



BEGINNINGS

A Study of the Book of Genesis

Sanctuary Bible Studies – Woodbury Lutheran Church

Session 6, "Noah and the Flood" (Genesis 6-7)

1. THE STATE OF THE UNION (6:1-7)

- Vv. 1-2: We've moved from "and it was good" to "and it was not so good." This is the first description of how the state of humanity had degraded from God's original plan in the Garden of Eden.
- Vs. 3: A challenging Hebrew phrase to translate. Most current scholarship leans toward the translation, "my spirit will not remain in man forever". It seems that this decision marks the beginning of shorter life spans. Though it seems to have gradually taken effect. See Genesis 11:10-26. Another argument is that when it says that man's years will be 120 it is referring to the 120 years people will have before the flood comes.
- Vs. 4: Nephilim, a Hebrew word used most often to refer to people of great stature or strong warriors. The literal translation is "fallen ones". The Concordia Self Study Bible notes that though they were known as heroes of old they were considered to be sinners in the eyes of God.
- The "Sons of God" is a highly debated Old Testament phrase. It has been used to refer to both humans and angels. Job 1:6 and 2:1 and some believe Psalm 29:1 use this phrase to refer to Angels. According to the Self Study Bible, "others maintain that intermarriage and cohabitation between angels and human beings, though commonly mentioned in ancient mythologies, are surely excluded by the very nature of the created order." See Mark 12:25. Texts that refer to them as human beings are: Dt 14:1; 32:5; Ps 73:15; Isa 43:6; Hos 1:10; 11:1; Lk 3:38; 1Jn 3:1-2, 10. Those who say that they were human beings would categorize the "Sons of God" to be the descendants of Seth and the "Daughters of Men" to be the descendants of Cain. If there really were offspring of Angels and men the argument is that Noah was not of that line and therefore they were completely destroyed in the flood. Jesus words in Matthew 22:30 say that angels do not marry. Therefore it would be impossible for these "Sons of God" to be angels.
- Vs. 6: We see not God's anger so much as we do his grief. Note that His heart was not filled with anger but with pain. Why? By living this way men were not just rejecting to follow God's commands, they were rejecting Him. People created to be in communion with God whose hearts had so turned away from Him that they thought of nothing but what was evil in His sight.

2. A LONER NAMED NOAH (6:8-12)

- Vs. 8-9 And then there was Noah. "A righteous man, blameless among the people of his time." Noah must have stood out like a sore thumb. Noah's blamelessness here does not refer to being perfect, rather being blameless in God's sight. We can't say that this is because he is blameless in comparison to the rest of the world because God's standard is perfection. Noah's blamelessness in God's eyes came from his obedience to God's command. In a time when

everyone was looking to please themselves, Noah stood out as the one who was seeking to please God.

- Vs. 10-12: Interestingly though the passage mentions Noah's sons it does not talk about them as blameless. Though they are also brought onto the Ark it could very well be under the umbrella of God's promise to Noah and nothing to do with their own righteousness before God.
- Noah is also mentioned in Hebrews in what many call the Faith's Hall of Fame. (Hebrews 11:7) 2 Peter 2:5 calls Noah, "a preacher of righteousness" implying that he not only built the Ark but preached to the people about what God was going to do.

3. **BLUEPRINTS FOR DISASTER AND SALVATION (6:13-22 – 7:10)**

- It took Noah 120 years to construct the Ark. There are two interesting points to be made about that. One is that it is quite a testament to the obedience of Noah because building a giant boat where there was no water to be seen could not have been good for his social life. Secondly it speaks to the fact that God gave the people 120 years of warning. As is noted in the next point he is the God of the second chance.
- With his mind set on destroying man he gave them fair warning and a chance to repent. After 120 years of speaking through Noah and the Ark he was building Noah remained the only blameless one.
- See Vs. 7:4; 7:10 and 7:16. Even after Noah and his family had entered the Ark God left the door open for 7 days. Shutting it just before the flood came. Maybe one last chance.
- Though this was a plan for destruction God continued to keep his promise of salvation and maintained his covenant through Noah.
- Many people liken the flood to baptism. In both there is a cleansing through water. And God's promise of salvation is kept.

4. **AND THEN CAME THE STORM (7:11-20)**

- The literal translation is "and the windows of heaven opened". Water came from above and the waters of the deep from below gushed out. Interesting point. Where did the water come from? If the earth was completely spherical water would cover all of the land by more than a mile in depth. There is a theory called the Canopy theory which believes that there was a canopy of water that covered the earth before the flood.
- Is there any archeological evidence of a worldwide flood? Large coal deposits point to a large water movement of vegetation. Flood would explain where the large amounts of water that froze over land came from. Recent natural disaster at Mount St. Helens shows how quickly strata and fossilization can occur in a large tragedy. There are many spots where Fossil are found together as if they had been quickly buried there and covered. Ever wondered why there aren't fossils for every thing that once lived. It takes extreme events to create them. Mammoths found buried in the ice. Mount Everest has Marine fossils at it's peak.

5. **AND THEN THERE WERE EIGHT (7:21-24)**

- And all that was left of the human race were the 8 people on the Ark. A cleansed world. A second chance. A new beginning.

1. **God is always faithful to His promises.**

2. **God's invitation of love and grace is always open to those who respond to His call.**

