

Lesson 8: Noah and the Global Flood

Lesson Summary: Lesson 8 explores Genesis 6-9, examining the flood narrative as part of God's redemptive plan rather than simply an act of divine anger. Bro. David presents the flood as a "judgment of mercy" that preserved humanity from complete genetic corruption caused by the rebellion of fallen angels (sons of God) who took human wives, producing the Nephilim. Noah is revealed not as sinlessly perfect, but as one who found grace and was genetically pure—fully human in a corrupted world. The ark serves as a powerful symbol of salvation, with its single door, pitch (atonement), and divine closing representing Christ as the only way of redemption. This lesson emphasizes that God always maintains a remnant of faithful people and that His judgment, while severe, ultimately served to preserve humanity and continue His plan for divine relationship with His creation. The rainbow covenant demonstrates God's restraint and mercy, with the bow pointed toward heaven as a reminder of His promise never to destroy the earth by flood again.

Key Points:

- The flood was a response to the second rebellion involving fallen angels corrupting human genetics through the Nephilim
- Noah found "favor" (grace/chin)—the first mention of grace in the Bible—not sinless perfection
- "Blameless" refers to genetic purity; Noah was fully human without angelic corruption
- The ark symbolizes redemption: one door (Jesus), pitch/atonement (kafar), and God closes the door before judgment
- The flood was global, not regional, supported by biblical, traditional, geological, and prophetic evidence

- Over 200 cultures worldwide have flood stories in their ancient traditions
- Geological evidence includes billions of fossils buried rapidly in water-carried sediment, fish fossils in the Himalayas, and clam fossils on Mount Everest
- The chiastic structure of Genesis 6-9 centers on "God remembered Noah"
- Jesus prophesied conditions before His return would be "as in the days of Noah"
- The rainbow (bow/kesheth) is a military war bow pointed at God, reminding Him of His covenant promise
- After the flood, God allowed humans to eat animals, creating another division in creation
- God always preserves a remnant of faithful people throughout history

Scripture Reference:

- Genesis 6:1-4 (Sons of God and daughters of men)
- Genesis 6:5 (Wickedness of man was great)
- Genesis 6:8-9 (Noah found favor/grace; righteous and blameless)
- Genesis 6:14 (Build an ark with pitch)
- Genesis 7:1 (Only the righteous may enter)
- Genesis 7:16 (The Lord shut him in)
- Genesis 9:11-13 (Rainbow covenant)
- Matthew 24:37-39 (As in the days of Noah)
- Luke 13:23-25 (Narrow door; many will seek to enter but will not be able)
- Luke 17:27 (Flood destroyed them all)
- John 10:9 (Jesus is the door)

- 1 Peter 3:20 (Eight persons saved through water)
- 2 Peter 2:5 (Flood upon the world of the ungodly)
- 2 Peter 3:6 (World deluged with water and perished)
- Hebrews 11:7 (Noah constructed ark by faith)

Stories:

- The account of Noah and the global flood from Genesis 6-9
- Moses as a baby placed in an "ark" (same Hebrew word: teba) in the Nile River
- Elijah complaining he was the only one left, but God had 7,000 who hadn't bowed to Baal
- 120 believers in the upper room after Jesus' resurrection—God's remnant
- Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction connected to Genesis 6 depravity (men seeking relations with angels)
- Billy Graham's estimate that at best 50% of church attendees in the 1950s were truly saved
- Mount St. Helens demonstrating how geological strata can form rapidly
- Ancient flood traditions from China, Egypt, Peru, Scandinavia, and Mesopotamia (Epic of Gilgamesh)
- Climbers finding clam fossils at the top of Mount Everest