

Remnant Life Church
February 18, 2024
Obeying the Voice of God:
Noah
Genesis 6:9-22

READ – Genesis 6:9-22 (Dave Booth)

God speaks to Noah!

- In what Dave just read, we recognize that God spoke three primary things to Noah
 1. He is going to destroy all living things on the earth
 - a. There is ongoing debate whether it was a global, the then known world, regional, or local flood
 - b. There are physiological issues with a worldwide flood that are admittedly problematic
 - i. One of those is the amount of water required to cover the tallest peak on the planet by 20 feet (**Gen 7:20**)
 1. The volume of water would be an increase of the earth's current water level by 639 million cubic miles of water
 2. IOW the oceans would need to triple in volume in only 150 days rising approx. 16, 946 feet all over the planet
 3. Then, at the conclusion of the increase, it would all need to drain away
 4. How did that happen, and where did it go?
 - ii. This does not even begin to address how the over 21,000 species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals could be represented on the ark
 1. How long did it take for them all to physically get aboard
 2. How did 8 people care for all of those animals – feeding and watering them for the nearly one year they were on the ark
 3. Then, in the words of Bill Cosby and his famous routine of Noah and the Ark the question must be considered, "Have you looked in the bottom of the ark? Who's going to clean up that mess?"
 - c. How do you satisfy those questions?
 - i. By faith
 - ii. Faith in an all-powerful Creator God who is not bound by the limitations of our brains or our capacity for understanding
 1. If God can create the universe, is He bound by the laws of His universe?
 - a. As those laws relate to us? – yes
 - b. As they relate to Him? – no
 - d. So, the first thing that God tells Noah is that He is going to destroy all life on the planet
 2. As Noah is hyper-ventilating, God then tells him the second thing – everyone will die except you, your wife, your three sons, and their wives – 8 people

3. As Noah begins to breathe a little easier, God then tells him, “I have a little job I need for you to do for Me.”

There are a few questions I would like for us to look at this morning associated with each of those three things God told Noah...

- First, why did God need to destroy the world?
 - The text makes it clear that the problem leading to the flood was the wickedness of the human heart. (**Gen 6:5**)
 - The second half of that verse reads, *...every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.*
 - Listen to that description to understand the reason for God’s decision
 - Every inclination
 - Only evil
 - All the time
 - The author brings more detail in the **11th** and **12th** verses citing specifically violence and corruption
 - The word used for violence here in the OL is *KHah-Mahs*
 - This can mean anything from physical violence to social injustice
 - It can be a group or an individual
 - It can be physical, emotional, or psychological
 - The word for corruption is *Shu-heh*
 - When used in this way it is an indication of not only the evil of the deeds themselves but the great level of its activities
 - IOW – the advancement of sin that God is observing is at an apex of development, infecting every corner of civilization
 - While there are several interpreted usages of the word with multiple applications, they all share one point of definition – to spoil or spoiled
 - Sin has rotted and is continuing to rot God’s perfect creation to the core
 - And because God is righteous and just, He determined to wipe the slate clean as sin must be punished – it always was, and it always will
 - Man was fully and wholly responsible for the judgment of the flood that came
 - Today, are there two evil elements more prevalent in our culture than violence and corruption?
 - Recent shooting at the KC Super Bowl parade – 2 juveniles, both under 18, arrested
 - Corruption in our federal and state governments is rampant and regularly exposed, yet goes on unchecked and unpunished by those who are tasked to ensure integrity and honesty in our leaders

- BTW - something interesting and perhaps very appropriate – the highest rate of violent crimes in this country is found in the place of its greatest corruption – Washington DC
- The second question is - Why were Noah and his family spared?
 - Again, we told clearly in verse 9, ...*Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. (Gen 6:9)*
 - We see in Noah a man willing to stand apart, separate, and different than those around him
 - To live in righteousness often means that you stand alone
 - When everyone is doing one thing, you may need to do something different
 - If everyone else is saying one thing, you may need to remain silent so as not to participate or speak against the majority
 - Just because the majority believes or thinks one way does not automatically make that thing right
 - Do you think Noah heard anything negative or derogatory from his neighbors during the decades he spent building an unknown craft to be used for something that had never happened before?
 - Nothing like the ark had every been seen before
 - It had yet to rain for the first time up until the flood came
 - There is something that needs to be clarified in the description of Noah
 - In **Romans 3:10** we read, *There is no one righteous, not even one;*
 - Yet here is Noah being called righteous and blameless
 - The context of the verse in Genesis helps us resolve this seeming contradiction
 - Noah's righteousness and blamelessness is noted in comparison to the people of his time
 - Noah is not being called absolutely righteous or without sin
 - He is being called righteous and blameless on the scale of man's behavior
 - Nothing is written regarding the righteousness of his family, but there are only 2 possibilities
 - Either they are also righteous through the influence and guidance of Noah
 - Or they reap the reward of Noah's walk with God and are delivered as well
 - We see that second one demonstrated two other times in the Scripture
 - First in **Genesis 18-19** when Lot, his wife, and daughters are spared from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - And then again when Rahab and her family are spared from the destruction of Jericho after she hid the Hebrew spies and helped them escape. (**Josh 2:12-13**)
 - In each of these accounts, we see the nature of God on full display
 - He is just, righteous, and sin must be punished

- But He also shows His great love, goodness, and mercy by protecting His people
 - However, God did not give Noah, his family and even his faith a vacation through this time
 - Because God was going to require Noah to expand his faith even further
- The third question is – Why build an ark?
 - Why not just put Noah and his family in a safe place?
 - Because the ark itself was an exercise in faith
 - While the Bible does not specifically mention the absence of rain, it is more than likely that the rains of the flood were the first
 - The Bible does tell us that the waters came up from the deep and that rain fell “*from the heavens*” for 40 days and 40 months (**Gen 7:11-12**)
 - This means that Noah built a structure that was the largest man-made object to that time
 - It also means that nothing like that had ever been needed and would have made no sense to the people of that region
 - And it is not like Noah and his sons could have worked on this thing in secret
 - 450’ feet long
 - 75’ wide
 - 45’ high
 - Let’s put that into some perspective
 - If you were to place the ark inside a football stadium, it would extend 45’ out the back of each endzone
 - It would extend over 12’ past the sidelines
 - And would be nearly the height of a 5-story building
 - This massive structure was made entirely of wood with a coating inside and out of pitch or tar
 - Interpretations vary on how long it took to build
 - Most scholars agree on a range from between 55 to 75 years to complete the ark, supply it, and load the animals.

Many today doubt that the flood took place in the way the Bible describes it

- They question the physical aspect of the flood, the ark, and the animals
- They claim there is little to no scientific evidence to confirm it happened
- They find excuse after excuse to tell you why it did not, could not have happened
- Except for the one thing every one of them omits
 - The presence and power of all-mighty creator God

Do I believe that the flood occurred as the Bible tells it?

- Yes, I do!
- Why? – several reasons
 - First, the Bible is unique in so many ways, and one of those ways is you must either believe all of the Bible or none of it
 - There is no picking and choosing what you feel comfortable with

- If it is The Word of God and God is perfect so too must His Word be perfect
 - If the Bible says that the flood took place I believe that is the truth
 - Second, Jesus refers to the flood
 - It is recorded twice that Jesus referenced the flood, Noah, and the ark when He said that the days of Noah will be similar to the time of the coming of the Son of Man. (**Math 24:37-38; Luke 17:26-27**)
 - The author of **Hebrews, I and II Peter** also reference the flood
 - Finally, the story of Noah should also be seen not only as an example of the justice and mercy of God, but of a forerunner of the salvation offered to man in Jesus Christ
 - Once again, man is in danger of dying
 - God calls for judgment against sinful man
 - But He then, in His love and compassion, provides a way to be saved
 - And that offering is left for us to choose or reject
 - I wonder if Noah pleaded with his neighbors to reject their sinful lives, seek forgiveness through repentance, and then be saved by joining them on the ark?
 - We do not know Noah's actions while he was building but we do know that no one but those eight survived
 - But each person today is also given the option to accept or reject the offer of God's Son, Jesus Christ
- When considering the story of Noah and the Ark...
 - The focus of the story is not about the flood
 - It is not about Noah and his family
 - It is not even about the ark and all of the animals
 - It is about God
- Not an angry God who, in a fit of rage destroys the world
 - It is the picture of a loving, merciful and kind Father God who spared His creation
 - He is a God of love and a God of justice
- The path we must also follow is the one shown in the NT
 - The flood should a reminder to us of the final judgment
 - It should quicken our hearts to pray for the lost
 - To demonstrate God's love every day and be quick to share the good news – the Gospel – of Jesus Christ so others might be saved
- Noah's story is one of faith
 - The faith of a man who stood against the sin of the culture
 - And the faith of the reader today to believe in the power of God and accept the truth of His love and care for us
- Hear His voice, set your heart and mind to obey, and then act on what you have been told
- Noah did all those things, and the line of Jesus was preserved to bring salvation to the world and forgiveness for our sins
- It is a part of the continuing love story of God for you and for me culminating in the giving of His Son to die so that we may live one day in eternity with Him