

“Startled by Grace” – Part 1 (4-8-2018)

New Series: “Startled by Grace . . . Waking up to the very Good News! The same Gospel that saves you is the Gospel that sustains you. We should wake up to this good news today and everyday!

Today: A look at a life built on Grace . . . Noah!

Principal of first appearance in the scripture (there are several in the story of Noah & the Flood):

When a word/concept shows up in scripture for the first time, it tends to be a very defining moment that sets the course for how it appears throughout scripture.

Example: “Love” appears the first time to describe the love of a father for his son who is to be sacrificed (Gen 22)

Genesis 6:5-8 (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 he 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." (8) But Noah found favor (**GRACE**) in the eyes of the LORD.

God’s Grace . . . 3 Pictures & Principals of Grace

1) Grace is Present

How is it that God’s Grace shows up in the Flood story? What is a Flood if not God’s wrath & judgment?

Flood of the whole earth – it’s a picture of the chaos and formless void out of which God spoke life. It’s the world falling backward into chaos & dis-order. It was already the condition of man-kind. God wanted to clean and get a fresh start . . .

Genesis 6:5, 11-12 (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 . . . (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: Yet in the midst of this chaos and dis-order, after the fall of man, God still looks to walk among us . . .

Genesis 6:9 (ESV)

These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

Notes: God hasn’t given up on man, in His Grace he draws near.

2) Grace speaks Truth

In **Genesis 6:13-21** - God lays out his entire plan for Noah of what's coming next . . .

- a) He gives a warning. I will destroy the whole earth with a flood.
- b) He is patient. (God warned them 120 years in advance – Gen 6:3)
- c) He gives instruction. Noah has a part to play: be prepared! (Build & Pack)
- d) He arranges details Noah could never handle on his own. All of the animals will board the ark!
- e) He makes a promise. You and your whole family will be saved, and have a fresh start!

Grace warns, is patient, prepares, carries, and sustains

There are different kinds of floods:

- a) **Your own fault** – you participated in creating the problem (Venice)

Example: Venice - When asked about the history of Venice and the water, Da Mosto (an environmental scientist living in Venice) points to a particular contemporary event that changed the future of the city: the flood of November 4th, 1966. Reaching 194cm (6'4"), this was wholly unprecedented in the history of flooding there. Heavy rain, a severe wind, crumbling infrastructure, and entirely unready population isolated the city for twenty-four hours without repent. The flood revealed for the first time to what extent the built fabric of Venice had deteriorated – in the words of British art historian John Pope-Hennessy, “the havoc wrought by generations of neglect.”

“Venice lives thanks to big disasters such as this,” Da Mosto argues. “They have caused [the city] to fundamentally change direction.”

- b) **The inevitable** – “The rain falls on the just and unjust” (Jesus in Matt 5:45)

Example: Body getting older (my story from 30-35 . . . several allergy out-breaks, torn ACL)
I didn't have to work to get to that point, it happens naturally I have to work just to maintain, much less improve my health

- c) **Final Judgment** – When we die and/or Christ returns, we will give an account

Matthew 7:24-27 (ESV)

(24) "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (25) And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. (26) And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. (27) And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

Notes: Grace speaks truth in order to help us prepare for the inevitable.

Grace doesn't just speak, it empowers!

3) Grace Empowers

Genesis 6:22 (ESV)

(17) For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. (18) But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. . . (22) Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Notes: Grace empowers us to survive the Floods of life. Faith believes in this Grace and participates with it!

This is what Jesus is talking about in Matthew 7 (The Wise & Foolish builders)

And this is what Noah does here in Genesis 6 . . .

Hebrews 11:6-7 (ESV)

(6) And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (7) By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Note: Faith participates with Grace

This is what Paul is talking about when he describes the gospel this way . . .

Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)

(8) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (9) not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Notes: Let's accept this truth for salvation, and let's live in this truth for life!

Conclusion:

The floods of life are coming, and we are all reserved for final judgment . . . So let's embrace the Grace of God

- 1) Grace is Present
- 2) Grace speaks Truth
- 3) Grace Empowers

Let's embrace this truth by faith, and walk in it!