



Exploring God's Love Through the Bible: The Flood
Summer Preaching Series
June 12, 2016

Text: Genesis 6:1-8

Exhortation Concerning God's Love

*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** (Rom 8:38-39 KJV, emphasis mine)*

- Please forgive the redundancy, but I want to keep saying this: :)

“May this Summer be transformational for us. May our love-based obedience and joy in God, and our Christ-based, Gospel-centered love for one another EXPLODE. May we begin to bear Gospel-fruit to overflowing. May your families be blessed and strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And may the Pattern House God has called for emerge: humble, obedient, loving, merciful, and joyful, regardless of what the world does.”

- Precious friends, with SO much ugly in the world, let us press towards promoting and living out the beautiful; the pleasant and peaceful ways of the wisdom of God (Prov 3:17)! Let us walk in:

The Beauty of Honoring the Lord's Day

The Beauty of Discipling our Children

The Beauty of being Accountable to a small group of saved sinners

The Beauty of using resources for His Glory

The Beauty of Reaching out to others with the Whole Gospel

The Beauty of Serving one another and the Community

The Beauty of becoming a true Family, enjoying times of fellowship, hospitality and love

The Beauty of seeing God's Word as Sufficient for Life and Ministry Practice

The Beauty of Walking through Scripture to behold the purity and Love of the Lord

The Beauty of biblical Marriage and Singleness and Manhood and Womanhood

The Beauty of forgiveness and mercy and walking with each other through difficulties

The Beauty of Word-driven prayer and Scripture-regulated Worship and Preaching

From last week: God's Love in Creation

- Amazingly, man was made in God's **image!** (Gen 1:26-28, 2) We are all made in the image of our Independent, Immutable, Eternal, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Omnipotent, Perfectly Holy, Loving, and yes, Wrathful God!
- God created the heavens and the earth, at least in part, to be able to love us!
- God created man with communicable attributes that He Himself might commune with us!
- And even after man's rebellion and sin, God provided food, clothing, life and a family.
- And incredibly, **Christ** was prophesied in man's weakest moment! (Gen 3:15) What love!
- **Therefore, respond to God in love! Let us love Him as He loves us. May we be willing to be uncomfortable, endure suffering, sacrifice, and even give your life for His glory.**

Examining Today's Context:

1. After Adam and Eve fell into sin and were removed from the Garden, God allowed them to have a family, many sons and daughters (5:4).
2. Because the **corrupting** nature of sin was new, man lived for a long time. Adam lived 930 years (Gen 5:5). Many in his lineage lived a similar amount of time, the oldest being Methuselah, who lived 969 years!
3. Sadly, Adam's family continued in sinful ways after the Fall, with his first son (Cain) killing his second son (Abel) (Gen 4).
4. When we pick up the story in Genesis 6, man had been on the earth approximately 1,600 years, and there were many thousands of people.
5. And friends, in that time the earth had become a wicked mess!
 - Time precludes a long exegesis on the Nephilim, but friends whatever happened, it was so **perverse** to God that the entire population of the earth had to be destroyed!
 - The impetus of the flood...the final straw with God...was apparently the "sons of God" procreating with "the daughters of man." (6:4)
6. And because, "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," He was "sorry that he had made man on the earth," and chose to "blot out man" except for eight people, Noah and his family.
7. Keep in mind that the pre-flood population of the earth may have been several hundred million to a few billion people! Here is a quote from the Answers in Genesis website:

Table 1: Dates of biblical events from Creation

Event/Person	Passage	Total Time from Creation (years)
God created everything.	Genesis 1-2	0
Adam became the father of Seth at 130.	Genesis 5:3	0 + 130 = 130
Seth became the father of Enosh at 105.	Genesis 5:6	130 + 105 = 235
Enosh became the father of Kenan at 90.	Genesis 5:9	235 + 90 = 325
Cainan became the father of Mahalalel at 70.	Genesis 5:12	325 + 70 = 395
Mahalalel became the father of Jared at 65.	Genesis 5:15	395 + 65 = 460
Jared became the father of Enoch at 162.	Genesis 5:18	460 + 162 = 622
Enoch became the father of Methuselah at 65.	Genesis 5:21	622 + 65 = 687
Methuselah became the father of Lamech at 187.	Genesis 5:25	687 + 187 = 874
Lamech became the father of Noah at 182.	Genesis 5:28	874 + 182 = 1056
The Flood started when Noah was 600.	Genesis 7:6	1056 + 600 = 1656

If the growth rate in the pre-Flood world was equal to the growth rate in 2000 (0.012), there could have been about 750 million people at the time of the Flood. However, given the extremely long lifespans prior to the Flood, the growth rate could have been much higher. Increasing the rate by just 0.001 would put the population at close to four billion at the Flood.

Looking at God's Love in the Text:

"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord." (6:8)

1. This is a clear demonstration of the love of God! Yet, this great grace was preceded by GREAT **sorrow**, which is also a demonstration of the love of God.
2. Dear friends, please understand: God's heart breaks because of **rebellion** and sin.
3. The Lord saw the great wickedness of man in the earth...man's insurrection against God, his creator.
4. The Lord saw into the heart and mind of his creatures, and instead of finding a love for him, and honor towards him, and desire to please him...he saw "evil continuously."

A sobering question...what do you think He sees now?

5. That which broke the heart of God in Genesis, breaks the heart of God now. Perhaps, the sorrow is even greater considering He sent His Son!
6. Look again at verse 6: "It grieved him to his heart." "Grieve" in the Hebrew root means "to carve." *The state of man "cut" his heart.*
7. Here is a critical point: **God's wrath comes after God's sorrow.** God takes no pleasure in executing judgment. It hurts Him. It grieves Him. *"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John 3:17 ESV*

8. And so our loving and merciful God spared Noah!

- God looked favorably upon Noah (6:8), an act of love.
- God gave Noah the strength to be righteous and blameless in a corrupt and violent generation (6:9,11), an act of love.
- God gave Noah the instructions he needed to build the ark (6:14-16), an act of love.
- God established His covenant with Noah (6:18), an act of love.
- God saved Noah's family (6:18), an act of love.
- God saved the animals too (6:19-20), an act of love.
- God provided for Noah's food and provision (6:21), an act of love.

And there is so much more! God told Noah when to go into the Ark (7:1,13), what to take in (7:1-4), and gave him the strength to do all of this when he was 600 years old (7:6)!

9. And for forty days, it poured! "The great fountains of the deep burst forth, and the windows of heaven were opened." (7:11)

And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in. The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. 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. (Gen 7:16-23, emphasis mine)

Preaching Christ in the Text

1. Look at the love of God, friends! And look at the obvious type/antitype relationship between **Christ** and the Ark!
2. We too deserved **death**...to be blotted out because of our great wickedness upon the earth. God, in love and mercy, CHOSE us to enter the Ark of His beloved Son! Therein lies provision, safety, assurance, and hope! Praise His great Name!
3. Peter writes:

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. (1 Pet 3:18-22, emphasis mine)

4. Ken Ham writes in his blog: "By entering the Ark, Noah ensured the physical survival of himself and his family. When we enter into saving faith through Jesus (John 10:9), we ensure our spiritual survival through eternal life with Christ."

- When the destruction of the world loomed, God called out to Noah: “Come . . . into the Ark” (Genesis 7:1). God was with Noah and his family throughout that frightening year-long ordeal and protected and presumably comforted them. When we receive Jesus as our Savior, God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, comforts and protects us.
- The Ark had only one door through which Noah had to enter in order to be saved from the Flood. Likewise, salvation in Christ has only one door (John 10:9). We enter it by faith in Jesus’ once-and-for-all-time sacrificial death on the Cross and His bodily resurrection three days later.
- Finally, after Noah entered the Ark, God Himself closed the door (Genesis 7:16). Those people outside who chose not to enter the Ark’s door were left to face the destructive force of the Flood. Today, we have only this one life to enter Christ’s “door of salvation.”

Amen and amen! God continued to love Noah:

Gen 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.*

Gen 9:1 *And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.*

Gen 9:11 *I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."*

Exhortation to the Church

Although we deserve death, God has granted us **life**. He has cast our sins as far from us as east is from west because of His great love, manifested in the life, death, and resurrection of His son, Jesus Christ our **Substitute**, King, and Lord.

Just as Noah escaped the Flood (God’s just and perfect judgment), we too, in Christ, will escape the fire to come...

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, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. 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. (2 Pet 3:5-7)

May God help us to love those for whom destruction awaits with the Gospel of Jesus.

Amen.