

In the Beginning...Noah & the Flood

March 11 & 14, 2010

Genesis 6-9

Intro:

- Our first child's room (actually, we still use the stuff today), putting up the Noah border
- all the pictures of Noah and the animals smiling
- We've relegated Noah and the Ark to a children's story
- We don't talk about it with the adults, we are missing some BIG stuff!!

- God is looking for those who will live righteous lives in an evil world!

A World Gone BAD! - Genesis 6:1-7

1) Then the people began to multiply on the earth, and daughters were born to them. 2) The sons of God saw the beautiful women and took any they wanted as their wives.

- When people read this passage...it's intriguing...there seems to be a mystery surrounding this and the next couple of verses!
- Who were the "sons of God"? The "daughters of men"?
- 2 theories, I start with the more fanciful, fascinating one!
 - 1) Fallen angels taking human women as wives... and making babies.
 - the offspring would be "god-like", powerful, inhuman
 - angels are created beings, by God...no where in scripture does it speak of an angels ability to create or pro-create with humans
 - 2) Tim set this up real well this past week with the lineage of Cain & the lineage of Seth. Cain's family & descendants are messed up, Seth's worship God!
 - Those who follow God are often referred to as His children, those who do not, children of men.
 - We see this all throughout scripture that whenever God's people begin to intermarry with those who do not worship Him, things go BAD!

3) Then the Lord said, "My Spirit will not put up with humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years."

- This gives us more context - God says he won't put up with humans...flesh! Not angels or demons!
- 120 years could be our lifespan...more than likely it would be 120 years from this point that the great flood would destroy all but Noah and his family.

4) In those days, and for some time after, giant Nephilites lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God had intercourse with women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes and famous warriors of ancient times.

- Again...this lends itself to the fanciful.
- However...all throughout scripture we have heroes such as David and his mighty men, Samson and so many others...none of which are the offspring of angels or demons.
- We don't know what was taking place genetically and environmentally, that was allowing people to live 100's of years, perhaps have greater size, strength and abilities.
- While this is fun to think about and might, (biggg maybe) could explain some of the histories and stories from other cultures...the interpretation of these things are not pivotal to our faith.
- Caution: Don't let this stuff shake you!

5) The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. 6) So the Lord was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart.

- Sin had its way! The world was fallen. Evil. Depraved. Wicked.
- It broke God's heart. This is a physical description to help us understand God...He loves His creation. He loves mankind. And it broke His heart to see us turn our backs on Him.

7) And the Lord said, "I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them."

- Judgement of all creation.
- This is not a story of destruction, but a story of Grace!

The Man God was Looking For! - Genesis 6:8-16, 22 & Hebrews 11:7

8) But Noah found favor with the Lord.

- The word for favor is "grace"
- Noah was not perfect, but something about him...God was looking for!
- Hebrews 11:7, **"It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith."**
- It was faith!!

9) This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God.

- Remember, righteousness & blamelessness are not signs of perfection, but fruit of faith. Our walk with God is it!! Noah had faith in God. A CLOSE relationship with Him, that is what God saw that was different from anyone else.

- This again speaks to the idea that the Sons of God, those who followed God, intermarried with those who did not and now their own offspring and descendants had moved away from God, away from faith and into wickedness.
- With one exception...Noah.

10) Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

11) Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence.

12) God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. 13) So God said to Noah, "I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth!"

14) "Build a large boat from cypress wood and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. 15) Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. 16) Leave an 18-inch opening below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side, and build three decks inside the boat—lower, middle, and upper.

- Noah was already 500 years old! At least!
- God says, "I have a job for you."
- When God calls you to do something for Him...HE provides!
- Lots of hard work, lots of effort, sweat, blood and tears
- But Noah didn't do this by himself!
- This was crazy!! A big boat, out in the middle of nowhere, in a time when rain had never fallen! Can you imagine the conversation that Noah had with his family?
- Some of us dads are fearful to pray with our wife or children, to lead them spiritually.
- Noah had a great, humongous, gianormous task in front of him!
- How would he respond!?

22) So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

- Wouldn't you love to hear that about yourself someday? About your children? About your church?

A Fresh Start - Genesis 8:13-22

- The rains came, Noah, his family, the animals all get on the Ark...God shuts the 1 door, the 1 entrance into the ark and Noah and his family are saved! The flood came...imagine the destruction (you've seen footage from floods before...houses being swept away, people clinging for life onto trees). But there are some indications that Noah and his family never witnessed this portion, that once they were sealed in the ark, they would have to dismantle the ark to see outside and to the ground.

13) Noah was now 601 years old. On the first day of the new year, ten and a half months after the flood began, the floodwaters had almost dried up from the earth. Noah lifted back the covering of the boat and saw that the surface of the ground was drying. 14) Two more months went by, and at last the earth was dry!

- When the rain stopped, the boat had come to rest on the mountains of Ararat.
- Sends out the raven, the doves and discovers that the earth is drying.

- lifts back the covering...what a glorious moment that would have been!!
- Ever been a part of a lock-in with Jr. High or High School students? Remember walking outside the next morning!! That feeling x's a million!

15) Then God said to Noah, 16) "Leave the boat, all of you—you and your wife, and your sons and their wives. 17) Release all the animals—the birds, the livestock, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—so they can be fruitful and multiply throughout the earth." 18) So Noah, his wife, and his sons and their wives left the boat. 19) And all of the large and small animals and birds came out of the boat, pair by pair.

20) Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and there he sacrificed as burnt offerings the animals and birds that had been approved for that purpose. 21) And the Lord was pleased with the aroma of the sacrifice and said to himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of the human race, even though everything they think or imagine is bent toward evil from childhood. I will never again destroy all living things. 22) As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night."

- God makes a promise to never flood the earth or destroy all living things again...
- even though...everything they think or imagine is bent toward evil...sin is still there!
- In chapter 9, God confirms His covenant with a rainbow! Even today...we should remember the promise of God when we see a rainbow!
- But judgement is still coming...

2 Peter 3:5-7

"5) They deliberately forget that God made the heavens by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. 6) Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. 7) And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed."

God is looking for those who will live righteous lives in an evil world!

How can we distinguish ourselves in a world that all that it "thinks or imagines is still bent toward evil"?

1 Peter 3:13-21 - I'm going to read it...then give you

13) Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14) But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. 15) Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. 16) But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. 17) Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

18) Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

19) So he went and preached to the spirits in prison—20) those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. 21) And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

#1 - Be good...even if it hurts!

- might not be popular or cool
- might be rejected
- might lose that promotion

#2 - Put Jesus first! Above anything else!

- Lord of your life? Marriage? Job? Behavior? Time? Money?
- Jesus comes first!

#3 - Share your faith, with gentleness and respect!

- Don't bring in the "hired gun" ie. Pastor

#4 - Keep your conscience clear!

- If you are doing the right thing...
- If you treat people well...
- If you live with gentleness & respect

#5 - Get in the Ark!

- The Ark is Christ:
 - It saves!
 - It's the only way!
 - It brings you safely to new life!
- Jesus is it!

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Close in Prayer / Invitation