

Genesis 6-9

Mount Ararat: Noah

Image Church // Mountains Week 2

Intro

We are in a series called **Mountains**, where we're going to be spending the next 7 weeks looking at 7 key moments that take place on mountains throughout the Bible...

We're going to start with **Mount Ararat** and go all the way to **Mount Calvary**...

- *Some of you are like, Mount what, all I heard was rat?!?! We'll get there...*

But the goal is to take this journey that will lead us to Easter- which, btw is not that far away- in fact, I want to challenge you right now to begin praying about who you're going to invite that weekend... Most missional weekend of the year- we want to lean in!!

This is going to be a fun and foundational series for us...

Build the tension:

College, throwing water balloons off the steps of the stadium...

- *My way out was through a lie...*
- *You would think I would walk away from that and never do it again... I did...*
- *I have a problem,*
- *And the reality is so do you...*
 - *Maybe not an infatuation with water balloons, but you are a repeat offender...*

What do we do about it?

Genesis 6-9

Going to be jumping a little bit so that you get to see the **narrative...** **BTW** real quick, there are **7 major genres** when it comes to the literary makeup of the Bible...

- *Law, History, wisdom, poetry, narrative, epistles (letters written to churches), Prophecy/end times...*
- Each of these genres is read and taught differently...
- It's vital that you know what genre you're dealing with so that you can rightly divide the Word... So you'll see my approach differ based on the genre we're in... We're going to be in a **narrative...**
 - Want to make sure you see the story and then talk through what we need to see in it!

alright... Genesis 6:5-22

⁵ When the Lord saw that human wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time, ⁶ the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and he was deeply grieved. ⁷ Then the Lord said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I created, off the face of the earth, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky—for I regret that I made them."

It took 6 chapters for everything to fall apart...

God created **Adam** and **Eve**... Breathe the breath of life in them and placed them in the garden- perfect Shalom...

- Do what you want, don't eat of this one tree...
- Adam and Eve found themselves at the tree, and they fell to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life...
 - They desired the fruit, the fruit looked good, and they wanted their eyes to be open so that they could be like God...
 - They took it, and they ate...
- In that moment, the created rebelled against the creator...
- They turned their back on the one who established them, choosing their way over God's way...
- Sin entered the world...

What was in perfect harmony now becomes broken and tainted by sin and rebellion...

- The good creation God had made begins to unravel...
 - Broken relationship with God
 - Broken relationship with creation
 - Broken relationships between one another
 - Broken view of themselves

We see how fast things begin to unravel... Adam and Eve have 2 kids, Cain and Able, Cain kills Able in Genesis Chapter 4...

- Sin begins to take its toll as it plagues humanity, where wickedness is widespread on the earth...
- What was **very good had not become very bad... All because of sin...**

And don't miss this, everything that's happened, all of the sin and wickedness, **deeply grieved God...** Literally: *God's heart was filled with pain...*

God said: *I regret that I made them*... Don't think He's saying *I wish I didn't make them*. That's not what the word **regret** means here... Its meaning is **sorrow and grief** because of what His image bearers had become and what they have turned to...

Illustration: Think about a wedding day. A bride is prepared to walk down the aisle to the man she loves and wants to commit her life to... And as those doors open, she sees him kissing the maid of honor...

- This is what humanity has done to God...
- And the grief that the bride would feel is like the grief God feels as He watches this happen...

Here's what I don't want you to miss... The significance of sin and the impact that it has on God...

- **God is affected by and even experiences pain by our sinful rebellion...**

- We so often feel like my life, my choices, my problems...
- That is not what we see here... Your sin has a bigger impact...
- *Our sin is a personal offense against God... It is an act of rebellion that He feels...*

Sin grieves God because of what it does to His creation and His glory...

Sin is a big deal, and **God's going to do something about it** to drive home that reality... He's going to send a **flood** to cover the earth.¹

- In this we see the justice of God...
- We see it through the judgment of God...
- For many people they want to believe in a God that is all love and no Judgment... *That's no God, that's just a bigger and slightly better version of YOU!*

God's Judgment is real, we're about to see that through the flood...

- What we need to understand is that the story of Noah is about so much more than cute animals in a boat... *Joke...*

Illustration: I'm not tech savvy, now my parents think I am, which always makes me feel good, but then I get around the real tech guy here at our church and realize what I know is a raindrop in the ocean!

- But there's one thing I know, and that is when you have a problem with your phone, computer, TV, or anything else, something that normally works like magic is restarting it... Almost all tech stuff has a restart feature... *We used to call it **rebooting** back in the day, it took forever!*

What's about to happen with the flood was God's restart of creation, but here's the thing, the restart isn't going to work...² At least, not in the way that you would think...

- But, by God's design, it's going to show us something...
- There's an intentional purpose behind everything that happens...

¹ Thoughts here adapted from JD Greear, *Failed Reboot*, The Whole Story.

² Ibid.

Verse 8 Let's pick back up on the story:

⁸ Noah, however, found favor with the Lord. ⁹ These are the family records of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God. ¹⁰ And Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with wickedness. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth was, for every creature had corrupted its way on the earth. ¹³ Then God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to every creature, for the earth is filled with wickedness because of them; therefore I am going to destroy them along with the earth. ¹⁴ "Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and outside. ¹⁵ This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. ¹⁶ You are to make a roof, finishing the sides of the ark to within eighteen inches of the roof. **You are to put a door in the side of the ark.** Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks. ¹⁷ "Understand that I am bringing a flood—floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature under heaven with the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark with your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives. ¹⁹ You are also to bring into the ark two of all the living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰ Two of everything—from the birds according to their kinds, from the livestock according to their kinds, and from the animals that crawl on the ground according to their kinds—*will come to you so that you can keep them alive.* [God's the creator and summons His creation- Reminder, Noah and the Ark is a supernatural act of God, this shouldn't surprise the Bible is full of supernatural acts of God... He's God because He can do stuff like this!] ²¹ Take with you every kind of food that is eaten; gather it as food for you and for them." ²² And Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him.

Ok, so let's talk about **Noah**... *How did he evade the judgment of God?!?*

[show verses 8-9 on screen] **Verse 8-9** says that *Noah, however, found favor with the Lord*... That *Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God.*

- And then, right after that, we see the wickedness and corruption of the world...

What we get here is a contrast between the **righteousness** of Noah and the **wickedness** of the world...

- And what we see is that Noah evaded the judgment of God because he was righteous!

But, here's the question what made Noah righteous? What was it that set Him apart from everyone else?!?

- Now, you would be tempted to say that it's the fact that *Noah walked with God*... But that would be wrong...
- Noah walking with God is the **byproduct**, or the fruit of, an inward reality... It's **not** what made him righteous...

*What made Noah righteous was his **FAITH!**

How do I know that? **Hebrews 11:7** *By faith Noah, after he was warned about what was not yet seen and motivated by godly fear, built an ark to deliver his family. By faith he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*

Check this out, the text says that *Noah found favor with the Lord*...

Favor: also translated as grace...

- **IOW:** Noah received the grace of God through faith...
 - What is **Grace**? It's getting something you don't deserve...

Here's the thing, Noah didn't deserve to be saved... He hasn't earned the right to be saved...

- Noah had sinned just like everyone else...
- And yet God demonstrates His **grace** by counting him as **righteous**...
- And that exchange happens through faith!

Salvation from the judgment of God came to Noah by grace through faith!

- God extends grace to those who have faith in Him!

But here's what I want you to see: **faith isn't lip service. It's life surrender!**

- This is where the rubber really meets the road...
- Noah didn't just say, *I have faith...* he didn't just acknowledge that God was real or that he believed in Him...
- He was fully surrendered to God...
- **We see that through his faithful obedience...**
 - **Key theme- obedience**, repeated phrase: *as God commanded...*
 - *Not to mention, my guy built an Ark on dry ground!! He was all in!*

The question is, are you? For many of you, you say that you have faith, but your life seems to say otherwise...

You are not saved by your works, you're saved by faith, but your works show your faith to be true... Faith in action= works...

For some of you, you really don't have faith...

Illustration: There's a difference between **faith that**, and **faith in**...

- *I have to deal with this every time I hang a deer stand...*
 - *It's one thing to hang it and say I have faith it will hold me... It's another thing actually to get in the stand...*

The same is true when it comes to our faith in God...

- For some of you, you have faith that God is real and that He can save you, but you don't have **faith in** Him, and the evidence is in the way that you live, you're not surrendered!

For others of you, right now, you're not walking in faith...

- You know God's called you to something, but you're not walking in faith and doing it...
 - Not giving- saying you have faith, but
 - Not serving-
 - Not surrendering to the call of vocational ministry...
 - Not sharing the gospel with that classmate, neighbor, or coworker...
 - Not creating margin in your life to love and serve others...
 - Not honoring God with your body sexually... Living together...
- These are areas that reveal what walking **in** faith looks like...
- Obedience flows **from** faith... Where are you not being obedient?!?

Let's keep reading.... **Genesis 7:1**

¹ Then the Lord said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation."

Genesis 7:16

¹⁶ Those that entered, male and female of every creature, entered just as God had commanded him. **Then the Lord shut him in.**

By faith, Noah built the Ark, and by faith, Noah walked into the Ark, but it is **the Lord that shuts him in**...

- Noah **evades** the judgment of God by the hand of God!
- Salvation comes from the Lord...

Genesis 7:23–24

²³ He wiped out every living thing that was on the face of the earth, from mankind to livestock, to creatures that crawl, to the birds of the sky, and they were wiped off the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. ²⁴ And the water surged on the earth 150 days.

Now, I know it can be easy to think about all that was lost- the people, the animals, creation...

- But don't miss the point: what the author of Genesis wants us to see through all this is the fact that God chose to save when no one deserved it...

Genesis 8:13–14

¹³ In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the water that had covered the earth was dried up. Then Noah removed the ark's cover and saw that the surface of the ground was drying. ¹⁴ By the twenty-seventh day of the second month, the earth was dry.

And the dry ground that Noah saw was on **Mount Ararat!** And something special is about to happen there!

Genesis 8:15–21

¹⁵ Then God spoke to Noah, ¹⁶ "Come out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷ Bring out all the living creatures that are with you—birds, livestock, those that crawl on the earth—and they will spread over the earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." ¹⁸ So Noah, along with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, came out. ¹⁹ All the animals, all the creatures that crawl, and all the flying creatures—everything that moves on the earth—came out of the ark by their families. ²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the Lord. He took some of every kind of clean animal and every kind of clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ When the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma, he said to himself, "**I will never again curse the ground because of human beings, even though the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth onward.** And I will never again strike down every living thing as I have done.

Remember, I told you that ***the restart wasn't going to work*** at least not in the way that you would think?

- See, you would think that with a restart, things would get better, that it would fix the problem....

Illustration: When my phone is glitching, and I turn it off and turn it back on, I expect the problem to be gone...

But what we see here is that's **not** going to be the case here...

- God says He won't curse the ground again, ***even though the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth onward...***

Meaning, the problem aint fixed! ³

- **Example:** At the end of **chapter 9**, Noah plants a vineyard... He gets hammered, drunk, and buck naked...
- *This is our hero! Just came off the ark- witnessing the literal hand of God, and here's where we are...*

And here's what we see in that... What humanity needs is ***more than a restart or a second chance...***

Let's keep reading: Genesis 9:1

¹ God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth."

Genesis 9:11–13

¹¹ I establish my covenant with you that never again will every creature be wiped out by floodwaters; there will never again be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹² And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all future generations: ¹³ I have placed my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

God puts a **bow** in the sky as a sign of his covenant... *This is why hunting is Godly!*

- God saved Noah and his family and preserved humanity, but God didn't deal with the root of the problem...
- The bow God gave as a sign of His covenant is aimed at God, and He would take the arrow that should be for us so that we could live...

³ Ibid.

GOSPEL

- Jesus in our place...
- One door in the ark, one way through Jesus...
- Justice would be served once and for all...
- Salvation comes by grace through faith!

Illustration:

- A Guy stuck upside down in a cave thought he was going the right way, but he was wrong, and it cost him his life...

The thing that he thought would bring him life was ultimately the thing that led to his death.

For some of you, **like those around Noah**, the things that you think will bring you life will ultimately bring you death.

- **Proverbs 14:12** *There's a way that seems right to man, but in the end it leads to death...*

The purpose of the reset that God does through the **flood** wasn't about fixing what was broken or making everything better. It was about showing us the sad reality of the human race, the judgment of God, and yet in the midst of that pointing us to an incredible hope...

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.*

- A judgment is coming, but the wait is not God's absence it's God's grace... **John 3:16**

For those of you who see and know this what the response to God's salvation should be...

We get it in the text **Genesis 9:1**: *Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...*

- Goes back to Gen **1:28** and what God told Adam and Eve...

- This commission isn't just numeric, it's pre-fall... Meaning what God was calling them to do was be worshipers of Him, and to create and cultivate worshipers of Him!
 - There's an internal and external application here!

All of Life is to be about worship...

- **Romans 12:1**

Daily laying down our lives in surrender through **faithful obedience**...

What is it that God's calling you to? Maybe it's big, maybe it's small?

- What are the gaps in your life when it comes to obedience?

Are you being faithful and multiplying?

- That's one of our objectives this year...
- Transformation to us leads to transformation through us...
- Are you being faithful to that end?

Sharing the gospel? Living out the implications of the gospel?

- A storm is coming, Jesus will return- God's called you to be an ambassador of that reality...

We have a few opportunities... **Community ServeLink... Designed to serve physically to bridge the need spiritually!**

Conclusion [VAMP]

The purpose of the reset that God does through the **flood** wasn't about fixing what was broken or making everything better. It was about showing us the sad reality of the human race, the judgment of God, and yet in the midst of that pointing us to an incredible hope...

See it and respond...