
GENESIS: IT ALL STARTS HERE

SALVATION THROUGH JUDGMENT

GENESIS 5:1-8:22

6:5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. **6** And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. **7** So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." **8** But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. **12** And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. **13** And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. **14** Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. **15** This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits [about 150 yards or 450 feet], its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. **16** Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. **17** For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. **18** But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. **19** And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female.

7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. **12** And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. **13** On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, **14** they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. **15** They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. **16** And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

22 Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. **23** He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. **24** And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

8:1 But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided.

13 In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. **14** In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. **15** Then God said to Noah, **16** “Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. **17** Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm 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 beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark. **20** Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. **21** And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. **22** While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

INTRODUCTION

Many people who have any familiarity with Christian beliefs are quick to point out God’s gracious salvation. When confronted with their own sin and guilt, they may proclaim, “God forgives!” This is certainly true, but this is not the whole of it. In the Bible, we are given a view to God’s pattern of dealing with sinful humanity. God always saves and judges simultaneously. God regularly brings a great salvation through (or in the midst of) agonizing judgment. The Flood of Noah’s day exemplifies this pattern, and we may benefit from its warning and its promise.

SETTING THE STAGE

There is a story told¹ of two farmers who had neighboring farms. One man was a Christian, the other an unbeliever. The Christian farmer faithfully observed the Lord's Day, not planting or working his fields on Sundays. He and his family always worshiped together with the rest of the church. The unbelieving farmer ignored God and tilled his farm seven days a week. At harvest time the unbeliever's farm showed a larger yield than that of his Christian neighbor. When he taunted his neighbor about this, the Christian farmer replied, "God does not settle his accounts in October." But eventually God does settle them.

MESSAGE OUTLINE:

(1) GOD SAVED AND JUDGED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN THE FLOOD

(2) GOD HAS A PATTERN OF SAVING AND JUDGING SIMULTANEOUSLY

(3) GOD HAS PROMISED TO SAVE AND JUDGE IN THE END

EXPOSITION:

(1) GOD SAVED AND JUDGED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN THE FLOOD

- THE WHOLE OF HUMANITY WAS JUDGED BECAUSE THEY WERE EVIL, WORTHY OF JUSTICE
 - Genesis 6:11-13 - "11 Now **the earth was corrupt** in God's sight, and the earth was **filled with violence**. 12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was **corrupt**, for **all flesh had corrupted their way** on the earth. 13 And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, **for the earth is filled with violence through them**. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth."
 - First, God owed humanity nothing from the beginning.
 - God is creator! Humanity is His created thing. God is not in debt to humanity simply because He created such a thing.

¹Hobbs, H. H. (1990). My favorite illustrations (p. 160). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

- Second, God would have been just if He had destroyed humanity after the first rebellious act.
 - God said that death would be the consequence for sin, and He was under no obligation to sustain life from that point forward.
 - Third, God authoritatively and rightly judged humanity as “corrupt” and “filled with violence.”
 - God’s holy righteousness demands justice against such corruption.
- NOAH AND HIS FAMILY WERE GRACIOUSLY SAVED BY GOD
 - We know that God’s salvation of Noah was by grace, and not works
 - Hebrews 11:7 – “**By faith Noah**, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, **in reverent fear** constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and **became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.**”
 - Noah “*found favor*” with God, like others who were graciously saved
 - Genesis 6:7-8 – “**7 So the LORD said, ‘I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.’ 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.**”
 - **Lot** “**found favor**” in God’s sight when he was spared in the midst of judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:19).
 - **Moses** and the Hebrew people “**found favor**” in God’s sight when God renewed His covenant with them and promised to grant His near presence to them (Ex. 33-34).
 - **Ruth** “**found favor**” in the sight of Boaz (who is a type or shadow of Christ) when he made special provision for her (Ruth 2:10).
 - **Esther** “**found favor**” in the sight of the king when she pleaded for his judgment against her people to be revoked (Esther 8:5).

- **Mary** “found favor” in the sight of God when the angel, Gabriel, announced that she would bare the Christ-child (Lk. 1:30).
- **Jesus** came to the synagogue and stood up in front of the crowd to read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus read, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, **to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor**” (Lk. 4:18–19). Then Jesus said, “**Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing**” (Lk. 4:21)!
- The Apostle Paul said, “We appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain... Behold, **now is the favorable time; Behold, now is the day of salvation**” (2 Cor. 6:1-2).

(2) GOD HAS A PATTERN OF SAVING AND JUDGING SIMULTANEOUSLY

- THE EXODUS
 - God sent one man as the messenger/mediator
 - Noah to his family
 - Moses to the Hebrew people
 - God judged the guilty, yet preserved some by His grace
 - Noah and his family were preserved, while everyone else died
 - Hebrew people were preserved, while all Egypt endured plagues and ruin
 - God demanded obedience from those He preserved
 - Noah and his family trusted God’s word, built the ark, and cared for the animals
 - The Hebrew people obeyed the Passover instructions and followed God’s presence away from Egypt

- THE CROSS OF CHRIST
 - God sent one man as the messenger/mediator – Christ Jesus
 - 1 Timothy 2:5 – “For there is one God, and there is **one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...**”
 - God judged the guilty, yet preserved some by cursing Christ in their place
 - Galatians 3:13 – “**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us...**”
 - God demands obedience of trust belief in the finished work of Christ
 - Romans 10:9 – “if you **confess** with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord** and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be **saved.**”

(3) GOD HAS PROMISED TO SAVE AND JUDGE IN THE END

- THE FLOOD IS AN EXAMPLE AND A WARNING OF COMING JUDGMENT
 - 2 Peter 3:5-7 – “5 For **they deliberately overlook this fact**, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, 6 and that by means of these **the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.** 7 But **by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire**, being kept until the day of **judgment** and **destruction** of the **ungodly.**”
- SOME INTERESTING PARALLELS BETWEEN THE FLOOD AND ULTIMATE SALVATION
 - The counterintuitive nature of belief
 - For some decades Noah was building a giant boat because God told him it would rain... Yet, it had never rained before.
 - Giving one’s self over to death
 - God commanded Noah and his family to leave home and family, livelihood and social expectation. God commanded them to go into a dark and lonely ark, which was conspicuously shaped like a giant coffin. God commanded those who would be saved to trust Him completely and give themselves over – even to death itself.

- Trusting one's self completely to the promise of God
 - It wouldn't have been good enough to know about the ark, to affirm that the ark would float, or to identify with the ark! Each one had to enter the ark, trust that the ark would save them, and give themselves over to the fate of the ark!

- THE PROMISE OF GOD'S PRESERVATION / SALVATION
 - 2 Peter 2:5-10 – “5 if **he did not spare the ancient world**, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes **he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly...** 9 then **the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous** under punishment until the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.”

MY PRAYERS

- May God forgive us for thinking lightly of His righteous judgment
- May God rekindle our hope and trust in Him, as the world around us spins on
- May God break our hearts for others, who remain in grave danger of suffering under God's judgment

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