

## THE GREAT FLOOD

Genesis 6, 7, 8

### INTRODUCTION:

We want tonight to think of the causes of the great deluge. And it surrounds a man who had tremendous faith.

In the last few days we have had terrifying reports of the awful flood in West Virginia. The toll continues to mount of the number of lives that have been lost. And some very heart-breaking stories have come out of this flood. A flood of several days rain plus 20" of snow fall caused the Dam at Lorado to break and a wall of water to pass down through the valley.

When we come to the great flood, there were many people lost, as in this flood in West Virginia. But the remarkable thing about the great flood, there were only 8 people saved. All the rest perished.

As we study this chapter, we study about this man Noah, the 8th person. A preacher of righteousness. 2 Peter. 2:5. Peter, in the New Testament, makes this important addition to our knowledge of Noah. He was a preacher of righteousness. Moses tells us a great deal in his chapters about Noah. And at the conclusion of the flood, Noah became a planter of vineyards. And an owner of vineyards in old age. But with only 8 souls saved, and some of them scarcely saved, As a preacher, myself, I am deeply interested as well as some of you - in asking myself why it was that Noah was so signally unsuccessful as a preacher.

Was it because that it was righteousness that he preached. That may very well have been it. Or as my experience goes, righteousness is one thing that hearers will not have on their hands. They enjoy preaching on history, or even evangelistic

preaching. They will welcome that. But they all agree to refuse and resent the preaching of righteousness. The preaching of repentance and reformation. The preaching of conversion and conduct and character. They will not have it.

Josephus adds a supplement to Moses and what Peter says, and tells us that Noah preached and pleaded with them to change their dispositions, and their actions. He was afraid they would kill him.

On thing we are sure, Noah did not discredit his preaching by his life, as so many preachers, as well as Christians, do today. Noah and his testimony was that he walked with God. Quite often today, we hear some church leader get up and brag about this or that. But his life does not measure up to it. The Lord gave Noah instructions. And he followed those instructions as a preacher.

Now Noah not only preached his best and his most earnest sermon, at first - but as the end drew near. Every tree that fell in the forest, every plank that he layed in the Ark - every axe stroke. The echo of his hammer was loud. And all of this called the men of that day to  flee from the wrath and to come. But sad to say, the very men without whose's help the ark would have never been built - the very men who helped him cut the trees, plane the planks, and caulk the seams - these men failed to take passage on the ship. Noah, no doubt, employed some carpenters, as well as some blacksmiths to help him finish and decorate this Ark. But who all at the same time were on the outside of it.

He preached this sermon on righteousness until the last Sabbath. There had never been such a dry season since the memory of man. It seemed that the whole earth would dry up and die of famine. All the time, they were building the Ark, the Heavens were closed up. Had Noah preached on drought, this generation might have repented. But thousands might have turned, as it was, many was the day that

he went about his preaching and fell on his face and prayed that he might get some sign from Heaven.

Noah appears in a day when the world was sunken in iniquity. God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The Bible always deals with the source of things. And in describing the wickedness of that age, it does not mention particular acts of transgression but says that the heart of man, everywhere, was corrupt.

As a result of this corruption, there was violence. Violence always accompanies a heart that is spiritually declined. The crime wave in America gives evidence to the corrupt hearts of men.

Now in this universal wickedness, remember, there was one man who lived a Godly life. Noah found grace with God.

It is always hard to live a godly and righteous life. In some respects, I believe it is more difficult to be a Christian today than ever before.

One standard after another has been torn down. The principles have changed. To many, nothing is wrong. The only consideration that we place on things is, is it profitable. Is it a good time. Is it satisfying to the flesh. And men think on in terms of the animal instinct and the temporal.

Against the wickedness of his age, Noah registered the protest. Of a godly life, of a godly home, and a godly message. The world must be preserved. The world must be saved over and over again. And God saves it through individuals, through families, and through homes that are willing to pay the price.

As we look at these chapters in Genesis - Chapter 6. Here is the limit passed by world-wide race corruption.

Chapter 6:7 and 13, world-wide race destruction is announced.

Gen. 6:3, I Peter 3:19-20, a space for repentance is granted. A time of mercy is extended.

Gen. 6:14-22, The preservation of a remnant of the race for a new start.

Think first about the title to the earth. It was never an absolute title. But always subordinate to God.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam was a tenant and the Creator was the landlord. But Adam forfeited his title, because of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Man holds title to the earth as a steward or a tenant of God. And when the tenant disregards his relations toward God, then the title is no more his, and he is evicted.

Man had title in that he was to multiply and fill the earth according to God's law. Not by disobedience. But by legal ways.

This title said that he was to subdue the earth. Build cities, making inventions, and carrying on industry.

When you study chapter 6 in Genesis, you remember that first here is the title now held, not under the conditions of Adam's original probation, but here is the title under the conditions of grace. The title had lapsed because of Adam's disobedi-

ience. Noah had light in his day to maintain the title.

What Gospel light had the world before the flood. Many people under-estimate the degree of light. But a fair comparison of the brief record, makes it evident that this light was very great, and well understood by these people before the great flood.

They did not fall through ignorance, but by willful, persistent, deliberate transgression.

They had the external (light of nature). Psa. 19:1-6, Rom. 1:18-20, Acts 14:17.

They had the internal (light of conscience). Rom. 2:15.

What Gospel light did they have before the flood.

First, Gen. 3:15, a promise of a redeemer. They had defiled themselves, there was guilt and the penalty of sin. And Adam understood the promise, for he called Eve, his wife - the mother of life. And Eve understood this at the birth of her first son. Gen. 4:1.

Second, Gen. 3:24, there was a throne of mercy that had been established as a definite place, where sinful man might approach God by a new and living way to the tree of life. And God dwelt between the cherubim - at the East of the Garden of Eden. As a Shekinah, to keep open the way to the tree of life.

Third, there had been instituted the sacrifices as a means of approach to this throne. Gen. 3:21, 4:3,4. Adam and Eve must have understood this. We find

their children had been instructed in regard to the sacrifices.

Cain willfully misunderstood this and Jehovah waited patiently. And so the mark and the sign of pain was put on him. But he was protected by God's grace.

Fourth, the Sabbath privileges. Gen. 2:1-3, 4:3. There was a set time of worship. These people had this much light.

Fifth, there was the light of tradition. They had this light that was passed on. Because of the longevity of the early Christians. For 930 years the first man, the head of the race, was living, approachable, and able to tell - as doubtless he did a thousand stories of times and the wonderful relationship with God. Now this long life provided him with the opportunity to verify his testimony and his life over-lapped many lives. The power of this tradition and testimony was passed on.

There was six revelations and warnings through special commissioned prophets like Enoch, who preached and prophesied among the people. This, being associated with Godly people, offered light to these people.

Seventh, the preacher of righteousness, Noah, as well as the translation of Enoch, going to Heaven.

Eighth, the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Gen. 6:3.

Ninth, special space for repentance after the announced destruction - Chapter 6:3.

Now our Saviour, limits these people and says that their time on earth is about ended. Our Saviour declares this through his people - that they are the salt of

the earth. And he adds if the salt has lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted. It is therefore then good for nothing. But to be cast out and trodden under the foot of man. Matt. 5:13.

Ten righteous men would have <sup>saved</sup> Sodom and Gomorrah. There was only one. Gen. 18:32.

Gen. 6:3, and Jehovah said my spirit shall not strive with man forever. He also is flesh.

I want you to notice three things.

First, that God made his spiritual seed and conservators of the world. Those who worshipped Jehovah and were committed to the ministry of reconciling were to be the preservers of the earth.

The reconciling power, second, was vested in the Holy Spirit.

Third, if the world persists and despised the spirit's grace, then there was going to come a withdrawal of the Holy One when the measure of iniquity is full. The race must perish from off the face of the earth.

We may easy understand the limit, it is just where the salt of world preservation has lost its quality of saltiness. It has been so reduced, there is no power to effect the great mass of corruption. In plain words, it is just where God's people become so worldly minded as to nullify the force of their testimony. Their testimony is lost in the world's uproar and in the noise, and it grieves and it insults the spirit.

Now this approach of the withdrawal of the spirit was a gradual thing. If you

notice the development in Genesis, you discover the race deterioration. First, there was the nature of a deprived fallen Adam. There was the temptor who developed it and he brought about the infidelity of Cain, who rejected the whole plan of atonement. Denying that there was any grace, any need for a Saviour, or any need for regeneration. And he refused to approach God by this way and murdered his brother.

By going away from the presence of God, Jehovah, at the place of worship - he separated from the means of grace. Each generation waxed worse and worse - willfully being without God and without worship, and without a Sabbath. This brought about the violations of marriage.

6:1-2 Now the thing that you want to see is, that the limit had been passed, in corruption. Gen. 6:1-5. Men began to multiply on the face of the earth. Daughters were born unto them. The sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were fair. They took them wives of all they chose. And Jehovah said, my spirit shall not strive with you forever. Yet, shall his days be 120 years. And the sons of God came unto the daughters of men and they bear children to them. These men became mighty and renoun.

Now the final causes of deluge are here portrayed in vivid but a brief flash. We see how nearly all the salt lost it's quality of saltiness. And there was too little to overcome the mass of corruption. How this grieved and insulted the spirit - and the spirit is going to cease from striving with them any longer.

Because the law of reproduction is in the limits of species after their kind. The offenses that provoked the deluge are simply these.

The marriage of believers with infidels. The testimony for God was hampered.



And the salt lost it's savor. This was what Abraham sought to avoid in getting a wife for Isaac.

This is what the New Testament, 2 Cor. 6:14 - be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers, for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity. What communion with light and darkness. What concord hath Christ with Satan. What portion hath a believer with an unbeliever. Come ye out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord.

The sins of the sons of God, consist of entering into sacred marriage relations - brought on the sin of bigamy.

The result was this, the off-spring took after their mother instead of their father. They were full of worldly ambitions, they wanted to become mighty men. In this way, every source of gaining recruits to the Christian army was cut off. When the old Christians died, there were no younger ones to take their place. The salt deminished in quantity. Until Noah was the only one left.

In the meantime, men became unbridled with lawlessness, and violence.

They put physical development in the foremost. Now, if you took this product, in a prize fighter - you'd get a man of violence. The body is the main thing. And might is right. It is like saying I'm John L. Sullivan, Jessie James. Now these ill-assorted marriages would be like marrying Voltaire. The descendants of Cain were an irreligious race. The descendants of Seth intermarried with women of his race. And the union brought about character that was corrupt.

The withdrawal of the greed and the insulted spirit.

That the spirit would never woe these people again. There was going to be a withdrawal. He works through the ministry of the Word of God. Convicts them of sin.

But the (immediate influence ceases) - they are past feeling - they are carnal - they are given to the flesh.

Now, those who are spiritual tonight can understand why this withdrawal was made. Leaving them powerless. God says to his spirit, let him alone. Now some people may be praying for this sinner - God says, let him alone.

6:5 What did God see. God saw the wickedness of man. It was great - imagination of his thought, his heart, was evil. Every device of the thought of his heart was centered on evil. And it was only evil. And it was continually evil all day.

6:6 Now how did this sight effect God.

Gen. 6:8 tells us. And it repented Jehovah that he had made man on the earth and it grieved him and his heart. Now Jesus reveals the very heart of the father - he came for a purpose. And the grief of Jesus revealed the grief of the father. Luke 19:41 - it says that Jesus drew neigh and he saw the city and he wept over it. If thou hadst only known in this day, even thou the things which belong to peace, but now they are hidden from thine eyes.

Now God is not a man that he should repent. It means as men repent. A man may change his mind when he gets more light on a subject. God never changes his mind. Not in either of these considerations. He is unchangeable. When a man changes his mind, God changes his moral position toward him.

God was grieved to see the change which sin had made in the work of his hands. Once God said it was very good - now, how it had been altered. Man had done away with the Glory. He had marred his image. And this grieved God.

It grieved God that the dishonor had been brought upon man. Indeed, this was something that God wanted to repair, to heal.

God was grieved at man's misery. Man, who should have been happy, who should have been enjoying life - had now plunged into every kind of evil. And life was full of sorrows and God wanted to bless him.

It grieved God, because God had been so long-suffering with man. And had had (a preacher) of righteousness to preach to this generation and they paid no attention to what he had said. God truly, deeply feels. When God said through the prophet, how shall I give ye up. He shows how he feels. And when he comes and says to these people that my spirit must be withdrawn - it shows how he feels.

617 → God's judgement is announced. And Jehovah said, I will destroy man who I have created. From the face of the ground - both man and beast and creeping things, birds of heaven. And God said to Noah, the end of all flesh has come before me. The earth is filled with violence and behold I will destroy it from the earth. This is a (most sweeping) and inclusive judgement to be found anywhere in the Bible. As to man, God says I am going to wipe man from the face of the earth. All living creatures of the land - the cattle, the fowl, the earth which was made for man is going to be swept away.

This means (destruction). It tells us that he is going to destroy - I will bring The flood waters upon the earth. You remember that God had created the world out of the waters. He had separated the atmosphere - the waters above and the waters

6:17 below - and the sea and the land. And he had opened the windows. And now he told Noah that a flood was going to come. He was going to open the windows of Heaven - and let all the waters above come down. He was going to open the fountains of the deep and let this come forth.

But so much like God - he gave them (space for repentance.) His days shall be 120 years. This does not refer to the average limit to a man's life.

(Jonah) preached a message = yet 40 days and Ninevah shall be destroyed. In like manner here, (Noah) preached 120 years while God's spirit is going to strive - and this was space for repentance. And doom was to be averted by repentance. As it was in the case of Ninevah.

6:15 Now God gave a way of preservation for the race. Make these an (Ark) of Gopher wood. Room thou shall make in the Ark. Thou shall pitch it within and without. The length of the Ark shall be 300 cubits - the width 50 cubits and the height 30 cubits. The (door) of the Ark shall be set in the side thereof with lower second and third stories - shalt thou make it. Gen. 6:14-16.

Now this wonderful (vessel) occupied a large space here in the Bible story.

Now the same (Hebrew word), Tebah, which designates a vessel - a word that is used for the infant Moses - when he was preserved in that Ark. Exodus 2:3. That was a type of the Ark of the covenant.

6:14 Now Noah was to make an Ark and the same word was used to designate both of these vessels. It's material was to be durable and probably cypress - wood. It was to be waterproof within and without. It was to have a coating of pitch. It was (not) designed for sailing - but merely for floating. It's shape was best possible

for the purpose of carrying tonnage.

Now the cubit at 22" would mean that the Ark was about 547 feet long, about 91 feet wide, and 54 feet high. There was ample space for all of it's occupants.

6:18-19-20 God said it's occupants - Gen. 6:18-20 - Thou shall come into thy Ark, thy son, thy wife, and son's wives - every living thing. Two of every sort shalt thou bring into the Ark. Keep them alive with thee - male and female. Of every clean beast, thou shall take seven - seven, the male and his females. And of the beasts that are not clean, two. A male and a female. The birds of heaven, seven. Female and male. This was to keep the seed alive on the face of the earth. Gen. 7:2, 3.

6:21 Gen. 6:21 - Now some of this was to be food for Noah, which he had gathered and stored in the Ark.

The builder of the Ark was Noah - this man of remarkable character and faith. He was a just man. Perfect in his generation. His faith was marvelous.

Heb. 11:7 - By faith, Noah being warned of God concerning things not seen as yet moved with Godly fear, prepared an Ark. To the saving of his house - through which he condemned the world and became heir to righteousness which is according to the faith.

Now the time of the building, the common opinion is there was 120 years. Gen. 6:3. Peter mentioned while the Ark was preparing - I Peter 3:21.

There are great lessons connected with the great flood in Gen. 7. This is an actual account of a flood. And the rest of the Bible refers back to this quite often. We must take into account that this deluge is that which is complete

destruction of the world. That the world was to make a new start.

Now the New Testament tells us that the second deluge that is coming will be a deluge of fire - and this will also be universal.

Now, there was little different in the water level of the highest mountain on this globe - when you think about the height of the mountain and the earth - somebody has said that the difference is merely that of a rhine of an orange. Or perhaps as a coat of paint. And so, only a slight elevation of the bottom of the sea would be substantial to cover the whole thing. We know that at one time the water covered it all. In the first chapter of Gen. when the world was waste and void and the darkness was upon the face of the deep.

The fountains of the great deep broke up. The storm above sent down rain.

7:17 And Noah was 600 years old when the flood of water came upon the earth. And it rained for (40 days and nights). And the heavy rains of 40 days upon the earth, the water increased and rose the Ark. It rose up, and the Ark went upon the face of the waters. First it floated and then it moved, and the waters prevailed mightily upon the earth. For 150 days, and God caused the wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. The fountains of the deep and the windows of Heaven were closed. The rains were restrained and the water abated.

7:24 It came to pass that at the end of 40 days, Noah opened the window of the Ark and sent out a raven. And he went forth and returned - but he never came back to the Ark - just going to and fro. He sent forth a dove to see if the water had lightened, and he waited another seven days.

It is very interesting here that in the farmyards - you notice hogs run around

and pick up straw to make a bed just before the coming of cold weather. You notice the flight of birds in the winter time going south. You notice that rats leave a ship before it begins to sink. The instinct of these animals - was it to get into the Ark. Were they warned by instinct of the approaching storm. And they knew it was a place of safety. Or do you suppose that Noah had to round them up and get them in the Ark.

The character of this man was perfect. He walked before God by faith. And the man is going to start a new earth and make a new beginning. And there is not a sign in the sky above. For God told Noah, that this thing was coming - and he was looking at that which was invisible. One man went to work. Probably cost a large amount of money. People who did not believe in the flood, that it was coming, would not contribute anything. Noah probably put his own money, his own labor, his own hands, and maybe even employed some to help him. Faith steps out and works and done everything in the world that is necessary to be done.

The strength of Noah's faith, he stood alone against the judgement of the entire world. He was the only man who believed that the flood would come. And nobody believed in what he was doing - they made fun of him.

And 2 Peter 2:5 - tells that he was preaching righteousness, representing Christ and the Holy Spirit, and bearing witness. The man of faith stood there and preached to his neighbors 120 years, 119, ~~110~~, 10 years - and the end comes.

All of this was giving space for repentance. Down to that last seven days, his ministry stops. The Lord told Noah, you move in.

7:16 He moved in, the door was shut - then where was Noah. He was on the inside.

storm has not come. No rain, and seven days - and the day of grace has ended.  
No chance for anybody to be saved in that seven days - the door is shut. God shut  
him in. He is shut up and they are shut out. And a whole week passes.

Whenever the number of righteous men get so small that the salt cannot preserve  
the world - the testimony of the righteous becomes so low - then doom is on the way.

There are some lessons - where is the promise of the coming of the flood. Just  
as certain as the flood came and swept away the first world., it is going to come  
by the word of God though some of the crowd today does not believe it. It is  
certain to come and be destroyed by fire. And Peter goes on to describe that fire.  
The day will come when the earth also and the works that are therein, shall be burned  
up. If God could destroy the first world by the flood of water - then according to  
his Word, be assured, when the time comes, he can destroy it by fire.

*but Mayor Fred Buchwald - shot v. 874  
Friday night -*  
Matt. 24:37 - Jesus is talking about this as were the days of Noah. So shall  
the coming of the son of man. In the days of Noah men were eating, drinking, marrying,  
given in marriage - until the day that Noah entered the Ark. And they knew not until  
the flood came. So the coming of the son of man is going to come as a thief in the  
night. When people are not looking. People will be dancing, people will be  
quarreling, people will be raising taxes, people will be living in luxury, people  
will be given to the flesh and like lightning - his coming is going to take place  
when you least expect it. You can count on His promise.

This perfectly means that you can escape from the doom. No matter how it rained,  
no matter how high the water stood, the Ark represents Christ - and if we get in  
Christ and are shut up in him. Paul says I am dead - my life is hid with Christ in  
God.

The Ark also says, there was only one door. Noah did not have a door on the top



for the birds or a hole in the floor for the snakes to crawl in or a big gate for the elephants. There was just one door and the point in our preaching is - when Christ said, I am the door, I am the truth, I am the way - that is it!

The Ark says to us, that here is the same thing. At Mt. Sinai, when the first Ark was made of cyprus wood - this Ark was made of Acacia. And it was indestructible - and long lasting wood. The Ark was the mercy seat made at Sinai. The Sabbath Day runs all the way through as another seven days. Showing that long before Moses put into the Ten Commandments - remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy was a day that had been instituted and begun when God created the world for man, and man's opportunity of worship.

*People today yapping about the time it takes to find a place to berth? Remember it took Noah all of 5 months -*

8:4 Now the Bible says that the Ark rested on the 17th day of the 7th month. Gen. 8:4.

8:4 On that very day, later, the Israelites crossed the Red Sea. And on that day, a little later, Christ rose from the dead. You might investigate those passages about the resting of the Ark, the passing across the Red Sea, and the resurrection of Christ.

8:7 Dr. Fuller, of England, wrote a little note once about Noah sending out the raven. He said the raven represented a man getting out of the church who was never a Christian. He never wants to go back. He pictures that raven flying around, resting on some dead bodies, floating on the top of the water. And never desiring to return to the Ark of the Covenant.

*1st Ark - 7 days 2nd olive leaf 7 days 3rd not return.*

8:11 There is the dove with the olive branch which is a symbol of peace. And the dove a symbol of innocence. The rainbow as a symbol of hope.

8:20 A new covenant had been made for Noah. And Noah in the 8th chapter, the 20th verse - built an altar unto Jehovah and took every clean beast and every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on that altar. God said, I will no more curse

the ground for man's sake.

Noah comes before God as a sinner, making an offering.

The altar appears here in the Bible before God for the first time. And God blessed Noah and his sons and said, be fruitful and to multiply and fill the earth up again. Noah stands at the head of the human race like Adam stood and at this point, animal food is added. Before they had vegetables.

Someone perhaps might say, how did Noah and his household occupy themselves during the long dreary voyage. Well, they had no chess games, they had no newspapers, no novels, no T. V. I really don't have any idea how the family occupied themselves. I can perhaps say, with certainty, what Noah did. And he spent his time with things that people today have no taste or time for. Now, I think Noah passed a great deal of his time with prayer. If you had been there for this long voyage on the deck of this vessel, with your children with you, and those who were safe. I wonder what you would have talked about and how you would have spent the time. I imagine Noah's eyes were moist as the thought of those people that he had preached too, he had walked with God. And I expect that his sons went forth in the Ark with some wonderful memories, as they left, knowing that Noah was perfect before God.

9:13 The last thing is the token of God's covenant. The rainbow is selected as a token. People who had passed through the flood, might have been frightened by the next rain. But he left a token here that would be perpetual through the ages. It was to be beautiful, and beautifying in the heavens and wherever the water falls and the sunshines - and you are at the right angle of vision - you can see a token of God's infinite mercy.

Paul puts it if our Gospel is veiled - it is veiled in them that perish - in whom the God of this world had blinded the minds of the the unbelieving. That the light of the Gospel of the glory of God, who is the image of God, should not dawn upon them. 2 Cor. 4:3.

*2nd Dilige is To Be Fire!*

9:25  
Noah lived after the flood, 350 years. That would have brought him to about the time of Abraham. And he would have had a chance to talk to him about the over throw ~~of~~ the old world. The only man between Noah and the first Adam was Methuselah. Now Adam could have talked to Methuselah and Methuselah could have talked to Noah, and Noah could have talked to Abraham - so you see how easy tradition could have been sent down. Noah was ~~sealed with a rainbow~~. The ~~covenant~~ he made was to be there forever. The covenant which has been made for you has been ~~sealed with the blood of Jesus Christ~~. Are you under the covenant. John saw this rainbow round about the throne of God. This means that the judgement of God is for the sinner. But it is cancelled by the mercy of God. There is a rainbow of ~~God's mercy~~ round about the throne of justice. Are you under the covenant. Are you trusting in the mercy of God. And is the throne of God before which you stand a throne about which there is no mercy and forgiveness.

come thou

God said to Noah, /and all thy house into the Ark. He still says that today. Come into the Ark. The spirit and the brides say come and let him that hearth say come. And whosoever will, let him come and partake of the water of life freely.