

“Noah and the Flood” (1-12-20)

Introduction: Through the Bible this year we will consider: “Little Picture” and “Big Picture”

Our reading this week . . .

Creation - God created the world, and man in his image to steward this world. (Gen. 1-2)

The Fall of Man - Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit and open up the world to Sin & Death (Gen. 3)

The Fallout - Small scale: Cain, Lamech, and even Noah and Abraham and their families (Gen. 4-24)

This morning we will look at “The Fallout” on a big scale . . .

Today: Noah and the Flood (A reflection on Judgement & Grace)

Basic Outline of the Story of the Flood is found in Genesis 6-9:

- 1) Mankind is sinful beyond repair, so judgment is coming in 120 years
- 2) One righteous man Noah is called by God to build an Ark to save mankind & all land & air animals
- 3) Noah builds it, Animals come (2 of all unclean & 7 of all clean), & God shuts the door
- 4) The Flood comes, & over the process of a year, rain falls & comes from the earth, they float, the water subsides, they come to rest on the mountains of Ararat, months pass, birds are released over the period of several weeks, & finally they exit the ark – right at a year later.
- 5) Noah stops & sacrifices 1 of every clean animal, & God makes a covenant symbolized by the rainbow.

1) The Condition of Mankind - nothing but Wickedness and Violence . . .

Genesis 6:5-7 (ESV)

(5) The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (6) And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. (7) So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

Genesis 6:11-12 (ESV)

(11) Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. (12) And God

saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

Notes: The key words describing their condition - great wickedness, evil continually, corrupt, filled violence.

Consider this . . .

- It has been 10 generations from Adam - and in that time all flesh, all people had come this far - following the way of Cain and Lamech
- The eating the fruit seems harmless enough, until we realized this is the real “fruit” of sin and compromise
- It destroys us without any help from God. The people on earth are destroying themselves!

Even the mysterious opening verses to Chapter 6 shed more light on their condition . . .

Genesis 6:1-4 (ESV)

(1) When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, (2) the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. (3) Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." (4) The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

Notes: The Nephilim (the giants) and The “sons of god” . . .

- This phrase: “**sons of god**” refers to angelic beings in the other 3 places it is used in the OT
- Example:** When Satan & the “sons of god” present themselves before God in the book of Job
- “**The Nephilim**” (or giants) are the offspring - this links to the most famous giant of all (Not Andre!) - Goliath!

Let’s remember another example from our reading - Abraham, Lot, and Sodom & Gomorrah - (Gen 18 & 19)

Genesis 18:20-21 (ESV)

(20) Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, (21) I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."

Notes: So similar to the conditions before the Flood - there was an outcry against them things were so bad!

- One of the biggest lies we have come to believe about our sin is that it doesn’t affect others, we can just be left to ourselves.

- No! It destroys us from the inside out, but make no mistake it always works its way out!

How does this connect to Jesus and the Gospel and the Love of God?

First of all, **Jesus connected these stories to himself** while discussing his imminent return (Matt. 24 & Luke 17)

Luke 17:24-30 (ESV)

(24) For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. (25) But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. (26) Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. (27) They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. (28) Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, (29) but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all— (30) so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Notes: Jesus compares His return with Noah & Lot's circumstances . . .

- A daring rescue and judgement on the wicked.
- The wicked not only reject him, and the warnings, but carry on with "business as usual"

But one person wasn't carrying on with business as usual. One man stood apart . . .

2) Noah and God's Grace - Right in the center of it all is righteous Noah who walked with God . . .

Genesis 6:8-9 (ESV)

(8) But Noah found **favor** in the eyes of the LORD. (9) These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

Notes: Noah found **Favor** with God!

- **Favor = Grace** (1st appearance in the Bible)
- **Tim Keller** - "Only when we see the depth of our sin will we be electrified by the wonder of grace."
- **James 4:6** - "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Grace is not just a feeling, idea, or passive good will - it is an active force of rescue and provision!

Grace is God showing up and working on behalf of those who will trust Him!

The Ark - An act of Grace - Rescue from the flood . . .

Genesis 6:14-16 (ESV)

(14) Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. (15) This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. (16) Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.

Notes: Some fun facts about the Ark . . .

Size of the Ark - The Cubit (most conservative size) is 17.5" so the size of the Ark was:

438 ft long 80 ft wide 44 ft high volume of 1,400,00 cubic ft

Storage – How did they all fit?

Studies show: 3 levels – approx. the size of 520 livestock railcars which could hold 125,000 sheep.

1/3 of the ark used for animals 2/3 for supplies.

Animals could have been the young. Animals hibernate, etc.

Hydrodynamics – almost impossible to capsize – not built for cutting through water, but for staying afloat.

It would naturally tend to align itself with the direction of the major wave movement

God is always in the details . . .

The Ark was built by Noah, according to God's specifications and then there is an extra note:

It was sealed and floated because it was covered by pitch! (Genesis 6:14)

Pitch: This is the only place in scripture it is translated this way, normally the word **cover** or **Atonement**

Meaning: Covered, reconciled, appeased, pardoned, cleansed, and forgiven

Who needs Atonement? Who needed this covering?

Application today . . . I need an Ark! I need God's covering!

You see, atonement covers both the righteous and the sinner . . . Anyone who gets in the boat!

The sinner - My sin & shame don't have to keep me out. (I don't deserve Grace, but I can get in the boat!

The righteous - My self-righteousness (I worked hard to build this ark) – Even the best boat springs a leak!

The pitch (the covering) is what sees us through the Flood!

Gen. 18:17-33 - God & Abram discuss Sodom & Gomorrah (God is willing to relent if 10 people are righteous)

Grace & Atonement: Jesus warns us that He is returning - Judgement for those who choose the dark, rescue for those seeking Grace. In light of that He invites us to receive His covering **NOW!**

John 3:16-19 (ESV)

(16) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (18) Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (19) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

Notes:

- Jesus didn't come to condemn, but to save through Him! (He's the Ark & His blood covers)
- We are already condemned - it's our default position apart from Him!
- The real judgement is that the world rejects the Light!

Grappling with sin & judgment (my sin!) is essential to understanding, receiving, and enjoying Grace!