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INTO YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE STORIES

10 – Oceans: Noah and the Flood

Genesis 6:1-2 ESV

“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 into the daughters of man, and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

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.*

God’s View of His Creation

The narrative at the beginning of Genesis 6 is a reminder that Adam's children had greatly increased in number, had married, and had continued to have children.

In other words, life had developed an evil pattern of living.

In the words of Warren Wiersby, “Sin had entered the human race, and it didn’t take long for the corruption it spawned to spread and defile God’s creation. Like a cancerous tumor, evil infected civilization and brought death wherever it went.”ⁱ

The now-normal existence was self-focused, and evil became more prevalent as the population exploded.

“...every intention of the thoughts of [the human] heart was only evil continually” (v.5).

Life had become just the opposite of the peaceful paradise of Eden where Adam and Eve began their life.

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The judgment that was about to happen would only be replicated one last time in the history of all creation.

Jesus said (**Matthew 24:38-39**):

“³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”

Whether we believe that the "sons of God" were angels, ancient royalty or the godly lineage of Adam's son, Seth, the key point in this opening narrative is to describe the gravity of sin that God found increasingly intolerable.

God acted in a sovereign manner to bring evidence of His judgment toward sin and evil.

Judgment came because of our fall from God's grace and glory to a sin-stained existence.

Romans 3:23 *“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*

God and Sin Cannot Coexist

He had covered Adam and Eve in the garden after they sinned.

He turned His back on the sin-death of His only Son, Jesus, while bearing the burden of humanity's sin on the cross (Matthew 27:45-50).

Because of sin, God's personal connection with the human race existed indirectly as through a veil, or covering – people could not see the face of God and live (Genesis 32:30):

- A pillar of cloud by day (the Exodus)

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- A pillar of fire by night (the Exodus)
- His spoken word – even a still small voice (Elijah)
- Angels
- A burning bush (Moses) *“Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.”* (Ex. 3:6)
- A donkey (Balaam)
- In dreams
- Through the prophets of old
- In the form of a human (Jesus)
- The written Word of God
- In historical experiences
- Personal experiences

God’s Wrath

Genesis 6:6-8 ESV

⁶And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So 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.”

⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.”

The Lord demonstrated an emotion that is common to us all – grief and sorrow.

His very creation had turned into followers of Lucifer’s earthy identity, Satan – the devil.

Jesus addresses the work of the enemy in His earthly ministry as His purpose on earth.

1 John 3:8 ESV

“Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”

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Jesus calls-out the Jewish leaders in **John 8:44** ESV.

“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

God's desire is to eliminate:

- The practice of sinning
- The will of the devil – to promote death, lies and deception
- And the consequence of sin – death!

So, 1500+ years after God had created the human race, sin's consequence was going to be put on display.

The rains came down for 40 days and nights. The water rose to a level that covered the highest mountain peak by 20-25 feet (Genesis 7:24).

Earth's inhabitants that breathed which lived on dry ground, died.

The only things spared were the pairs and groups of animals, birds and reptiles, along with plants and vegetables (*“every sort of food”* – vs.21).

God's judgment was strong, swift, and came as promised. Death is demonstrated as God's judgment because of sin.

Romans 5:12 – *“just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, ...so death spread to all men because all sinned.”*

Romans 6:23 says, *“...the wages of sin is death”*.

To accentuate His fairness God gave the world 120 years to come around after He commissioned Noah to build the ark (Genesis 6:3).

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God Provides a Means for Redemption

Genesis 6:14-15,17-21 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.*

(That's 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet tall. Equal to 520 – 570 railroad cars.)

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. ¹⁹ And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. ²⁰ Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. ²¹ Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them."*

²² *Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.*

The Bible tells us that Noah had three sons named Shem, Ham, and Japheth (Gen 6:10), and they spent 120 years building the Ark (Genesis 6:3).

After it was completed, Noah and his family (8 total people - 1 Peter 3:20) entered the Ark seven days before God sent the floodwaters upon the Earth, just as the Lord had told them, (Genesis 7:1,4,10).

And *the Lord "shut them in"* (Genesis 7:16).

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At the end of this global washing scriptures say, “**Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark**” (Genesis 7:23).

Humanity saved through the righteousness of one man.

Noah “*was a righteous man, blameless in his generation.*” And he “*walked with God.*”

Through Noah’s the human race was given a dispensation of God’s grace and life was extended (Noah lived another 350 years after the flood – Genesis 9:28).

We have a righteousness of our own, “*the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*” (Romans 3:21-24).

John 11:25,26

“*Jesus said, I am the resurrection and life, he who believes in me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die.*”

1. God honors obedience

God establishes a covenant with Noah because of his obedience.

Genesis 8:20-22 ESV

“*Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.*

²¹ *And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. ²² While the earth remains, seedtime and*

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harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

Genesis 9:8,11-13

“⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him...”

“¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

Three important things about God’s covenant with Noah:

- There will never be a global flood to end life.
- Human beings will flourish with responsibility.
- God sealed His promise with a bow.

By surrendered Faith in Jesus Christ we are called to obedience – to love God, others and to assist as living ambassadors of Jesus.

Hebrews 11:6-7 ESV

⁶And 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. ⁷By 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.

Psalms 28:7 ESV

*“The LORD is my strength and my shield;
in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;”*

John 3:16 ESV

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

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2. Time is of the essence

“... [the inhabitants of the earth during Noah’s time] *were unaware* [Unaware by their own stubborn and indifferent hearts] *until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*”

Romans 10:13 ESV

*“For ‘everyone who **calls on the name of the Lord** will be saved.’”*

ⁱ Warren Wiersbe BE Bible Study Series, 2008, David C. Cook publishers