through its distinctive mode of narration.

From the perspective of narrative studies, the Qur'an does not present the story of Prophet Noah in a single complete linear sequence. Instead, the narrative is dispersed across several surahs, such as Surah Hud, Al-A'raf, Al-Mu'minin, and Nuh. This pattern indicates that the narrative structure of the Qur'an is thematic and fragmentary, where each part of the story appears within a particular revelatory context to emphasize specific moral and theological messages. As argued by Mustansir Mir, Qur'anic narratives are not intended to function as historical chronicles, but rather as rhetorical instruments for repeatedly and contextually conveying divine messages (Hurnawijaya et al., 2025). Thus, the story of Noah in the Qur'an primarily functions as a medium of da'wah that emphasizes the values of monotheism, patience, and the consequences of rejecting the truth.

In contrast, in the Bible, particularly in Genesis chapters 6–9, the story of Noah is presented as a unified and chronological narrative. The story begins with the moral corruption of humanity, followed by God's decision to punish humankind through the flood, the command to build the ark, the flood event itself, and finally the covenant between God and Noah after the flood subsides. This structure reflects a style of religious historiography that seeks to record events sequentially. According to John H. Walton, the narrative in Genesis displays the characteristics of "ancient Near Eastern narrative," namely a form of storytelling that combines theological and historical elements within a chronological framework (John H. Walton, 2018).

From a hermeneutical perspective, these differences indicate distinct orientations of meaning between the two texts. The Qur'an employs a repetitive and thematic approach to instill moral messages deeply within its readers. The repetition of Noah's story in various contexts reinforces its pedagogical function, inviting readers to reflect upon the same message in different situations. This aligns with the hermeneutical theory proposed by Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd, who argues that the Qur'anic text is dialogical and open to multiple contexts of interpretation (Nasr Hamid Abu Zaid, 2002).

On the other hand, the Bible presents the story of Noah as a single narrative with a complete dramatic structure, consisting of exposition, conflict, climax, and resolution. From the perspective of literary criticism, this structure allows readers

to understand the development of characters and events systematically. The climax of the story lies in the flood, which symbolizes divine punishment for humanity's moral corruption. The resolution is marked by God's covenant with Noah, symbolized by the rainbow as a sign that such a catastrophe would never occur again. This structure simultaneously emphasizes the theological themes of divine justice and divine mercy (Sumual et al., 2022).

When analyzed through the perspective of comparative theology, these differences in narrative structure also reflect differences in doctrinal emphasis. In the Qur'an, Prophet Noah is portrayed as a messenger who actively preached to his people over a long period of time. Emphasis is placed on the interaction between the prophet and his community, including dialogue, rejection, and Noah's persuasive efforts. This demonstrates that the core of the narrative lies in the process of da'wah and human responses to it. As explained in Rahman's study, the narrative structure of the Qur'an positions the stories of the prophets as paradigms of monotheistic struggle that remain relevant across time (Apaydin, 2026).

In contrast, the Bible places greater emphasis on God's actions as the central force determining the course of events. Although Noah is portrayed as a righteous man, his role is primarily that of a recipient of revelation and an executor of God's commands, rather than a preacher who intensely interacts with society. This indicates that the biblical narrative structure is more theocentric, emphasizing God's sovereignty in determining the destiny of humankind (Stulman, 2008).

The perspective of the history of religions also offers important insights into understanding these differences. Several scholars argue that the flood story has roots in ancient Near Eastern traditions, such as the Epic of Gilgamesh. However, both the Qur'an and the Bible adapt this motif according to their respective theological frameworks. In the Bible, the adaptation retains a relatively complete narrative form, whereas the Qur'an reconstructs it into a thematic narrative functioning as a moral warning. This demonstrates that narrative structures are influenced not only by theological objectives but also by the historical and cultural contexts in which the texts developed.

From the perspective of communication studies, the fragmentary narrative style of the Qur'an may be understood as an effective rhetorical strategy for conveying messages to diverse audiences. By presenting the story in various contexts, the Qur'an enables the same message to be delivered with different emphases depending on the situation. Meanwhile, the linear narrative structure of the Bible provides a clear storyline that helps readers understand the entire story as a unified whole.

Despite the differences in narrative structure, both sacred texts share a fundamental similarity in portraying the flood as the climax of humanity's

disobedience toward God. Both the Qur'an and the Bible affirm that the catastrophe represents divine punishment while simultaneously serving as a warning for humankind. However, the Qur'an places greater emphasis on the process namely the struggle of da'wah and the rejection by Noah's people whereas the Bible highlights the final outcome in the form of destruction and restoration through the divine covenant.

A multidisciplinary analysis of the narrative structure of the story of Prophet Noah demonstrates that the differences in storytelling between the Qur'an and the Bible are not merely technical distinctions, but rather reflections of differing theological paradigms, rhetorical purposes, and historical contexts. The Qur'an presents the story as a means of moral reflection that is thematic and contextual, whereas the Bible presents it as a chronological narrative emphasizing historical continuity and God's actions in the world. These differences ultimately enrich cross-religious understanding and open broader opportunities for interfaith dialogue.

2. Theological Emphasis in the Narratives of the Qur'an and the Bible

a. Theological Emphasis in the Qur'an

From the perspective of Islamic theology, the story of Prophet Noah in the Qur'an functions not merely as a historical narrative, but also as a medium for conveying the principles of monotheism (*tawhid*), prophetic ethics, and the dynamics of the relationship between humanity and God. From a multidisciplinary perspective particularly through theological, hermeneutical, and da'wah communication approaches this narrative demonstrates that the primary focus of the Qur'an lies in the long process of Noah's preaching mission, which was marked by patience and significant social challenges. The Qur'an portrays Prophet Noah as a messenger sent to correct the theological deviations of his people, who had fallen into practices of polytheism (Qur'an, Surah Nuh (71): 1–3). In this regard, the theological emphasis is placed on the concept of *tawhid* as the core of divine teaching. According to recent research by Abdullah Saeed, the narratives of the prophets in the Qur'an, including Noah, function as "ethical exemplars" that present ideal models in confronting social resistance toward religious truth (Abdullah Saeed, 2014).

Unlike a chronological narrative approach, the Qur'an presents the story of Prophet Noah in thematic fragments scattered across various surahs such as Hud (11), Al-Mu'minun (23), Al-Qamar (54), and Nuh (71). This approach allows the moral message to be emphasized contextually according to the circumstances of revelation at the time. In the study of Qur'anic literature, this pattern is referred to as a non-linear narrative structure, aimed at strengthening theological messages rather than merely arranging sequences of events. One of the most prominent

theological aspects is the principle that salvation is determined not by biological relationships, but by faith. This is reflected in the story of Noah's son, who rejected his father's message and was ultimately drowned (Qur'an, Surah Hud (11): 42–46). In Islamic theology, this event affirms that divine justice is universal and does not favor familial ties. Fazlur Rahman argues that this story represents the concept of moral accountability in Islam, in which every individual is responsible for their own choices (Fazlur Rahman, 2009).

Furthermore, the story of Prophet Noah also reveals the psychological and sociological dimensions of da'wah. The rejection of his people is portrayed not merely as a difference in belief, but also as a form of social resistance to changing values. A study by Auda indicates that this narrative reflects the conflict between traditional power structures and the message of spiritual reform brought by the prophets (Wakhidah, 2025). Thus, theologically, the Qur'an positions the story of Prophet Noah as a reflection on prophetic patience, the importance of faith, and the consequences of rejecting the truth. The focus is not primarily on the flood as a physical disaster, but rather on the spiritual and moral processes that underlie it.

b. Theological Emphasis in the Bible

In the Biblical tradition, particularly in the Book of Genesis (Genesis 6–9), the story of Noah is presented in a chronological, systematic, and descriptive narrative form. This approach reflects the historiographical character of the Hebrew text, which emphasizes the sequence of events and technical details as part of conveying theological messages. Theologically, the Bible portrays Noah as a man who was "righteous and blameless" before God (Genesis 6:9). This concept of righteousness is associated with faithfulness and obedience to divine commandments. In Old Testament theological studies, the term "righteousness" does not merely refer to personal piety, but also to faithfulness within the covenant relationship with God (Gordon J. Wenham, 1987, p. 189).

One of the central theological aspects in the Biblical narrative is the concept of covenant. After the flood, God established a covenant with Noah and all living creatures, symbolized by the rainbow as a sign of the divine promise (Genesis 9:12–17). In both Christian and Jewish theology, this covenant serves as the foundation of the relationship between God and humanity after divine judgment. According to Walton, this concept demonstrates the balance between God's justice and mercy, where punishment for sin is followed by restoration and renewed hope. From a multidisciplinary perspective, this narrative can also be analyzed through an ecotheological approach. The great flood in the Bible is not only viewed as moral punishment, but also as a symbol of cosmic purification. A study by Horrell et al. indicates that this story carries ecological implications, particularly regarding the

importance of maintaining harmony between humanity and God's creation (Ferreira & Sutton, 2024).

Furthermore, the technical details concerning the construction of the ark (Genesis 6:14–16) highlight aspects of rationality and orderliness in obedience. Noah not only demonstrated faith, but also acted concretely according to God's instructions. This reflects the integration of faith and action, which in Christian theology is often described as *faith in action*. Therefore, the theological emphasis in the Bible is more focused on individual obedience, God's justice, and the universal covenant relationship. This narrative provides a clear historical framework while simultaneously establishing the theological foundation of salvation within the Abrahamic traditions.

c. The Theological Meaning of Noah's Ark in the Hebrew Perspective

In the Hebrew perspective, Noah's Ark is not merely understood as a means of physical salvation, but also as a theological symbol rich in meaning. A multidisciplinary analysis combining theology, symbolism, and faith studies demonstrates that the ark represents a concrete manifestation of faith expressed through action. In Hebrews 11:7, it is stated that Noah built the ark "by faith," even though he had not yet seen what would happen. This verse becomes the foundation for understanding that faith is not only cognitive in nature, but also performative. According to Wright, faith in the biblical tradition always involves an active response to God's word, rather than merely passive belief (Sidjabat, 2025, p. 112).

In this context, the ark symbolizes the space of salvation provided by God for those who are obedient. In Christian theology, the ark is often interpreted as a symbol of the church or the community of faith that serves as a refuge from the moral destruction of the world (G. K. Beale, 2004, p. 66). Furthermore, the ark also reflects the concept of grace. The salvation of Noah and his family was not solely the result of human effort, but rather God's grace granted to those who believe and obey. A study by Goldingay emphasizes that this narrative demonstrates that salvation is always a combination of divine initiative and human response (John Goldingay, 2003, p. 214).

From the perspective of the psychology of religion, Noah's act of building the ark amid uncertainty demonstrates a high level of trust in divine authority. This reflects what is referred to as faith resilience, namely the ability to maintain belief despite social pressure and uncertainty about the future (Kenneth I. Pargament, 2001, p. 187). Symbolically, the ark can also be understood as a representation of humanity's spiritual journey. It illustrates the process of transition from destruction to salvation, and from disobedience to obedience. In this sense, the ark becomes a metaphor for the transformation of faith involving trust, faithfulness, and concrete action.

A multidisciplinary comparative analysis shows that although the Qur'an and the Bible differ in their theological emphases, both convey universal messages that are fundamentally aligned. The Qur'an emphasizes the dimensions of da'wah, monotheism (tawhid), and individual responsibility, while the Bible emphasizes obedience, covenant, and the loving relationship between God and humanity. Meanwhile, in the Hebrew perspective, Noah's Ark becomes a symbol of active faith, obedience, and God's grace. By integrating approaches from theology, hermeneutics, sociology, and the psychology of religion, this study demonstrates that the story of Noah is not only relevant as a religious narrative, but also as a profound reflection on the dynamics of human faith in facing moral and spiritual crises.

3. Moral Messages in Two Religious Traditions

a) Moral Messages in the Qur'an

From the perspective of the Qur'an, the story of Prophet Noah is not merely understood as a historical narrative or a prophetic story, but also as an educational medium rich in moral, spiritual, and social messages. Within a multidisciplinary analytical framework, these moral messages can be examined through theological, sociological, psychological, and even da'wah communication approaches. Theologically, the story of Prophet Noah emphasizes the principle of monotheism (tawhid) as the core of religious teaching. The rejection of Noah's people toward this message was not simply an act of disbelief, but reflected a spiritual crisis rooted in collective arrogance and moral deviation. In several verses, such as QS. Nuh (71): 5–7, the Qur'an describes how Prophet Noah carried out his preaching over a long period of time using various methods, both openly and privately. This demonstrates that perseverance and patience (ṣabr) are major moral values in dealing with social resistance (Nurshabrina, 2021).

From a sociological perspective, this story illustrates the conflict between an agent of change (Prophet Noah) and an established social structure. Noah's people rejected his message not only for theological reasons, but also because it threatened the social status and authority of the ruling elites. Therefore, the moral message of the Qur'an is not merely individual in nature, but also collective: a society that systematically rejects truth will face social and existential consequences (Istiqomah, 2022). Psychologically, the story portrays the emotional and mental struggles of a prophet who experienced extreme rejection, even from members of his own family. The Qur'an emphasizes that salvation is not determined by biological relationships, as reflected in the story of Prophet Noah's son who refused to believe (QS. Hud (11): 42–43). This conveys the universal moral message that faith is a personal choice and is not automatically inherited (Nengsih, 2020).

From the perspective of da'wah communication, Prophet Noah's approach demonstrates strategic flexibility: he employed persuasive, rational, and emotional methods. This is relevant to modern communication studies, which emphasize the importance of adapting messages to different audiences (Ahmad, 2018). Thus, the moral messages of the Qur'an in this story transcend purely religious aspects and become a model of ethical communication in conveying truth. Furthermore, the story of Prophet Noah also emphasizes the principle of Divine justice. The great flood was not merely a punishment, but rather the consequence of accumulated moral and spiritual corruption. In this context, the Qur'an teaches that the destruction of a society is not an arbitrary act of God, but the result of humanity's own collective choices (Nur, 2017).

b) Moral Messages in the Bible

In the Biblical tradition, particularly in the Book of Genesis (Genesis 6–9), the story of Noah presents moral messages rooted in the concept of the covenant relationship between God and humanity. A multidisciplinary approach to this text reveals rich theological, ethical, ecological, and anthropological dimensions. Theologically, the story of Noah in the Bible emphasizes that God is a personal being who establishes relationships with humanity. God's decision to save Noah and his family was based on a moral assessment: "Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time" (Genesis 6:9). This demonstrates that individual moral integrity can become the basis of salvation within a collectively corrupt society.

One of the most prominent aspects of the narrative is the rainbow as the symbol of the covenant (Genesis 9:12–17). From symbolic and anthropological perspectives, the rainbow is not merely a visual sign, but also a representation of God's commitment to the continuity of life (Spoelstra, 2023). This introduces the dimension of ecological ethics: humanity has a responsibility to preserve creation as part of that covenant. From an ethical perspective, the story emphasizes the importance of obedience and practical righteousness. Noah is portrayed as a figure who not only believed, but also acted according to God's command by building the ark despite uncertainty. This indicates that faith in the Biblical tradition is active and manifested through concrete actions.

In the study of the psychology of religion, this narrative also reflects themes of hope and reconciliation. After the destruction caused by the flood, God did not terminate His relationship with humanity, but instead renewed it through a covenant. This conveys the message that God's grace and forgiveness always open new possibilities for humankind (John H. Walton, 2018). Sociologically, the story can also be interpreted as a reflection on a global moral crisis. The widespread wickedness of humanity (Genesis 6:5) illustrates a completely corrupt social

condition (“The Cosmic Ecology of Violence,” 2020). Nevertheless, the presence of one righteous individual demonstrates that change is always possible and may begin with a single person.

c) Comparative Synthesis in a Multidisciplinary Perspective

When compared, the two traditions present moral messages that complement one another. The Qur’an places greater emphasis on monotheism (*tawhid*), steadfastness in preaching, and individual responsibility toward faith, while the Bible highlights covenantal relationships, hope, and collective responsibility toward creation. From a multidisciplinary perspective, these differences may be understood as reflections of the distinct theological and historical contexts of each tradition. The Qur’an speaks within the framework of correcting deviations from monotheism, whereas the Bible emphasizes the continuity of the relationship between God and humanity within the history of salvation. Nevertheless, there are significant points of convergence, namely: (1) the importance of individual moral integrity, (2) the social consequences of collective deviation, (3) the role of faith as the foundation of salvation, and (4) human responsibility toward God and fellow human beings. Thus, the story of Prophet Noah in both sacred scriptures functions not merely as a religious narrative, but also as a source of universal values that remain relevant across various disciplines, including theology, sociology, psychology, and environmental ethics.

4. Multidisciplinary Comparative Analysis of the Story of Prophet Noah in the Qur’an and the Bible

Multidisciplinary Aspect	Qur’an	Bible
Narrative Structure (Literary Perspective)	Presented thematically and dispersed across various surahs (for example, in the Qur’an), with emphasis on the message of da’wah and the dialogue between Prophet Noah and his people.	Arranged chronologically and in an extended narrative form in the Book of Genesis, creating a coherent storyline.
Characterization (Psychological-Religious Perspective)	Prophet Noah is portrayed as a patient and persistent messenger who continuously preached despite rejection from his people.	Noah is portrayed as a righteous man, obedient, and chosen by God because of his righteousness.
Details of Events (Historical-Narrative Perspective)	Contains minimal technical details; the focus is placed more on moral and spiritual dimensions rather than chronological events.	Rich in technical details, including the size of the ark, the duration of the flood, the number of living creatures, and the sequence of events.
Theological Dimension (Theological Perspective)	Emphasizes monotheism (<i>tawhid</i>), rejection of polytheism, and God’s justice and punishment toward disbelieving people.	Emphasizes human sin, divine punishment through the great flood, and the concept of a new covenant between God and humanity.

Moral (Ethical Perspective)	Message	Stresses the importance of faith and obedience, asserting that salvation is not determined by blood relations or lineage.	Emphasizes new hope, God's faithfulness, and the importance of living righteously according to His will.
Social (Sociological Perspective)	Context	Depicts conflict between the prophet and the social structure of a society resistant to change, including the dominance of elites opposing his preaching.	Describes widespread moral corruption in society as the cause of destruction, without focusing directly on conflict in preaching.
Symbolic (Anthropological Perspective)	Meaning	The ark symbolizes salvation through faith and the trial of trust in God.	The ark symbolizes the preservation of humanity and living creatures from total destruction.
Purpose of the Narrative (Functional-Religious Perspective)		Functions as a warning for humankind not to repeat the mistakes of previous peoples.	Functions as a reflection of salvation history and a new beginning for humanity.

This multidisciplinary comparative table demonstrates that the story of Prophet Noah in the Qur'an and the Book of Genesis differs not only in narrative style, but also in the emphasis of the meanings conveyed. The Qur'an highlights theological and moral dimensions as a medium of da'wah, whereas the Bible presents a more detailed and systematic historical narrative. Nevertheless, both complement one another in providing a comprehensive depiction of the relationship between humanity and God, responses to divine revelation, as well as the consequences of obedience and rejection. Through a multidisciplinary approach, the story of Prophet Noah can be understood not merely as a religious narrative, but also as a complex reflection on humanity, society, and universal values.

5. Multidisciplinary Comparative Study of the Story of Prophet Noah

Main Event	Qur'an (Surah/Verse)	Bible (Chapter)	Theological Dimension	Moral Dimension	Socio-Historical Dimension
Noah's Call to His People	Hud 11:25–30; Al-Mu'minun 23:23–30	Genesis 6:9–13	Monotheism, rejection of polytheism, concept of prophethood	Patience and steadfastness in preaching	Conflict between the prophet and the established social structure of society
The Rejection by Noah's People	Al-Qamar 54:9–11; Nuh 71:1–24	Genesis 6:11–13	Human free will versus divine decree	Arrogance and rejection of truth	Moral decadence of society and collective social crisis
The Command and Construction of the Ark	Hud 11:37–40	Genesis 6:14–22	Revelation as guidance for action	Total obedience to God	Symbolic technology (the ark) as a means of salvation

The Great Flood	Al-Mu'minun 23:27–29; Al-Qamar 54:11–15	Genesis 7:6–24	Divine justice and punishment	Consequences of collective sin	Disaster as a form of social and spiritual correction
The Salvation of the Believers	Hud 11:40–43	Genesis 7:23	The concept of salvation based on faith	Loyalty to the truth	Social selection based on faith
The Post-Flood Covenant	Al-Qamar 54:13–17 (implicit)	Genesis 9:8–17	God's mercy and promise (covenant)	Hope and humanity's new responsibility	The beginning of a new civilization after disaster
Symbolism (Ark & Rainbow)	The ark as a sign of Allah's power	The rainbow as the sign of the covenant	Divine signs (ayat) in history	Human spiritual awareness	Cultural and religious symbols across generations

From a theological perspective, the Qur'an places greater emphasis on the concepts of monotheism (tawhid), prophethood, and the direct relationship between faith and salvation. In contrast, the Bible highlights the concept of God's covenant with humanity as a form of enduring divine relationship. Morally, both scriptures stress the importance of obedience, patience, and human responsibility. However, the Qur'an focuses more on Noah's prophetic mission and steadfastness in preaching, whereas the Bible emphasizes Noah's personal obedience as a "righteous man." In the social dimension, the story illustrates the conflict between divine values and a corrupt social structure. The rejection of Noah reflects society's resistance to moral and spiritual transformation. Meanwhile, from historical and symbolic perspectives, the ark and the rainbow are not merely narrative elements, but also carry civilizational meanings: the ark symbolizes salvation, while the rainbow represents hope and reconciliation between God and humanity.

6. Analysis

A multidisciplinary comparative analysis of the story of Prophet Noah in the Qur'an and the Bible reveals both strong intersections of meaning and differences in orientation that reflect the epistemological frameworks of each tradition. From a theological perspective, both sacred texts agree in positioning Prophet Noah as a central figure in the history of human salvation, namely as a messenger or prophet sent to save humanity from destruction caused by moral and spiritual deviation. However, the Qur'an places greater emphasis on the concept of *risalah* (prophethood) oriented toward the preaching of monotheism (*tauhid*) and warnings against divine punishment, whereas the Bible highlights the concept of covenant between God and humanity as the foundation of the divine relationship after the flood.

From the perspective of narrative history, the story of Prophet Noah in the Bible (particularly in the Book of Genesis) is presented with a more systematic chronological detail, including the dimensions of the ark, the duration of the flood, and genealogical records. In contrast, the Qur'an presents this story thematically and repetitively across various surahs, emphasizing moral messages and spiritual reflection rather than historical details. This demonstrates that the Qur'an employs a narrative approach as a means of *ibrah* (moral lesson), rather than merely as a reconstruction of history.

From the perspective of the sociology of religion, the story of Prophet Noah illustrates the dynamics of conflict between the truth brought by the prophet and the resistance of a society characterized by arrogance, traditionalism, and socio-economic interests. Both the Qur'an and the Bible portray Noah's people as rejecting the message of truth, reflecting a universal pattern in religious history: resistance toward moral and spiritual transformation. Nevertheless, the Qur'an more explicitly highlights the psychological and social dimensions of this rejection, such as mockery, collective denial, and the hardness of the people's hearts.

From the approach of religious anthropology, this story reflects the symbolism of the flood as a form of cosmic purification, namely the cleansing of the world from humanity's moral corruption. The ark becomes a symbol of salvation for those who believe and obey. In both scriptures, there exists a universal meaning that salvation is not merely physical but also spiritual, depending upon obedience to the will of God. Furthermore, from the perspective of ethics and moral philosophy, the story of Prophet Noah emphasizes universal values such as faithfulness to God, patience in facing rejection, and the consequences of human arrogance. The Qur'an strongly portrays Prophet Noah as an exemplary figure who preached persistently for a long period with great perseverance, while the Bible emphasizes Noah's absolute obedience in carrying out God's commands without hesitation.

Thus, the differences between the Qur'an and the Bible should not be understood as contradictions, but rather as variations in perspective that enrich cross-traditional understanding. A multidisciplinary approach demonstrates that both sacred texts present narratives that complement one another in revealing the theological, historical, social, and moral dimensions of the story of Prophet Noah. Ultimately, this story conveys a universal message regarding the importance of faith, the dangers of arrogance, and the urgency of drawing wisdom from the history of previous communities as guidance for modern human life.

D. Conclusion

Based on the multidisciplinary comparative analysis of the story of Prophet Noah in the Qur'an and the Bible, it can be concluded that both sacred scriptures

present essentially the same narrative, although they differ in approach, structure, and emphasis of meaning. The Qur'an presents the story of Prophet Noah thematically and repeatedly across various surahs, with the primary purpose of serving as a medium of da'wah, affirming tawhid, and providing moral and spiritual reflection. In contrast, the Bible presents the narrative chronologically and systematically in the Book of Genesis, emphasizing historical details, God's actions, and the concept of covenant between God and humanity.

From a theological perspective, the Qur'an places greater emphasis on the prophetic mission, individual responsibility, and the consequences of faith, whereas the Bible highlights covenantal relationships, personal obedience, and the balance between God's justice and mercy. Morally, both scriptures convey universal values such as patience, obedience, integrity, and the consequences of moral deviation. In the social dimension, the story illustrates the conflict between divine values and social structures that resist change, reflecting a universal pattern throughout human history. A multidisciplinary approach through the perspectives of theology, hermeneutics, sociology, psychology, and anthropology demonstrates that the story of Prophet Noah functions not only as a religious narrative but also as a complex reflection on the dynamics of faith, moral crisis, and social transformation. Symbols such as the Ark and the rainbow carry profound meanings related to salvation, hope, and the relationship between God and humanity.

Thus, the differences between the Qur'an and the Bible should not be viewed as contradictions, but rather as complementary variations of perspective. Both scriptures make significant contributions to understanding universal values that remain relevant throughout time, such as the importance of faith, the dangers of arrogance, moral responsibility, and the urgency of learning from the history of previous communities. This study also confirms that a multidisciplinary comparative approach can open a more constructive space for interreligious dialogue and enrich cross-traditional religious understanding.

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