

7. God's judgement & deliverance

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There are some Bible stories we are so familiar with that we no longer get excited, nor we see any important point in them. Noah's Ark and the Great Flood are the case in point. Many of us have heard and knew the story of this floating zoo.

But we must ask ourselves a couple of questions:

- What do Noah's Ark and the Great Flood have to do with me?
- What does God want me to learn from it?

The story of Noah's Ark and the Great Flood is more than a Sunday School story. It is about God's judgement against the wicked mankind and His deliverance of the righteous.

Let's see what the Lord speaks to us about this.

A. THE GREAT FLOOD

Genesis 7:1-4 Then the Lord said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. 2 You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; 3 also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. 4 For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made."

Note that God told Noah to 'come into the ark' instead of 'go into the ark'. In other words, He was telling Noah to come into His presence, because God was already in the ark.

For seven days the world could have walked right into the ark and God would have saved them. All they had to do was to believe God.

Guess how many people came through that door? None. I am sure that there were a plenty of people who mocked at the obedience of Noah and his family to God.

Genesis 7:5-12 And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him. 6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth. 7 So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. 8 Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, 9 two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. 12 And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

What is the scientific, historical evidence for the Flood? I cannot tell you on this subject better than one particular book I highly recommend. It is 'The Genesis Flood' by Henry M. Morris and John C. Whitcomb. Both of these men are thoroughly qualified to write on this subject. John Whitcomb, Th.D., professor of Old Testament at Grace Theological Seminary, and Henry M. Morris, Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota,

professor of hydraulic engineering and chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering in the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, joined together and have written a book on 'The Genesis Flood'. They show that the Flood was universal, it was a great catastrophe, and there is historical evidence for it.

God never has a problem getting the animals to do what He wants. Only man is more stupid than the animals to ignore God's commands.

Isaiah 1:3 The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider.

By nature, I do not like rain. Actually, I despise it. I am so glad that we don't live in Washington State or Oregon State. They have rain all the time. I'd rather have any sun shiny day over rainy day. I know many of you think rain is soothing. Not me. If I can have my way, I'd love to see that God makes gigantic water pipes coming down from heaven to irrigate the world, not with rain. But He doesn't take my suggestion.

We don't get to have a whole lot of rain in Southern Arizona. Can you imagine having rain for 40 days and nights straight? This is when the great waters which were above the firmament broke up that was mentioned in Genesis 1:7. These waters formed the huge "blanket" of water in the upper part of the earth's atmosphere since creation.

Waters came up from under the earth also, no doubt accompanied by great geological catastrophe like earthquake. You may say, "What water from under the earth?" In case, you have not noticed, there are vast amount of water tables underneath of the earth that we pump out for residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural usage.

Gigantic tidal waves followed these eruptions that would make the last year's Indonesia's Tsunami look like a child play.

The number '40' becomes associated with testing and purification, especially before coming into something new and significant.

Genesis 7:13 On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark-- 14 they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. 15 And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. 16 So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

Noah did not have to shut the door on anyone's salvation. God did it. Just like that, it is never our job to disqualify people from salvation. It is a God's job.

God kept the door open until the last possible minute, but there came a time when the door had to shut. It is my earnest prayer that if you don't know Jesus as the Savior and Lord, you may not be shut out because of your stubbornness.

The ark was salvation for Noah, but condemnation for the world. There were no second chances for those left out.

Genesis 7:17-24 Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. 20 The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. 24 And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

Literally hundreds of people groups around the world have their own accounts of the flood. Since all mankind came from Noah's sons, all mankind remembers the flood. From Samo-Kubo tribe of New Guinea, the Athapascan Indians of America, the Papago Indians of Arizona, Brazilian tribes, Peruvian Indians, African Hottentots, natives of Greenland, native Hawaiian islanders, Hindus, Chinese, Egyptians, Greeks, Persians, Australian natives, the Welsh, Celts, Druids, Siberians, and Lithuanians they have their own account of the flood the following aspects of the story are common:

- 95% say the sole cause of the catastrophe is a flood
- 70% attribute survival to a boat
- 66% say that the disaster is due to man's wickedness

Before we get into the chapter 8, we need go over several things about the Great Flood.

B. PURPOSE OF THE FLOOD

As it was stated in Gen 6:5-13, because people had become corrupt and wicked, and the earth was filled with violence, God sent the flood in order to destroy humankind. There must always be judgment and death before there can be a new beginning.

C. THE TYPOLOGY OF NOAH'S ARK AND JESUS

- The ark is an illuminating picture of our salvation in Christ according to 1 Pet 3:18-22. The salvation and the ark were planned by God, not invented by humans.
- There is only one way of salvation and there was only one door in the ark.
- The ark was made of wood, speaking of the humanity of Christ. He had to be born as man in order to save us.
- The word for "pitch" in Gen 6:14 is the same as the word "atonement" used later in the OT. As the pitch around the boat sealed the water coming into the boat, the atonement of Jesus sealed us from condemnation.
- God invited Noah and his family into the ark as God opens His arms to invite us in.
- The ark saved not only humankind, but also the creatures within it, just as Christ's death will one day deliver creation from the bondage of sin according to Rom. 8:18-23.
- The ark saved Noah and his family from judgment because they believed God's promise - Heb. 11:7.
- As the waters buried the old world but raised Noah to a new life, 1 Peter 3:18-22 connects the ark with the resurrection of Christ.

- As Noah went out of the ark as the head of a new creation with his family, Christ came out of the tomb as the Head of the new creation.
- Just as Enoch was raptured before the judgment came, the church will be raptured before the wrath of God is poured out upon the world.

D. THE PROPHETIC SIDE OF THE GREAT FLOOD

Christ teaches that the days before the rapture and the Tribulation will be like the days of Noah. We are living in the “days of Noah” now.

But keep in mind that “the days of Noah” were also days of witness. In fact, God had told Enoch that judgment was coming, and he warned the people. And for the last 120 years of that period, Noah was preaching and preparing the ark. Today, God warns that judgment is coming, but few listen, and even fewer believe.

E. WHO’LL STOP THE RAIN?

Genesis 8:1-5 Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. 2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. 3 And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. 4 Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. 5 And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

It is not that God forgot Noah and left on His heavenly faucet. I’ve done that a few times and flooded my backyard and street. But He doesn’t have GVM syndrome. GVM stands for ‘Green Valley Moment’. God never forgot Noah. So who’ll stop the rain? God!

God brought His big hair blow dryer and dries up the waters from the earth.

F. THE RAVEN AND THE DOVE

Genesis 8:6-12 So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. 7 Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. 8 He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. 9 But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. 10 And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. 11 Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. 12 So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

What do you know? Noah found his new hobby - bird watching.

Why didn’t that raven come back? The raven was classified as an unclean bird according to the law of God in the OT.

The raven went out into a judged world, but he found a feast in the dead carcass because that is the thing he lived on. The bloated carcass of an elephant would

have made him a banquet. That is the picture of the old nature of man. The old nature loves the things of the world and feasts on them. But the problem is that we sow into flesh, we shall reap from flesh.

The dove is a clean bird in Scripture. The dove went out into a judged world, but she found no rest, no satisfaction, and she returned to the ark. The dove represents the believer in the world.

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Let me ask you this very personal question: What kind of bird are you? Are you a raven or a dove? If you are a child of God, you have both natures – but which one are you living in today? Do you love the things of God, or the world?

G. OUTSIDE, EVERYONE

Genesis 8:13-19 And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. 14 And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried. 15 Then God spoke to Noah, saying, 16 "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." 18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. 19 Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

Just a side note: The Titanic was built by professionals, but Noah's ark was built by amateurs. Guess which ship sunk.

Genesis 8:20-22 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. 22 "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."

Noah's first act after leaving the ark was not kissing the ground, but worshiping God through sacrifices. His gratitude and admiration of God's greatness and deliverance lead him to worship God.

I think God loves a barbecue. More pleasing to God than the smell of the sacrifice was the obedient heart of Noah in his sacrifice.

H. APPLICATIONS

- 1) We must remember that God gives plenty of warnings but eventually His patience ends and judgment comes.
- 2) True faith in God leads to obedience to Him.
- 3) True witness of Jesus Christ demands separation from sin of the world.