

Judgment and Salvation 11-12-06

Genesis 6:9-7:24

Last week we saw that at the end of the first ten generations of mankind, mankind had become completely corrupt. The mysterious "sons of god" were taking the daughters of men. Power and exploits were looked up to as something to honor. *The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.* Genesis 6:5 (NIV) God's righteousness and holiness could not allow these conditions to continue in the earth. The heart of God was grieved over choices of man and the pain caused by sin. All seemed lost, but God came to Noah, showered His grace upon him, and chose him to be the one through whom the seed of Eve would be preserved so that His promise to mankind would be kept. (Genesis 3:15)

Our passage begins with the third section beginning, "*This is the account of*", the *toledot*, of Noah. We have moved from the early generations into the Noah story. We should take a look at the big picture of how the God of history is writing His story. He chose to create man with free will, knowing full well the pain it would cause His heart. (Isaiah 46:10) However, we must understand that God sees the end from the beginning. No matter how man mars the image of God within him, God sees the final conclusion, the temple of living stones in joyful assembly. (Hebrews 12:22) This account of Noah is a chapter in the journey to that God ordained conclusion. It is a warning to mankind to guard our hearts. It is a call to break free from the ways of the world and walk with God. The repeated message that I hear in the Genesis story is the goodness and grace of God and the wickedness of the heart of man. We saw it in the Garden story, the Cain and Abel story, the generations and Enoch story, and now in the Noah story. We'll see it in the other *toledot* later in Genesis.

Every time man turns his back on all the goodness and grace of God, God finds a way to break through with more grace and goodness. Even His judgment on this world of violence and evil is His goodness to stop man's on going suffering and bring about God's promise. (Proverbs 19:21) The goodness of God leads us to repentance. (Romans 2:4)

The story begins with the righteousness of Noah. ⁹ *This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.* Genesis 6:9 (NIV) The Apostle Paul tells us that all righteousness is righteousness from God that comes through faith in God. (Romans 1:17) Noah wasn't just a good egg. He wasn't just born with nice guy DNA. He received to the grace of God, the grace that comes to us in our sin. He received that grace and acted on it. The conviction of the Spirit of God found a receptive heart in Noah, and Noah began to walk with God. The letter to the Hebrews tells us he was moved with reverent fear. (Hebrews 11:7)

Commented [notes1]: 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."
Gen 3:15 (NIV)

Commented [notes2]: 10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.
Isaiah 46:10 (NIV)

Commented [notes3]: 22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,
Heb 12:22 (NIV)

Commented [notes4]: 21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.
Prov 19:21 (NIV)

Commented [notes5]: 4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?
Romans 2:4 (NIV)

Commented [notes6]: 17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."
Romans 1:17 (NIV)

Commented [notes7]: 7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.
Heb 11:7 (NIV)

The same grace of God came upon all the millions of people in that age but was rejected. I know that because John the Apostle wrote that Jesus is the light that lights every man that comes into the world. (John 1:9) I know that because God does not show favoritism. (Ephesians 6:9) He strives with all of us and we are free to choose whether or not we will accept the light that guides us to repentance and faith. (Revelation 22:17)

Commented [notes8]: 9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.[John 1:9 (NIV)

Commented [notes9]: 9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him. Eph 6:9 (NIV)

Commented [notes10]: 17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. Rev 22:17 (NIV)

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. Genesis 6:11-12 (NIV) In this section of Genesis, God points back to the last section and reminds us of why He must bring judgment. The earth was corrupt. Man's sin affects the earth. Just as the ground was stained by Abel's blood, the earth was polluted by the sin of man. I don't think we understand this truth that is clearly a Biblical teaching. There is little concern today for the affect of sin on the physical planet. Those who live in areas where genuine revival has taken place have seen a remarkable healing in the physical earth.

The earth was filled with violence. As in the previous passage, the Spirit is telling us of the saturation of sin and its damaging effect. He uses the words "full" and "all", "full of violence" and "all the people had corrupted their ways". We won't spend time going over the tragic condition of the earth as we covered that last week. Suffice to say that mankind had fallen to the point of irrevocable hardness. Remember, Jesus warned that the last days would be like the days of Noah. (Matthew 24:37)

Commented [notes11]: 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Matt 24:37 (NIV)

God proceeded to give Noah the directions for the construction of a great ship that was to carry the genetic material for all land life in the world after the flood. Many ancient cultures have a flood story and some that are very similar to the Biblical account. Why wouldn't they if we are all descended from Noah?

There have been numerous accounts of the remains of a great ship in the mountains of Ararat. There was even a national park established in Turkey for what was once believed to be the great ship, but so far there has been no conclusive evidence that such a ship has been found. There have been many claims, eyewitness reports, and even ancient written accounts including that of Josephus, but nothing has been proven. I'm not saying the remains aren't there, but that nothing has been verified to date. Currently efforts are underway to probe the deep snows on Ararat with high tech equipment. But whether it is found or not should not affect our faith in the Scriptures. (Hebrews 11:1)

Commented [notes12]: 1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Heb 11:1 (NIV)

The dimensions of the ark are about the same as many of the large cruise ships today. It was apparently rectangular with three levels, capable of holding 45,000 animals. (see bulletin diagram with 747) The largest wooden ship ever built, the Cutty Sark, was less than half the size of the ark. The ark was to hold a pair of

every animal, bird, and insect and seven pairs of the clean animals (sacrificial animals) and all their feed.

Then God made a promise to Noah and family. ¹⁸ *But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark--you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.* Genesis 6:18 (NIV) We'll see next week what this covenant was about. But we should consider what an amazing thing it was for God to promise to enter into a covenant with man, especially when you consider how mankind had so utterly failed. (Psalm 8:4) Why should God make any agreements with unpredictable man? It is for the same reason we mentioned at the beginning. God has an end in mind, and God is fully capable of completing what He starts. (Philippians 1:6)

Commented [notes13]: 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? Psalms 8:4 (NIV)

Commented [notes14]: 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil 1:6 (NIV)

At the end of chapter 6, we see the grace of God manifested in Noah's life. Now we see it again in his faithfulness. ²² *Noah did everything just as God commanded him.* Genesis 6:22 (NIV) This will be repeated in the fifth verse of the next chapter. (Genesis 7:5) Noah did what God instructed him to do. He was faithful to hear and obey the details of God's plan. Isn't that exactly what God requires of us? (Philippians 2:13) Yet we know that we all fall short of that. The only way we can have this kind of testimony is to have the testimony of Jesus credited to us. (2 Corinthians 5:21) Then, because of that grace upon our lives, the Holy Spirit enables us to do what is pleasing to God. (Hebrews 13:21) Noah didn't just obey, he obeyed in everything just as God commanded it be done. He didn't compromise. He didn't take shortcuts. He believed God's word and God helped him live it. May He help us do the same.

Commented [notes15]: 5 And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him. Gen 7:5 (NIV)

Commented [notes16]: 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Phil 2:13 (NIV)

Commented [notes17]: 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Cor 5:21 (NIV)

Commented [notes18]: 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Heb 13:21 (NIV)

The end of chapter 5 has Noah at the age of 500. The flood begins when he is 600. It may have taken that 100 years to build that size of a ship in that day, to harvest all that wood, to coat it with pitch, and to gather the grain. They didn't have power tools or cranes or even a Home Depot. This was an amazing construction project! I imagine people continually scoffed at Noah's wild project. Peter called Noah a preacher of righteousness. (2 Peter 2:5) Like Enoch before him, his life and his message spoke of faith in God and impending judgment. (Jude 14,15) If the world was still covered with an upper atmospheric layer of water, and rain had never fallen, it would have been tough to believe that a boat would be needed to keep them from drowning.

Commented [notes19]: 5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 2 Peter 2:5 (NIV)

Imagine if someone today started building a ship the size of a cruise liner in West Sedona. Tell me you wouldn't think they had a few screws loose. Imagine all the Noah jokes going around. But Noah just kept faithful to preach with his words and his work while the evil world hardened its heart even more.

Commented [notes20]: 14 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones 15 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." Jude 1:14-15 (NIV)

When Noah finished the assignment God had given him, God did what Noah couldn't do. ¹⁵ *Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark.* ¹⁶ *The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.*

Genesis 7:15-16 (NIV) The animals didn't have to be caught, God caused them to come to the ark. God told Noah to bring them in, but God did the work. Isn't that the way with so much of God's instruction to us? He tells us to be righteous, and He goes about making us righteous. He tells us to walk in our calling and we find it is His life in us that causes us to do just that. (John 3:27)

Commented [notes21]: 27 To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. John 3:27 (NIV)

Finally, the work complete, God shut the door. Noah was not the one to decide when it should close; God was. He knows when man has gone too far. He knows when man is irrevocably hardened. There is a sad sense of finality to the phrase. The door was shut and all hope for those outside the ark was gone.

The springs of the deep opened up. The water above that had covered the sky came down and it came down for forty days and forty nights. The highest mountain was covered by 20+ feet of water. Every living thing on the surface of the earth perished. The rebellion of man, the pollution of sin, its effects on the earth, all was wiped away. For five months, Noah and his family floated above the judgment on the earth.

This is God's story. What is He trying to tell us? First and foremost is that our hearts are desperately wicked. Unless we receive the grace of God, we are like those outside the ark. We can mock those that walk with God, we can fill our lives with carnal pleasure, we can ignore the Spirit of God striving within us, but one day the rain will begin to fall. Judgment is inevitable because God is just. (Romans 14:10) Many churches today avoid talking about the wrath of God. They want to stay on the topics of grace and love. People need to know the message of the Bible. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. (Proverbs 1:7; Exodus 20:20) We want a just God when somebody wrongs us, but we don't want a just God when it comes to our sin. We don't want a drunk driver to get away with killing our child, but we want to get away with our own selfish acts that harm others. God is just. He balances the books. He hates evil. Thank God that He hates evil. The fear of God is not in conflict with a loving God. A child fears his Dad's spankings, but loves him and knows he disciplines them because he loves them. (Hebrews 12:6)

Commented [notes22]: 10 You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. Romans 14:10 (NIV)

Commented [notes23]: 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Prov 1:7 (NIV)

Commented [notes24]: 20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." Ex 20:20 (NIV)

Commented [notes25]: 6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." Heb 12:6 (NIV)

Second, is that God wants to save our household. Noah's entire family, including his daughters-in-law were saved. We see the same thing with the harlot Rahab. (Joshua 6:25) Her entire family found refuge in her home when the walls of Jericho collapsed. The Philippian jailor was baptized with his entire family when the Holy Spirit earthquake set Paul and Silas free from their jail cell. (Acts 16:31) The Gentile centurion who called for Peter was saved and filled with the Holy Spirit along with everyone in his home when the Spirit revealed to Peter that God doesn't have favorite people groups. (Acts 10:44) So you see, God wants to save your entire family. Claim it!

Commented [notes26]: 25 But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho--and she lives among the Israelites to this day. Josh 6:25 (NIV)

Commented [notes27]: 31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household." Acts 16:31 (NIV)

Third, is that when God tells us to do something way to big for us, He will do what we can't. It would have taken Noah another hundred years to round up all

Commented [notes28]: 44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. Acts 10:44 (NIV)

those animals, and by the time the last ones were caught the first ones would be dying. So God did what Noah couldn't. God caused it to all come together in the perfect time. There are things God is calling us to that we can't do on our own. (Philippians 4:13) Either He will bring the help, or He will cause it to happen. If He asks us to do something, He'll provide what we need to get it done. Don't despair. Just stay faithful to do what He has enabled you to do and trust Him for the rest.

Commented [notes29]: 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Phil 4:13 (NIV)

Finally, I want you to see that the ark is picture of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is our only escape from impending judgment. Just as Enoch and Noah warned the world before the flood of the wrath of God, so today, we warn others that this world is not forever. (Acts 17:31) Our time on earth is so short. The day will come when all the elements will melt with fervent heat. (2 Peter 3:12) Everyone will have to give account of him or herself to God. (Romans 14:12) There is one great door open before us into the ark of Christ Jesus. He has chosen to enter into a covenant with us, one we do not deserve, one that is solely of His doing out of love for us. He is the only escape from the wrath of God. He will welcomes us in and seal us in Him, closing the door behind us. (Ephesians 4:30)

Commented [notes30]: 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead." Acts 17:31 (NIV)

Commented [notes31]: 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 2 Peter 3:12 (NIV)

Commented [notes32]: 12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. Romans 14:12 (NIV)

I'm sure there were some in Noah's day that heard the warning and said, "You think your big box is the only way to escape a flood? There are lots of ways! We can climb a mountain, float on a log, or whatever."

Jesus is the One that bears the brunt of the storm for those in Him. (Psalm 42:7) The waves of judgment came crashing down on Him, while we remain safely in Him. He carries us above the waves of this life and brings us to a new shore. We enter a new world, cleansed of all impurity. The dove of the Holy Spirit flies out before us and brings us the olive branch of peace. (Psalm 107:30)

Commented [notes33]: 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Eph 4:30 (NIV)

Commented [notes34]: 7 Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me. Psalms 42:7 (NIV)

Are you in the ark? The message has never changed, from Enoch to Noah to Moses to Jesus. (Matthew 24:21) God is holy. He will judge the earth in righteousness. God has provided a way for you to come to Him by faith through grace. The door is open, and you and your family are invited in. A blood stained door invited the Israelites to escape the wrath of God on the firstborn of Egypt. (Exodus 12:7) A blood stained cross invites you to enter the One that called Himself the door. He declared, "Whoever enters through me will be saved." (John 10:9)

Commented [notes35]: 30 They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. Psalms 107:30 (NIV)

Commented [notes36]: 21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again. Matt 24:21 (NIV)

Commented [notes37]: 7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. Ex 12:7 (NIV)

There is a rain coming, a rain of fire like we've never seen before. There is only one place of safety. Peter's conclusion to his reference to Noah was this. *9 ... 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 Peter 2:9 (NIV) And who is a godly one that is rescued but the one who has accepted what Jesus did on their behalf. The message has never changed. Flee the wrath to come by the way that God has in love provided for you. (Luke 3:7)

Commented [notes38]: 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. John 10:9 (NIV)

Commented [notes39]: 7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Luke 3:7 (NIV)