

FLOOD ASSURANCE | GENESIS 6:1-7:9 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 5/28/2023

I. God's Reasons (6:1-7) | II. God's Renewal Plan (6:8-7:9)

INTRO: Approximately 1,600 years had passed since the creation of Adam and Eve (**Gen 1:26–27**). As the earth's population exploded in number, it also **exploded with evil**. The people of Noah's day were **totally depraved**, and **the earth was flooded with violence!** But **GOD WOULD NOT ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE!** The most merciful act our righteous God could perform was to **START OVER**. Our text this morning expounds on God's **FLOOD ASSURANCE (Genesis 6:1-7:9)**

I. GOD'S REASONS (6:1-7) – God was GRIEVED! This mysterious passage reveals God's displeasure with the choices of His created beings. **Which ones?** Two are mentioned here...

A. God was Grieved by Wandering Spirits (1-4) – Verse 1 first mentions **Humankind (1)** – The multiplication of **MEN** and **DAUGHTERS** clarifies that they were **BORN** into this world.

1. The Sons of God (2) – {*Heb: bene Elohim*}, Beings who are understood to share God-like qualities or who belong to the category or class of “gods.” Many views exist as to who these were, but *the best possibility, without straining the text, identifies these Sons of God as...*

a. Sinful Angels – *those who left their abode*. They saw the beauty of human women and mated with them, thus **producing offspring (4)**, *lit. Giants*. – In (**Jude 6**) it says, “...the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day” (Jude 6) – It seems that **God imprisoned the fallen angels** who committed this evil sin, so that other fallen angels would not do the same.

b. GIANTS (4) – {*Heb: Naphil*}, or **NEPHILIM**, which literally means “*fallen ones*.” – i.e., legendary figures spoken of in many cultures as ancient supermen, men of renown; offspring of the angel-human unions. (*e.g., Greek mythology and Roman folklore*) – It **appears** that the demons that left their abode were the *bene elohim*; through whom Satan unsuccessfully attempted to pollute the seed of woman in response to thwart the promise of Genesis 3:15, thus producing **Nephilim**.

2. God Limited the Contention (3) – *“My Spirit will not strive with flesh...”* The antediluvian world was so infiltrated with wickedness that God placed a divine countdown on its judgment...120 Years! He knew that mankind would not call upon His name at this point. So, God Assured that mankind would have only **120 years to REPENT before the flood judgment!** (*After the flood, man's lifespan would average 120 years... A vast change from 900 years*).

B. God was Grieved by the Wickedness of Man (5-7) – His prized creation had become infected and overcome by the entrance of sin. **ALL WERE SPIRITUALLY DEAD!**

1. God Saw WHAT they DID and WHAT they THOUGHT (5) – To sum it all up... everyone in Noah's day was rotten to the core! – This has not changed for us! Sin still **BEGINS** in our **HEARTS**, then **MANIFESTS** in our **MINDS**; (**Jer. 17:9-10**) “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.”

- *Sin nature has potential to grow darker and even more evil if there is no restraint!*

2. **God was Sorry (6-7)** – Human sinfulness provokes a fierce reaction in God, a Bitter Indignation! But it also fills His heart with PAIN!

- **God, therefore DETERMINED to DESTROY His Creation (7).** As with earlier decrees of judgment (3:15; 4:15), because God's is a God of righteousness! (*cf. Psalm 50:4-6*)

P/A – In dealing with their sin, God demonstrated **Longsuffering** and **Patience**. But even now...**God Still Grieves for the Sin of Mankind** and *desires that all REPENT, so that times of refreshing may come!* (Acts 3:20)

II. GOD'S RENEWAL PLAN (6:8-7:9) – Even though **God's holiness DEMANDED a righteous indignation.** We see yet another glimpse of Hope as God dispenses **GRACE!** Before administering Divine Judgment, we have the first mention of GRACE in the Bible!

A. **God's GRACE For Noah (8-10)** – Emphasis is to be placed on the conjunction "But..."

1. **Noah found GRACE in the eyes of the Lord (9)** Please take notice that **Noah "Found Grace..."** he didn't earn it! The LORD gave it freely...that's what grace is, **Unmerited Favor.**

a. **God** looked upon Noah and chose Him to be the recipient of it. Noah simply **BELIEVED** God and acted on it: **(Heb 11: 7) *By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.***

b. **He also received Grace for a Family (9-10)** – He *walked PERFECTLY* with God as he lived.

P/A – If you are a Believer in Jesus Christ and you need grace... **Just Ask!** (Heb 4:16) says, *"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we shall obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

B. **God's VERDICT on Mankind (11-13)** – Once again we are told that *God looked upon the earth* and determined that it was Violently Corrupted. **So, He told Noah of His "Special Selection" for N.E.R.P., the New Earth Repopulation Program!** *"The end of all flesh has come before me..."* and *"I WILL DESTROY them with the earth."*

C. **God's INSTRUCTION for Noah (14-22)** – In this section God's reveals His Salvation plan to Noah... **BUILD AN ARK** big enough to house Noah and his family, along with two creatures of every kind. In (14-16) God tells Him WHAT to build and HOW to build it!

1. **The Materials (14)** – For such an important life-preserving vessel, the materials would have to be able to withstand the extreme conditions that were about to take place.

2. **It's Dimensions (15-16)** – Depending on the correct measurement of the cubit (18"-20"), the approximate size of the ark was 450' long, 75' wide, and 45' high.

a. The Volume of such a vessel would calculate to approximately 1.4 million cubic feet.

b. The **Capacity** – *The Ark could hold the equivalent of 522 standard livestock cars!*

c. The **Features (16)** – *3 Decks, Each about 15 feet high w/rooms for each species) 1 Door, and 1 Window.*

3. **God's METHOD REVEALED to Noah (17)** – **Floodwaters** ... to remove the breath of life!

4. **God's COVENANT ESTABLISHED with Noah (18)** – A covenant is a Contract Agreement between two or more parties. We will discuss this in detail when we cover (**Gen 9:9-17**).

5. **God's PURPOSE (19-22)** – Was to **Preserve Life** and Start again.

- **Was it even possible for the ark to contain every species?** To answer that question, here is an excellent quote from John MacArthur on the matter: *“There are fewer than 18,000 species living on the earth today. This number may have been doubled to allow for now-extinct creatures. With two of each, a total of 72,000 creatures is reasonable... [because], the cubic space could hold 125,000 sheep. And since the average size of land animals is less than a sheep, perhaps less than 60% of the space was used. The very large animals were surely represented by young. There was ample room also for the one million species of insects, as well as Food for a year for everyone.”*

- With all the detailed instructions that Noah received from God, **verse 22** tells us that **Noah did everything that God commanded!**

P/A – What stands out here is that **Noah heard God's Word and believed** His Promise of Protection and Preservation. He obeyed the instruction of God without wavering!

What we don't see here is the TIME GAP in between. – From the moment that Noah received the instruction to build the ark...to the closing of the door, would have been a period of **120 years**.

D. **God's PRESERVATION Plan (7:1-9)** – God *“Then”* told Noah to *“Come into the ark.”* – The time had come to enter the Ark.

1. **God saw that Noah was Righteous! (7:1)** – **If Righteousness was his Entry Ticket, then God's Grace was the Validation Punch!** Noah's **belief in God's Word** benefited both his family and the selected animals. – (**1 Tim 4:16**) *Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in **doing this** you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

- The apostle Peter later referred to Noah as *“a preacher of righteousness”* (**2 Pet 2:5**)
- Noah's *“wordless preaching”* was another message to the agnostic culture of his time. **Noah provided evidence of righteousness** in the ark's construction itself. *Every hammer blow and every pounding of a nail was a call to repentance* because judgment was coming.

God granted Noah **PROTECTION** from the flood. (Metaphorically: *“Come into the ark”* vs. *“Come up here”* – **Rev 4:1; 1 Thess 5:10**, Jesus saves us from the wrath to come!)

2. **God's Provision and Offering (7:2-3)** – These were six extra pair of CLEAN animals and birds, which were to be **used for food (9:3)** and for sacrifice **(8:20)**.

3. **God's Extension (7:4-9)** – He allowed one more week for unbelievers to respond!

- It was about to RAIN for a very long time...**40 days/nights**, to achieve God's purpose.
- **God's Flood Assurance was in place.** Noah, his family and the animals were in place. The Floodwaters were in place, ready to drown every living thing that had the breath of life.

CLOSING THOUGHTS: The moral depravity and wickedness of mankind produced God's FLOOD ASSURANCE, but **The sovereign grace of God provided FLOOD INSURANCE in the form of an Ark!**

- Sin had **INFECTED every aspect of life**, and nothing short of a new beginning would suffice. Thus, it will also be at the end of this Age. (Matt. 24:37–39) *But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

- To apply this to our lives today, we must understand that there is **ONLY ONE WAY** to be saved from destruction. Just as the Ark only had **ONE DOOR** to save those who entered., we also have **ONLY ONE WAY** to be saved from the wrath to come. – In **(John 10:9a)** Jesus says, ***"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved..."***

The next worldwide judgment will be with fire and brimstone, not water!
(2 Pet 3:1-12)