

Sermon Review: C is for Creation (Part 1)



Read Genesis 1:1

1. The very first verse of the Bible declares that God is the one who created the universe, no one else. It also declares that God is separate from the universe He created. God is personal, not just a force. Repeat Genesis 1:1 out loud, and then discuss how much you agree or disagree with this statement: “The Bible doesn’t try to *argue* for the existence of God; from the very start it simply *assumes* God’s powerful and sovereign existence.”

Read Colossians 1:15-20

2. The author of Colossians makes it clear that it was through Jesus and for Jesus that all things were created. Do you think of Jesus Christ when you think of the creation story? What difference does that make?

Read Genesis 1:26-28

3. What does it mean that men and women are created in the image of God? What does it mean to you *personally* that you are made in God’s image?
4. *All* humans are made equally in the image of God. How should this impact the way people view and treat people of a different race? People of a different socioeconomic status? People who can’t ‘produce’ for society (e.g. the unborn or the incapacitated)?

Read Genesis 6:1-13.

5. God laments His own creation of man in verses 6: 5-7 following the “sons of God story.” What does this tell us about the character of God? What surprises you about God’s decision to “blot out humanity from the face of the earth?”
6. Verse 8 begins a welcome development in the story! What was it about Noah that caused him to receive favor in the eyes of the Lord? What do you think “Noah walked with God” means?

Read Genesis 6:14-22

7. What specific commands does God give Noah in this last half of the chapter? What was Noah’s response to these commands?

8. Imagine you are Noah, living among people who became increasingly decadent and abandoned the moral and spiritual values of God. What challenges would he face practicing obedience to God's commands in that world? List some ways that you face a similar challenge today.

9. In verse 18, God takes the initiative to make a promise to Noah. What was the promise, and how would you feel hearing this from God if you were Noah or his family?

Read Genesis 7:1-24

10. The Lord tells Noah that he has seen Noah to be righteous in his generation. What phrase do you see repeated that demonstrates to us this righteousness? (Hint: see vs. 5, 8, 16) How does Noah's response to God differ from that of the people described in Gen. 6:5-13 above?

11. How much do you think it *hurt* God to bring such destruction upon the earth and the people He had created?

12. The description of the flood's devastation reads like a reversal of the creation narrative in chapter 1. Notice the details of Genesis 1:9-20 again: dry land appears, then vegetation, birds, livestock and crawling creatures, and then humans. Chapter 7:21-24 is virtually a mirror: all of these creatures are now destroyed and the dry land is covered by the waters once again. Only Noah and the inhabitants of the ark are left. What if this is where the Bible ended? What would it tell you about God's attitude toward sin?

Read Genesis 8:1-22

13. In your own words, how would you describe the *beauty* of this chapter? What is it that makes this passage so appealing?

14. Verse 1 says that God 'remembered' Noah. God hadn't 'forgotten' Noah – this is a great Hebrew way of declaring the compassion of God in acting on His covenant promise of Gen. 6:18! Describe some of the emotions Noah might have felt as he exited the ark with his family and the animals?

15. Verse 21 is sobering and encouraging: God would never again curse the ground (or destroy the earth again with a flood - Gen. 9:21) *despite* the fact that humans remain sinful! What are some ways today that you might develop God's compassion for lost people who are ambivalent or even hostile to God? Spend a few moment praying for someone you know who has not yet trusted Christ as their redeemer!