

Genesis 6:1-8:19 — Flood

October 18, 2015

Good morning. Welcome to CrossWinds. We are studying the book of Genesis. Today we come to one of our favorite Sunday School stories. It is the story of Noah's Ark. Some of you even had the Fisher Price set with Noah and all the animals.



The problem is our well-meaning Sunday School teachers took all the punch out of the story by letting us color Noah and glue on Noah's beard with a cotton ball. Then our Sunday School teacher had us sing about Noah and the Arkie, Arkie.

We think Noah and the Ark is a children's story, but this is not a story for children. It is a story of genocide, death, torment, and blood-curdling screams as people die. It is a story of a millions having their lives snuffed out in agony as they die. It is a story of the greatest global cataclysmic disaster to ever strike the planet. This story makes the detonation of the atomic bomb over Hiroshima look like nothing more than a teenager popping a pimple. It is a story of horror. It's was not meant for children's Sunday School.

Last week, we looked at Genesis 4 and 5 and the story of Cain and Abel. We saw that sin is serious stuff. Sin started small with a simple act of rebellion over a piece of fruit. It didn't stay that way. Sin spreads like mold and takes over everything and it infests. It only took one generation for the darkness of sin to rear its ugly head. Adam and Eve's first child Cain was filled with jealousy toward his younger brother, Abel, so he murdered him. Cain disabled Abel by killing him

over petty jealousy. After that the Bible gave us 10 generations of Cain's descendants that covered 1,600 years. Things went from bad to worse. By the seventh generation, polygamy was introduced with Lamech. Lamech was a man of violent revenge for even the slightest offenses. That was the state of the world. Sin had descended the world into a place of violent sexual perverts.

Just when you think it couldn't get much worse, we come to Genesis 6 where we find the weirdest story in the Bible.

The world hits rock bottom.

When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. Genesis 6:1-4 (ESV)

What is this talking about? Who are the sons of God chasing around the attractive-looking girls and taking any they choose as their wives? Who are these new guys called the Nephilim? Where did they come from? Are they aliens? What does God want us to learn?

There is a lot of stuff that is fuzzy in these verses. There are also some things that are clear. If you want to waste an afternoon on Google reading all the theories about the Nephilim and the sons of God feel free. The other option is listen to me for the next 10 minutes and learn most of what you need to know. Let's answer some of these questions.

Who are the sons of God?

1. Some people think the sons of God were simply the godly men of Seth's righteous line that we read about last week. They think this means godly men

in Seth's line were marrying good-looking women instead of godly women.

That is a possibility. There wouldn't be much remarkable about this because God's men make that mistake all the time. They chase women for their good looks on the outside instead of looking for a woman that loves Jesus on the inside. Men, if you are single, don't make the mistake of only evaluating a woman on the surface. I always tell my boys the most important thing in a girl is that she loves Jesus more than she loves you. That is the first theory. I don't think this is talking about godly men marrying beautiful, ungodly women.

2. In the Bible, the phrase "sons of God" almost always refers to angelic beings (Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:6, 38:7). 1 Peter 3:19-20 also tells us there were powerful demonic beings that roamed the earth prior to the flood. God bound them in a prison after the flood to be held for the day of judgment. Jude 6 also talks about powerful demonic beings that chose to leave their proper dwellings and God punished them. They are now kept in bondage until the day of judgment. Many of the early church father's such as Clement, Tertullian, Origen, Philo and Josephus plus early church writings, such as the Dead Seas scrolls and the Septuagint, describe powerful demonic beings that somehow came to earth and tried to infiltrate the gene pool by mating with human women in an attempt to create a hybrid demonic/human race. I am not making this stuff up. I am just telling you how these verses were historically understood. I warned you this was weird. The problem is Luke 20:34-36 tells us angels can't marry or be given in marriage. Some people point out that while it says angels don't marry, it doesn't mean they are sexless. Were these powerful

demonic beings trying to have children with human women? I don't know, and I don't think God meant for us to know.

3. While I don't know if fallen angels can conceive a child with a woman, I do know demons are capable of possessing people. We read about this repeatedly in the New Testament. Jesus cast powerful demons out of people. There were even people who were possessed by entire legions of demons, like the Gadarene demonic (Mark 5:11-13; Luke 8:31-33; 11:24-26). Many scholars believe we may have powerful demonic spirits that possessed men. These possessed men were extremely wicked and extremely powerful, just like the Gadarene demonic (Luke 8:30). These demon-possessed men were taking all kinds of women to be their wives and having children with them. The result is a major shortage on the wife supply chain because the demon-possessed guys were taking all of them, then having children with them, so they could raise little disciples of wickedness.

If I had to put my money on any interpretation, I would go with the demon-possessed guys. Don't try to solve it. Nobody has solved it in 2,000 years of church history. Don't spend your entire Life Group time talking about this.

While we don't know exactly what was happening, we do know the earth was in even worse shape than we learned last week. We have an earth full of violence and perversion, plus we now have powerful demonic beings controlling people and trying to infiltrate the gene pool. Just when you thought the earth couldn't get worse, it became much worse. We are at the tipping point of evil. God needs to step in and do something. It's called Noah and the flood.

Who are the Nephilim?

We don't know. Some people think these are the children of these demonic beings mating with human women. The text doesn't say that. We see the term Nephilim also used in Numbers 13:33 to describe giants in the Promised Land. The Nephilim in the book of Numbers are not these guys. We are about to have a flood and unless these guys are really good at the doggy paddle, they won't make it. What is clear is the Nephilim in Numbers are giant and powerful. They at least reminded the Israelites of the Nephilim in Genesis 6, who were apparently giant and powerful.

They were the violent heroes of the day. They were real life Arnold Schwarzeneggers in the "Terminator" movie. They were the heroes of death, violence, torture, rape and destruction. We had an earth that was filled with death, destruction, rape, violence and demonic possession, and the heroes were heroes of violence. It looked like the Taliban took over the world. It was time for God to step in.

Some of you struggle with God flooding the world and destroying the planet. If you were in charge of a world like this, what would you do? Would you reboot the planet? I have seen you guys. When you think your hard drive has a virus, you reformat the whole thing. Sounds like you and God will get along on this one.

Why does God limit the lifespan to 120 years?

One of the first things God did was limit man's life span to 120 years. Before this people were living longer than 900 years of age. Instead of people getting better over time, they just became worse and excelled in wickedness.

People were like cheese in the back of the refrigerator, the more time you gave them, the more they stank. The only righteous guys out there were of the thin line of Seth, and there weren't many. After this pronouncement, the ages of people steadily declined to around 120 years, max. Moses lived to 120. The problem is that other patriarchs lived more than 120 years. For example, Jacob lived to 147.

I am not a Hebrew scholar but those that are tell me there is another way to read this verse. They say this verse can also mean that God was going to send the flood in 120 years. God was starting the final countdown clock giving people one last chance to repent. 1 Peter 3:20 confirms this when it talks about God's patience as he waited for people to repent in the days of Noah.

...because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. 1 Peter 3:20 (ESV)

After 120 years of Noah pleading with people to repent, and nobody responding, God sent the flood. I think this is probably the right interpretation.

We need to remember that, barring the grace of God, over time sin only gets worse. It doesn't get better. If we ignore sin or tolerate sin, it will not go away. Its tentacles simply worm their way deeper into our lives.

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. And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 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." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. Genesis 6:5-8 (ESV)

This is a big statement. Every thought of man's heart was always evil all the time. I think we can safely say that is not true of everyone on our planet

today. There are some thoughts that are not evil. This is what the ancient world had become, a cesspool of wickedness.

It also says God was grieved he made man. This is terrible. God is our heavenly father. Imagine a father sitting down with his children and saying to them, “Your mom and I are grieved that we birthed you.” What would it take to look your children in the face and say, “We wish you were never conceived. Your birthday is a day we dread. Your wickedness is so bad we wish you were blotted out of existence.” Those are strong words. That is how God felt about the wickedness of mankind over the face of the earth.

God decided to blot out all man and animals on the face of the earth. We are talking low-level reformatting the hard drive. All your data. All your history. Everything that was done was going to be completely erased from the planet.

Noah was different. Noah found favor in God’s eyes. In a moment we will see Noah was a righteous man. Noah was a man of unbelievable obedience in the face of a godless culture. Before we give Noah all the credit and start worshipping him, we need to see where his obedience came from.

The word *favor* in this verse is the Hebrew word for grace. Later we will see Noah became drunk. Noah wasn’t a perfect guy, but anything good in Noah’s life came as a gift from God. Noah was graced by God. It was because God showed favor in Noah’s life that he was able to live as a man of courage, obedience and faith.

It is the same with us. If there is anything good in our lives, ultimately it is not something we drummed up by our own strength. Every good thing, including

our relationship with God through Jesus, is a gift from God. Remember that God is the one who gets all the credit for any good thing in our lives. When we make a right choice, give credit to God for enabling you to make a good choice, not yourself.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, Titus 2:11–12 (ESV)

Where does it all begin? The grace of God.

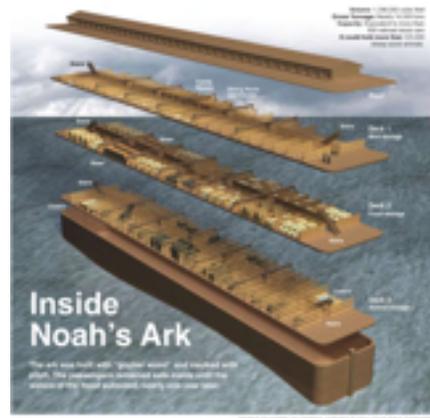
Preparing the Ark

These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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." Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him. Genesis 6:9–22 (ESV)

How big was the ark?

Let's look at the ark. It was a huge rectangle. It looked like a massive coffin. It was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It had three different floors. It had a capacity of more than 100,000 square feet. It could hold 20

basketball courts. It could hold 569 railroad stock cars. It had 1.5 million cubic feet of cargo space. It had one door and 18 inches of ventilation on the top. There was not a boat built that equaled the size of the ark until 1853. It was 238 feet longer than the Cutty Sark, which is the largest wooden vessel ever built. Noah made all of this without a chainsaw, a lift truck or a Menards for the hardware. I think we can see why it took him 120 years.



The average size of a land animal is the size of a sheep. You could fit 125,000 sheep in the ark. There are 18,000 different species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. If Noah didn't take two of every animal alive today but just two of every species so all the varieties of animals that exist could develop over time that means there would have been approximately 36,000 animals on the ark. If we increased that number to hold the seven pairs of clean animals, that would be another 3,000, leaving a total of 39,000 animals on an ark that could hold 125,000 animals. That means two-thirds of the ark was left for food and supplies, and there was still room for a basketball court for Noah and family to play a pickup game against the monkeys. Folks, this is plausible.

How did the animals come to the ark?

In short, we don't know. They could have arrived all at once. They may have trickled into town for months or years before the ark was finished. They may have lined up like they were waiting for a ride at Arnolds Park. We don't know.

What do we know about Noah?

Earlier we learned that any good thing in Noah's life was ultimately a gift from God. God gets the credit. The amazing part is how God's grace worked itself out in Noah's life. From Noah we can see what it looks like when God works his grace in our lives.

Noah was a man of faith and obedience.

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. Hebrews 11:7 (ESV)

And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him. Genesis 7:5 (ESV)

Noah built the ark as an act obedient faith. Some people think it hadn't rained until the flood. That may be true. We don't know. What we do know is Noah was a guy that was willing to take God at his word even when he didn't see how it would work out in the end, even when it didn't make sense. That is living by faith. That is the kind of life God calls each of us to live. We are to live by faith in God's Word and do what God tells us. That is the kind of life God blesses.

I imagine the ark starting in Noah's backyard and all the neighbors watching. They wondered what Noah was building. Noah's building project worked its way out of the garage and into the backyard. Then Noah quit his job so he, his wife and children could work together on this huge barge in the middle of the desert for 120 years, before it had ever rained. Can you imagine the faith and trust he had in God and his word? Noah's obedience is an example for us to follow. He believed God would keep his word even when the answers didn't

come for a long time. It was that rock-solid confidence that God would keep his word that kept him going.

Remember that building the ark wasn't a one-day event. Think about what it was like five years into the project and he was still putting up the framing. Think about 20 years into the project and still assembling the side. Can you imagine how long it took him to put pitch all over the inside and the outside of this thing? If you thought you had a bad case of tennis elbow, imagine what it was like for Noah. Fifty years into the project and he wasn't even half-way done. Imagine when he ran out of lumber. Can you imagine how many nights he went to bed with sticky fingers because of the pitch on his hands? Can you imagine how many saws, hammers and chisels we wore out?

It doesn't tell us that anybody came to help. It was just Noah and his family in the backyard working on the biggest ship the world had ever seen located in the dessert. Everybody thought Noah was a nut. In reality he is a model of faithfully obeying the word of God over the long haul even when we don't see how things will come together in the end.

While it doesn't tell us he faced resistance, remember the godless demonic culture he lived in. It wouldn't surprise me if he got up in the morning and one of the demon-possessed dudes stole his tools. His kids went to school and everybody laughed at them. They probably mocked their father and said he was a nut-job and weirdo. Noah lived for 120 years trusting God would keep his word as he faced the mocking and laughing of people around him. Nobody understood where he was coming from.

Folks, Noah's life is a miniature picture of our lives. What happened then happens now. God calls us to live a life people won't understand. God says forgive as you have been forgiven. Leave wrath in God's hands. Nobody understands that. Will you live a life of faith in God's Word like Noah? God says cast all your cares on him because he cares for you. Do you really believe that? Everybody else is stressed out. Will you go to God tonight, pray out your worries and get a good night's sleep? God says outdo one another in showing honor, do you believe you can focus on honor others instead of yourself? Do you believe God will take care of your reputation and you don't need to protect it? Will you trust God's Word and live in obedience even when it doesn't appear to pay off for 10 years, 20 years, or even 50 years? That is the story of Noah. That is the story of our lives.

De-Creation

Then the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him. Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every

creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the Lord shut him in. The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days. Genesis 7:1–24 (ESV)

I want you to picture how things unfolded. Noah brought the animals into the ark. Noah brought his family into the ark. Noah was staring at the door. He could see kids riding their bikes in the street. He could see the neighbor he talked to again and again. He urged his neighbor to repent but was ignored. In the distance he could see the school his kids attended. He could see the business where he bought the pitch for the ark. He could see people who laughed at him. He loved them but nobody would listen to him about repenting and turning to God. But now, in the distance, Noah could see the darkness of gathering clouds. There was a gust of wind. Before Noah's eyes, the door slowly began to close until it shut and sealed. That was the last time Noah saw the world.

The Bible tells us the waters came down and the waters came up. The separation God made in Genesis 1 between the water's above and below collapsed. Many people believe the earth had a thick vapor canopy in those

days and the vapor canopy protected people so they lived ultra-long lives. We don't know.

My bet is that Noah and his family went to the bottom deck of the ark and they prayed for the animals to be loud as they heard the crash of lightning and the whirling of the wind and water as came it from the sky and the earth. They heard houses ripped off their foundations by flood water. They heard women and men screaming in anguish and those screams ended with a gurgle. They couldn't help but think of all the times they pleaded with people to repent but nobody listened. Finally the ark began to wobble and float.

Does that break your heart? It breaks mine.

...because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. 1 Peter 3:20 (ESV)

Some of you think God was harsh. God wasn't harsh. He was kind. For 1,600 years God waited for people to repent, but they didn't. God had sent the godly line of Seth and his son Enoch to call people back to God, but people hadn't listened. God sent Enoch who was a preacher of righteousness. He never died and was taken home to be with God but people didn't care. For 120 years Noah built the ark in the sight of everyone, begging people to repent, but nobody listened. He didn't just preach with his words but he preached with his lifestyle to an ungodly world. What else could God do?

Everybody on the planet was going to die anyway. God just expedited the process.

Folks, God was not unjust. God was incredibly patient. In the same way, God is being incredibly patient right now. He is giving us time to repent. He calls us to repent of our sin and live by faith that God's Word is true.

My friends, one thing is clear. God's patience will not last forever. Just as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in our lives.

For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 2 Peter 3:5-7 (ESV)

In the days of Noah the judgment of the world took place through water. Noah's ark was the only way to be saved. The Bible tells us another judgment is coming but it is a judgment with fire. The only way to pass safely through that judgment is the ark of Jesus Christ.

Today, if you haven't trusted in Christ, I beg you to repent before it is too late.

Was this a worldwide flood?

Some people claim this was just a local flood. I believe this was a worldwide flood, just as the Bible describes. First, look at what we read in 2 Peter. If the perishing of the entire world by a flood is analogized to the perishing of the world by fire, neither of these were regional events. They were global events. If the ark came to rest on top of Mount Ararat, modern day Mt. Ararat is 17,000 feet tall. If all the high mountains were covered by water, that doesn't sound like a local flood.

Re-Creation

But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore. In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. Then God said to Noah, “Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark. Genesis 8:1–19 (ESV)

Put yourself in Noah’s shoes. The rains came down and the waters came up for 40 days. Then the ark floated around for another five months.

If I was Noah floating on the boat for five months spending most of my days and nights shoveling manure out of stalls for 39,000 animals, I would desperately want to get off a boat. After five months of seasickness and living with my in-laws I would begin to wonder if God had forgotten me.

Some of us feel this way. We are floating through life and we are in an uncomfortable position, like Noah in the ark. We have prayed for God to bring us through the hard times in life but nothing changed. You prayed for a spouse, but are still single. You prayed for a job but are still unemployed. You prayed for better grades but are still barely passing. You prayed for closer friends but are still alone. Has anybody felt like he or she was adrift and God forgot them? That is a Noah feeling.

The good news is God never forgot Noah. God knew all about Noah and the animals. This boat didn't have a rudder. It didn't have a motor. Who kept it from running aground? Who kept it from the top of a mountain tearing a gaping hole in the bottom of the boat? God was watching over Noah the whole time, but God had Noah wait five months until the right time for him to unfold his plan of bringing Noah to a new world. It is the same way for each of us. God hasn't forgotten us. For many of us he is waiting for the right time to unfold his plan. Remember that even though we may feel adrift like Noah, he hasn't forgotten us. Sometimes we will drift for a long time. We can trust his timing.

When the text says God remembered Noah, in the Hebrew remembering means God began to unfold a plan of action. God corked the deep. He shut off the rains. The wind began to blow to put the waters into the places God wanted them.

The first thing Noah did after getting off the ark was not look for a McDonald's. It was not take a nap. He worshipped. He worshipped God for his grace in saving his life and the life of his family. He even sacrificed clean animals

in worship. He wasn't concerned that they were near extinction. He worshipped God for saving his life and his family.

My friends, worship of God is the proper response to God coming to the rescue and saving our lives. If you win a football game, stop and worship God. If a family member recovers from illness, stop and worship God. If you get a job, don't just run to work, stop and worship God. Whenever God carries you through something, let it drive us to worship.

Conclusion

How can we take this story into our week?

1. Noah and the ark teach us what God has done for us through Jesus.

because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ... 1 Peter 3:20–21 (ESV)

Just as there was a judgment of sin upon the world in the past with water, there is a judgment of sin coming to the world in the future with fire. Just as the ark brought all eight people safely through that judgment, Jesus Christ is the only way to pass safely through the coming judgment. Peter said baptism is a picture of this. It is not the act of baptism that saves us but it is the appeal to God for forgiveness of our sins through Jesus that saves us.

Today, judgment is coming. I plead with you to trust in Jesus. Confess your sin to God. Just as Noah pleaded with his generation to repent of their sin and enter the ark, I plead with you in our generation to repent of sin and enter the ark of salvation, which is faith in Jesus.

2. Noah and the ark teach us that a life of obedience won't fit in with our culture.

If you follow God's Word in your life, it will set you apart from the crowd.

The Bible describes us as aliens and strangers in this world. It was true then, and it is true today. If we follow God, he will call us to be separate from the culture in which we live. Sometimes we will be mocked. Sometimes our kids will be mocked. Sometimes people will think we are nuts. Expect it. Face it courageously for the long haul.

3. Noah and the ark teach us that a life of obedience will encourage others to follow God.

God didn't speak to Noah's sons and daughters-in-law. God did not speak to Noah's wife. What caused them to follow Noah? It was the radical obedience of his character. My friends, radical obedience is contagious, especially to your kids. Parents, the best way to teach your kids to follow Christ is for them to see you living a life of obedience that costs you something.



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