

Lesson 5 – 28 February 2010

God's Judgment and Mercy in the Flood.

Lesson Scope: [Genesis 6-8](#)

Lesson Focus

The previous lesson contrasted the godly and the ungodly. As the earth's population increased rapidly because of man's long life span, the number of the wicked grew while the righteous became fewer. Eventually God was able to save just eight persons from among the multitudes of the ungodly.

Because of longevity, the overlapping lives of men in the early generations made it possible for Noah's father to hear Adam tell about the Creation and Fall of Man. A large number of people could have known both Adam and Noah. Information could pass verbally across eight generations. Therefore it becomes obvious that the intensifying wickedness and violence of the antediluvians age was not due to lack of knowledge. But it shows that evil grows progressively worse.

God was grieved to see man's relentless descent into the depths of sin and degradation. Before bringing judgment upon the world, God mercifully waited one hundred twenty years, allowing time for Noah to build the ark. This delay also afforded men an opportunity to repent of their wickedness. The catastrophic destruction caused by the world-wide Hood declare God's intense hatred for sin. But the marvellous deliverance of Noah and his family affirms God's gracious into rest in man's salvation.

This lesson will help us to readily identify with Noah and his family. They are typical of the church, which finds salvation in Christ. We who are part of the church today live in times quite similar to those prior to the Flood. Evil men are becoming more and more bold in their evil deeds. Wars, violence, and bloodshed continue to increase. Help your class to understand our obligation to the ungodly of our time. The world awaits, not another flood, but the final Judgment. We must act now while the door of mercy remains open.

Lesson Aim: To present principles of judgment upon the ungodly and of mercy upon the righteous.

Theme Verse: [Hebrews 11:7](#).

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Lesson Text.

The Wickedness of Man

[Genesis 6:1-8](#)

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, ²That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they *were* fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. ³And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. ⁴There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare *children* to them, the same *became* mighty men which *were* of old, men of renown.

⁵And 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. ⁶And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. ⁷And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. ⁸But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

The Flood of Waters

[Genesis 6:13-14](#)

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

¹⁴Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

[Genesis 6:17-18](#)

And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein *is* the breath of life, from under heaven; *and* every thing that *is* in the earth shall die. ¹⁸But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

[Genesis 6:22](#)

Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

[Genesis 7:1](#)

And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

[Genesis 7:11-12](#)

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. ¹²And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

[Genesis 7:19](#)

And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that *were* under the whole heaven, were covered.

[Genesis 7:21](#)

And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

The Mercy of God

[Genesis 8:1](#)

And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that *was* with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters receded;

[Genesis 8:13](#)

And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first *month*, the first *day* of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry.

Questions for Study

The Wickedness of Man

1. What conditions moved God to bring judgement upon the earth?
2. How did Noah find grace in God's eyes? what did Noah do?
3. How does God's Spirit strive with man?

The Flood of Waters

4. Why does God often allow some time to pass before bringing judgment?
5. What must one do to be saved in the Day of Judgement?
6. How can we help the many today who are unprepared for judgment?

The Mercy of God

7. What evidence do we find that God remembered Noah (Gen.8:1)?
8. In what ways does God preserve His people today?

Analyzing the Passage

The marriages of the "sons of God" to the "daughters of men" (Gen.6:2) likely indicates a mixing of the godly with the ungodly. This course produced ungodly offspring and accelerated the downward trends.

The giants and their children (Gen.6:4) had greater potential for either good or evil. The Bible record shows us that they devoted their might to evil purposes.

The statement "it repented the Lord that he had made man" means that God's attitude toward man had changed because of man's wholesale wickedness. Consequently, instead of continuing to grant His favors, God resolved to destroy man from the face of the earth. Noah was an exception. He "found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Gen.6:8).

The description of the great geological upheavals and the climatic abnormality that occurred during the Flood makes it clear that this was a unique event in earth's history (Gen.7:11-12). Truly those who believe that "all things continue as they were from the beginning, of the creation" (2 Peter 3:4) are willingly ignorant of both God's revealed Word and the obvious effects of the Flood that can still be observed.

Principles and Applications

The Wickedness of Man

1. Man's selfish and rebellious choices bring God's wrath upon him (Gen.6:2, 4-5). Since man's natural bent is toward wrong, he gravitates toward those things that please the flesh. Man's freedom to choose his

thoughts and actions is accompanied by an accountability to God. Those who disregard God's laws suffer the consequences of such a choice.

2. God's long suffering will come to an end for those who continually reject Him (Gen.6:3). God strives (contends) with those who choose to do evil but will pour out His wrath upon the unrepentant when they have filled their cup of iniquity. In His mercy God may delay judgment, but His long suffering will end when He decides that the wicked ones have filled their cups of iniquity full. We live in a world that awaits the final Judgment, at which point God's long-suffering will terminate.

3. Man's thoughts and actions are clearly known to the Lord (Gen.6:5, 8). Man can hide nothing from God. He sees and knows both the motive and the act. God's full knowledge ensures that His judgment will be righteous and just. The works of good men meet God's approval and will be rewarded. The works of evil men will serve as the basis for punishment.

4. God has the sovereign right and ability to bring judgement or to extend mercy (Gen.6:7). He knows men's hearts. He knows who will accept His mercy and who will reject it. He knows who will respond favorably to His acts of judgment. "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

The Flood of Waters

5. The pollution of violence brings God's judgement (Gen.6:13) Bloodshed is a great wrong that God will not overlook. The widespread violence moved God to destroy all flesh. The increasing disregard for human life in our time will surely incur God's judgment.

6. God gives ample warning (Gen.6:13, 17). Noah had enough time to build the ark, and the wicked were given time to repent before judgment fell. God's Word tells us how to escape the wrath to come through the work of Christ. Though the time of judgment will come suddenly as a thief in the night, it should not come as a surprise to those who believe the prophetic Scriptures.

7. God always provides a means of safety for the faithful (Gen.6:14, 18). God's eyes are on His servants, and He preserves them in the midst of judgment. Though God could have saved Noah without putting him to the task of building an ark, this building project gave Noah the opportunity to prove his faith by his obedience. The ark Noah built is a type of Christ, in whom our lives are hid and sheltered from the coming storms of judgment.

8. God's judgements are thorough and just (Gen.6:17-18, 7:21). Each person received the due reward of his deeds. God made no mistakes in judg-

ment. All the righteous people were saved. All of the wicked perished.

9. The righteous are rewarded for obedience and faith. (Gen.6:22; 7:1). The salvation of Noah, his wife, and family was a reward for years of faithfulness. Obedience always brings God's blessing.

The Mercy of God

10. God's judgements of the wicked are thorough but He continues to show mercy to those He has preserved (Gen.8:1, 13). God, who had delivered Noah and his family from death in the waters of the Flood continued to provide for their peace and security. The appearance of the rainbow assured Noah of God's interest in meeting his future need.

Important Teachings

1. Man's selfish and rebellious choices bring God's wrath upon him (Gen.6:2, 4-5).

2. God's long-suffering will come to an end for those who continually reject Him (Gen.6:3).

3. Man's thoughts and actions are clearly known to the Lord (Gen.6:5, 8).

4. God has the sovereign right and ability to bring judgment or to extend mercy (Gen.6:7).

5. The pollution of violence brings God's judgment (Gen.6:13).

6. God gives ample warning of coming judgment (Gen.6:13, 17).

7. God always provides a means of safety for the faithful (Gen.6:14, 18). S. God's judgments are thorough and just (Gen.6:17-18; 7:21).

9. The righteous are rewarded for obedience and faith (Gen.6:22; 7:1).

10. God's judgments on the wicked are thorough, but He continues to show mercy to those He has preserved (Gen.8:1, 13).

Answers to Questions

1. What conditions moved God to bring judgment upon the earth?

Men lived after the flesh. They did not respond to the striving of God's Spirit with them. There was increased wickedness, the mixing of the godly with the ungodly, the continuously evil thoughts and imaginations of men, and the prevalence of violence moved God to destroy the earth with a flood.

2. On what basis did Noah find grace in God's eyes?

Noah and his family were exceptions among the large masses of wicked people of that time. God noticed this family of eight righteous people and

showed grace to them on the basis of their righteous character (Gen 6:9; 7:1).

3. How does God's Spirit strive with man?

God's Spirit makes an appeal to man's spirit. God's Spirit works through man's conscience, condemning wrongdoing and approving right. His Spirit uses the presence of godly people to warn and convict evildoers. Today, God's Spirit dwells within each believer. The Holy Spirit speaks through the written Word and through the church.

4. Why does God often allow some time to pass before bringing judgment? There were several reasons why God granted time after declaring that He would destroy the earth with a flood. First, it gave Noah the time he needed to build the ark. Second, it gave the wicked an opportunity to repent. Today, God is giving men time to receive Christ and be saved from coming judgment.

5. What must one do to be saved in the Day of Judgment?

We find our salvation in Christ. Faith in God's provision is the basis for our salvation. One must obey God's commandments as Noah did. Like Noah, we will be saved on the basis of our obedience to God's directives.

6. How can we help the many today who are unprepared for judgement?

We can point people to Christ, to whom all must some day give an account. We can tell others of God's attitude toward sin and of His wrath upon all who live in sin. We can provide an example for them as we conform our lives to God's standards for conduct rather than living like the ungodly around us.

7. What evidence do we find that God remembered Noah (Gen.8:1)? God dried up the waters of the Flood, allowing dry land to reappear, and He acted to provide for his future on the earth.

8. In what ways does God preserve His people today?

God limits the intensity of temptations to levels we can bear. His angels protect us from unseen dangers. His Spirit guides us in the way of righteousness. He spares us from diseases that accompany immoral living. He rewards our faith with strength to stand in evil days.

Summarizing the Lesson

God showed mercy to Noah and provided him with a means to escape the judgment brought by the Flood. Our knowledge of God's pending judgment should move us to obedience just as it did Noah. As a preacher of

righteousness (2 Peter 2:5), he warned the people of his generation that God's wrath would be poured out in judgment.

Research Guide

1. Study Scriptures that refer to Noah and the Flood. These include Isaiah 54:9; Matthew 24:37-38; Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20-21; 2 Peter 2:5; 3:5-7.
2. Check a Bible handbook or Bible dictionary for accounts of archeological evidence pertaining to the Flood.