

Lesson 24

Catastrophe: The Flood

God is holy. God must judge sin.

Overview

Lesson Focus

God punished the wickedness of man by bringing a catastrophe, a worldwide flood. God showed mercy to Noah who loved God and was righteous in the eyes of the Lord.

Key Passage

Genesis 6:5–8, 6:14; John 10:9

Memory Verse

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

The account of Noah begins in Genesis 6. Genesis 6:5–6 says that God saw the wickedness of man and that He was grieved and sorry that He had made man. Scripture describes the situation on the earth: “wickedness of man was great,” evil thoughts continually (Genesis 6:5), “corrupt” (Genesis 6:11–12), “filled with violence” (Genesis 6:11, 6:13).

Hebrews 11:7 tells us that by faith, Noah was divinely warned of things not yet seen. He was warned by God of the coming destruction, and it was Noah’s faith that led to his obedience and the salvation of his family. Because Noah is described as a preacher (herald) of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5), we can imagine that he spent his time while building the Ark trying to persuade the people to be righteous and to warn them of God’s coming judgment. However, only Noah’s family believed and joined him in the Ark. Noah was a “righteous man” (Genesis 6:9), he “walked with God” (Genesis 6:9), and it was by faith that he believed, obeyed, and was saved (Hebrews 11:7).

God shows in this account that He does judge all sin. The Flood wiped out the entire population and was a bitter judgment. But, just as God saved Noah and his family in the Ark, He also showed us His mercy and grace by providing salvation from our sins through His own Son, Jesus Christ.

Historical/Apologetics Background

Looking at the full counsel of the Word of God, we see that several other biblical writers were inspired by the Holy Spirit to confirm the historical account

of Noah and the Flood. It was more than 1,700 years after the Flood that the prophet Ezekiel mentioned Noah (Ezekiel 14:14, 14:20). And about 2,400 years after Noah lived, Jesus Christ referred to Noah as He described His own return and coming judgment (Matthew 24:37–39).

The writer of Hebrews also confirmed Noah’s existence when he included him in the “Hall of Faith” chapter (Hebrews 11:7). Peter writes of both Noah and the Flood (2 Peter 2:5), again confirming that this watery judgment occurred just as we read in Genesis. Noah was a real person called by God during an amazing time in history.

In addition, the sheer size, dimensions, and directions given by God to Noah for building the Ark show that this vessel was seaworthy and able to withstand a year-long global Flood. In other words, the Ark itself confirms the Flood.

A careful reading of Genesis confirms God’s precision in handing down the history of the universe. Noah was born 1,056 years after Creation (Genesis 5). He was 500 years old when he began to build the Ark. It could have taken up to 75 years for him to complete the project. It is a good practice to take special note of details when God so specifically gives them.

In the years following the Fall, mankind became more and more self-willed. They were filled with violence and the thoughts of their hearts were only evil continually. Because God hates sin, He had to judge the world. This judgment came via the worldwide Flood.

The following timeline of Noah and the Flood is based on the book of Genesis:

Date/Time	Event
Year 0	Creation
1056	Noah born (Genesis 5)
1536	Proclamation of judgment by God (in 120 years earth will be destroyed)
~1581–1601	God instructs Noah to build Ark, and Noah begins building and preaching
1656	God instructs Noah to prepare to enter Ark; Noah enters, and God shuts the door; the Flood begins
40 days	Rains fall and fountains of deep break open
110 days	Water covers earth; water begins to recede; Ark rests on mountain
74 days	Waters continue to decrease; tops of mountains seen
40 days	Noah sends out a raven which does not return
7 days	Noah sends out a dove which returns
7 days	Noah sends out a dove which returns with olive branch
7 days	Noah sends out a dove which does not return
29 days	Noah removes the cover from Ark
56 days	Noah and his family leave Ark
1657	The Flood is over
371 days	Total time that Noah and his family are on the Ark

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.

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