

God Saves
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Genesis 6:5-9; 11-18; 7:11-14

Noah and the flood...every kid in Sunday School knows the story and has a mental picture of that little boat with giraffes sticking their heads out of the top! But there's more to the story than Noah, the Ark, the animals, and the flood. It's also the story of US. You and I didn't build a big boat; herd the animals; and ride out the flood. But you and I have more in common with Noah than we might think.

The big idea: God wouldn't be God if He didn't judge sin. God also wouldn't be God if He didn't extend His amazing GRACE to those who trust and obey Him. People like US!

Let's begin with verse eleven of chapter six. We'll ask: What does it say? What does it mean? And how should it change us this week?

Genesis 6:11–18 (ESV)

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³ 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. 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. ¹⁶ 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. 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.

Genesis 7:11–14 (ESV)

¹¹ 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. ¹² And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ 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.

- Verse eleven gives some encouragement as we get older: God gave Noah 120 years to build the ark and preach (1 Peter 3:20), which means he was 480 years old when he started (7:11). The flood came in Noah's 600th yearⁱ
- Let's spend a few minutes talking about the Ark and the flood. After all these centuries people still have lots of questions.
- First, just how large was Noah's Ark? Verse fifteen gives the dimensions in cubits. A cubit was the measure from the finger tips to his elbow. Let's put that in "today" terms. Based on the biblical specifications, we could go to the top of a five-story building, and look down. The Ark was about that height.

- We could go to a football field. The Ark was one and a half times this long.
- We could go to a six-lane superhighway. The Ark was about this wide.
- No wonder it took Noah and his sons some 120 years to build this great boat God commanded them to construct (cf. 6:3).ⁱⁱ
- It's not unreasonable to believe a boat this size could float. The ancient Greeks built vessels at least this size. China built huge wooden ships in the 1400s that may have been as large as the Ark.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **How could Noah and his sons have built such an Ark?**
- **How could Noah round up so many animals?**
- **Were dinosaurs on Noah's Ark? If so, how did they fit?**
- **How could Noah fit all the animals on the Ark? (Hint: "kinds")**
- **How did Noah care for all the animals?**
- **Where did all the water go?**
- **Was the flood a "global" flood?**
- **How long did the flood last?** <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-timeline/biblical-overview-of-the-flood-timeline/>
- (If you just have to have the answers (☺), here is a link with a TON of info from Answers in Genesis: <https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/global/was-there-really-a-noahs-ark-flood/> .)
- **Do you believe it really happened? Want to know why I do?**

Matthew 24:36–39 (ESV)

³⁶ "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For 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, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

- "One's view of the Flood is not a test of orthodoxy. Nor is the view of the Flood the critical teaching of this passage! The true message of Genesis 6–9 is that we do live in a moral universe. God is a moral judge, and He will punish sin!"^{iv}
- We don't study the Bible for information. We study our Bibles for "life change."
- I said earlier this isn't just a story of Noah, the Ark, the animals, and a flood; and that you and I have more in common with Noah than we might think.
- Let's look back at verses five through nine of chapter six.

Genesis 6:5–9 (ESV)

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. ⁶ And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ 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." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. ⁹ These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

- **Verse five: What was the problem God observed? How bad was it?**
- **Verse six: How did God feel about it?**
- **Verse seven: Why did God HAVE to take such extreme measures?**

Martyn Lloyd-Jones wrote: “God and sin are eternal incompatibilities.”^v

John MacArthur writes:

“The Bible teaches that all calamity is due to sin. Everything that is wrong is wrong because we are sinful people living in a sin-cursed world...all the calamities from the Flood on through all of human history at every level, whether they’re personal calamities, or global calamities, all of them are due to sin. And if you don’t understand the role that sin plays, then you can’t understand why things are the way they are.”^{vi}

- MacArthur points out several principles about how sin brings calamities:
 - First, We have disasters, illness, and suffering just because we live in a fallen world and not because someone did something really bad.
 - God sometimes brings special calamities on man as divine judgment.
 - He never does it without warning (Noah preached for 120 years); and a long period of patience. So patient we might think He doesn’t care.
 - God brings judgment on His own initiative when in His mind iniquity is full.
 - MacArthur adds: “All the historic calamities in scripture are a preview of the ultimate calamity when God sends Jesus to destroy sinners at the end of human history. He will punish individuals, He will punish groups, He will punish cities, He will punish nations, and He will punish the globe when in His mind iniquity is full.” “What God did with water; he’ll do with fire.”^{vii}
- God MUST render judgment against sin, but He’s not just about judgment.
- **Verse eight: What else did God do that is ALSO central to His character?**
- I like the way the NKJV renders verse eight: ⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. **Why would Noah need grace (especially based on how he was described in verse nine)? How significant is the word “found?” What does that tell us about how Noah received this grace from God?**
- Most Bible students assume that Noah found favor/grace BECAUSE of how he was described in verse nine. Here’s another perspective. Could it be that the way he was in verse nine was BECAUSE he found God’s grace? Isn’t that true of us?
- Note that verse nine says Noah was “blameless in his generation.”
- **Is blameless the same as sinless? How can this apply to Christians today?**
- Ephesians 1:4 tells us: ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. (ESV)
- Noah wasn’t sinless; neither are we. Noah was blameless; we can be too!
- Verse nine: Noah “walked with God.” When you walk with someone you’re not running ahead or lagging behind. You’re not wandering off on a different path. You’re going in the same direction; on the same path; at the same pace. It’s like a little child holding Mom or Dad’s hand and walking right beside them.
- When we “find” the grace of God, and obey, then we need to walk with Him.
- We can’t forget that the whole Bible is about Jesus! **How does the Genesis account of the flood point us to Jesus?**
- One commentator said, three aspects of God’s perfect salvation are illustrated in Noah’s deliverance. The account points to (1) a perfect plan, (2) perfect protection, and (3) perfect provision.^{viii}
- Paul summed up the problem, the plan, and the promise for us in Titus 3:

Titus 3:3–7 (ESV)

³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

So, What's the Takeaway?

The account of the great flood is:

- A picture of God's hatred of sin and the certainty of His Judgment on it.
- It shows His patience in dealing with sin (giving people 120 years to repent.)
- The sparing of one family demonstrates God's saving grace.
- And the flood [itself] reveals God's rule over nature and over humanity.^{ix}

Here's how it applies to you and me, this week:

- God wouldn't be God if He didn't judge sin.
- God also wouldn't be God if He didn't extend His amazing GRACE to those who trust and obey Him. He did that through Jesus' death and resurrection.
- You and I have more in common with Noah than we might think:
 - Like Noah, we're sinners who can only be saved by God's grace.
 - Like Noah, we can't earn our place in the Ark of salvation. We discover grace and simply walk through the door Jesus provided.
 - Like Noah, we're not sinless but we CAN be blameless.
 - Like Noah, to be blameless, we need to "walk with God."

ⁱ Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Ge 5–8). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

ⁱⁱ Richards, L., & Richards, L. O. (1987). *The teacher's commentary* (p. 39). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

ⁱⁱⁱ The New Answers Book – Answers in Genesis – Ken Ham

^{iv} Richards, L., & Richards, L. O. (1987). *The teacher's commentary* (p. 43). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

^v The Gospel in Genesis: From Fig Leaves to Faith By Martyn Lloyd-Jones P.119

^{vi} John MacArthur sermon: <https://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/90-255/the-destruction-of-mankind-part-1>

^{vii} *ibid*

^{viii} Smith, J. E. (1993). *The Pentateuch* (2nd ed., Ge 6:11–9:17). Joplin, MO: College Press Pub. Co.

^{ix} Huey, F. B. (1998). The Flood. In D. S. Dockery (Ed.), *Holman concise Bible commentary* (p. 10). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.