

INFINITE DEPTH: *REVISITING CLASSICS FROM GENESIS*

GENESIS 6-8

Noah and the Flood

Gen 6:5-13

5 The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the Lord said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

9 This is the account of Noah and his family.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. 10 Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. 12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. 13 So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

Genesis 7:17-18

17 For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the Ark high above the earth.

18 The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the Ark floated on the surface of the water.

Genesis 8:1,18-22

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the Ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.

18 So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. 19 All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the Ark, one kind after another.

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. 21 The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

Question #1 Argue that the devastation caused in New Orleans in 2005 was caused by man's corruption and not by a force of nature. What do Genesis 6:5, 8:21, and Psalm 51:5 teach us about the level of corruption the human heart is capable of? Unlike the Dutch, the New Orleans government did not invest in the infrastructure necessary to keep the city safe. the Bible passages reinforce the fact that even the youngest sons and daughters of Adam are corrupt.

Question #2 How does Genesis 6:2 defend the idea that some of the corruption that caused the Flood was due to poor parenting? How was Mr. and Mrs. Noah's job as parents infinitely more difficult than Christian parents have today? Parents tolerated marriage based on physical attraction rather than common faith in the savior. Noah and his lady did not have the blessing of support from Christian support. No church, no school, no Growth Group because they were the church.

Question #3 Noah and his wife were not like the rest of their peers. Genesis 6:9 indicates that they were similar to Zechariah and Elizabeth of Luke 1:6. Explain how both families could be described in those terms. How can your life as a Christian be a train wreck, and yet you are still "righteously complete"? Find three examples of this as you scan Hebrews 11. Both couples were Holy in God's sight even though their spouse knew the other was far from holy. Jesus covers his people with his righteousness so his Father sees nothing but perfection when he views those "floating" in Jesus love. In Hebrews 11 look for examples that the Bible shows us to be sinners yet in faith are "righteously complete."

Question #4 How could one explain to a skeptic, or my own doubting heart, that the Great Flood occurred? Check Matthew 24:37-39

- "2 of every kind" is an important phrase. Not 2 German Shepherds and 2 Labradors, 2 canines. Many kinds live underwater. 13,000 land kinds averaging the size of sheep. Math definitely works.
- We have record of over 200 catastrophic world flood accounts from different ancient people groups. Most have massively similar details. Taken together, this clearly points to the reality of a global flood in the ancient world. This global flood then also accounts for fossil records, mountain ranges, and climate patterns.
- If Moses wrote this around 1500 BC, what do we do with other flood accounts that came before his? Why should his be most reliable? Well, stories are often written to "set the record straight." It makes sense that Flood myths were crossing the earth, and God inspired Moses to record an accurate account to clear up the confusion.

Jesus himself put his stamp of approval on the fact that the Flood was real.

Question #4 A loving God must be a judging God. Someone who claims to love you **MUST** intervene to protect what they love: because they **SHOULD** experience anger when something they love is threatened. How is God's anger always tied to his love for people? Answers will be many...the focus should be the preservation of his saving promises.

Question #5 How does the concept of divine judgement upset you? Who else recoiled at the thought of divine justice? See Matthew 26:39 Answer will vary. Jesus himself asked his Father if there could be an alternative plan.

REDEEMING LOVE DOES NOT FLINCH TO PROTECT WHAT IT LOVES!

Question #6 Why could we call the inhabitants of the floating barge “precious cargo”?

Focus on preservation...preservation of the Word, preservation of the line of the Savior, preservation of all the species.

Question #7 Noah's first concern as he left the Ark was to build an altar and offer a sacrifice of thanks to God. How was Noah's act of worship a blessing to you and me in the light of question 1? Despite no change in the hearts of the inhabitants of the planet...God will allow all a “Time of Grace”.

Finally, once you're in the Ark, you've got to start relaxing. You must live as if the judgment on you is over. Because if you're a Christian, if you're in the Ark, if you are found in Christ, **“There is NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 8:1)** The one judgment of life that matters IS over. Nothing can ultimately hurt you – no sickness, no failure, no criticism can truly hurt you. Your judgment is wrapped up with Christ at the cross. His killing saved you. You're safe in his Ark.

Question #8 How does knowing that there is a divine Judge give you relief? How are you now able to treat people who have wronged you? Romans 12:17-21 Forgiveness!

Safe in his Ark we wait, we witness, and we worship. We wait with a realistic understanding of this world, knowing it is fallen just as we are, knowing God will one day bring justice, knowing the days here are temporary. We witness to the holy will of God in our lives, seeking to share the good news of Jesus Christ (his forgiveness, his love, his promises) with the inhabitants of this world, and witnessing to Jesus' coming restoration of the world by being good stewards ourselves. And we worship, because we know that God, by his grace, has invited us into the Ark. At the cross, Jesus offered a sacrifice so pleasing to God that he turned away his punishment from humanity. We are safe and secure from all judgment and every possible storm of life when we find ourselves in Christ.

Question #9 How does the impending “Judgement Day” jar us free from self addiction and absorption? Safe in his Ark we witness, and we worship!

Since we don't have to worry about ourselves we can focus on the Lord and others.

Closing Prayer – Make sure to take prayer requests for one another.