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Genesis 6:8-22

**“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.**

**9This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. 10And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.**

**11The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.**

**13And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. 15And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 16You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it *with* lower, second, and third *decks.* 17And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which *is* the breath of life; everything that *is* on the earth shall die. 18But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. 19And 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. 20Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every *kind* will come to you to keep *them* alive. 21And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather *it* to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.”**

**22Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.”**

I. Introduction

In Genesis chapters 1-11 there are four major events that are not mere stories or allegories.

They are foundational to the dogmatic (essential) doctrines we believe and adhere to as Christians.

Jesus is connected to Creation, the Fall, the Flood, and The Tower of Babel.

We have dealt with three of these events so far. Creation, the Fall, and The Tower of Babel which we looked at out of sequence since it touches the Divine Institutions of Government and Nations. Today we come to the Flood.

More specifically, we will be looking at a sort of preamble or run-up to the cataclysmic world-wide catastrophe that destroyed all but a tiny remnant of everything that had the breath of God within.

This event also destroyed a corrupted earth and remodeled it.

I have been trying since we started to help us all see that Genesis, the beginning of all things, as God’s inspired and holy word is the source of all truth, and so must be taken literally.

Any attempts to downplay or explain away the things of Genesis must cause us to ask, “Why?

What would the agenda of any attempt to diminish these events be?

In Henrietta Mears’ work “What the Bible is All About,” she says of Genesis,

“Its authorship by Moses, its scientific accuracy, and its literal testimony to human sin as deliberate disobedience to God have all been literally assailed...

When Genesis goes, a Divine Creator, a divine creation, a divinely promised Redeemer, and a divinely inspired Bible must also go.”

But around its sacred pages is the protection of the Holy Spirit of God who inspired its words.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

In other words, everything we believe hinges on the truth of Genesis, otherwise our belief is tethered only to our own thoughts and opinions regarding the Bible.

Do you see this?

I sincerely hope so.

Let me put it this way.

If you hold to an old earth, Adam’s not being the ONLY first man and Eve the ONLY first Woman from whom we all descend, The Fall and its subsequent curses NOT affecting everything and everyone, more than one ark, or a local flood as opposed to a global flood, ask yourself “what is my agenda?”

Why do you hold to these opinions when the Bible is clear on all these things?

Jesus and several apostles in the New Testament affirmed the factuality of these things, so we should also.

In regard to our agenda when we read of the flood in Genesis chapter 6, Pastor Jeremy Thomas says, “The Flood in the Bible is universally picked up in the pages of the New Testament as a mirror of what? When you think of Jesus and the Apostles talking about Noah’s flood what context are they inevitably talking about?

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ. (Matt 23:39-41; Luke 17:26-27; 2 Pet 3:1-7).

The Flood is being used as a picture of what is coming, the future culminating act of history, a cosmic catastrophe.

II. Noah.

Last time I was talking about Genesis, we noted that four things are said of Noah in Genesis 6.

First, in verse 8, Noah found Grace in the eyes of the Lord.

In other words, Noah was given grace.

What is grace?

It is kindness or favor.

God favored Noah and extended kindness to him.

Secondly, Noah was just, or justified, third, was perfect in his generations, and lastly, he walked with God.

Henry Morris does an excellent job of explaining the significance of these four stages describing Noah’s relationship to God.

He writes,

“Note the consistent Biblical order here. First, Noah “found grace.” Then Noah was “a just man” (that is, “justified” or “declared to be righteous”). Thus, he was “perfect in his generations” (or “complete,” in so far as God’s records are concerned), and therefore he was able to “walk with God.”

Salvation in any era is exactly in this way.

By sovereign grace, received through faith, the believer is justified before God and declared to be complete in Him.

Only as a result of, and on the basis of, this glorious gift of grace, can one then “walk” in fellowship with God, showing the genuineness of his faith by his works.”[[2]](#footnote-2)

What else can we know of Noah?

He was the only one among his contemporaries who was said to have walked with God, besides Enoch. According to 2 Peter 2:5, Noah was a Preacher of Righteousness.

According to Genesis 6:3, he preached for 120 years before the flood.

How many listened and believed?

Zero.

Imagine that.

God told Noah what was to happen, and when.

Noah obeyed God and got to work building the way to salvation, the ark of deliverance from the destruction that would one day come.

As he built, he preached, telling all who asked what God’s plan was, and of the imminent danger they were in.

Morris says of Noah’s situation,

“The moral pressures must have been overwhelming. The temptations of a licentious and violent society, along with the continual rejection and ridicule of those masses who were “disobedient in the days of Noah” (I Peter 3:20), were no doubt inconceivably difficult for him to bear.

So far as we know, he preached hundreds of years with no converts except for some in his own family.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

Noah was above all a man of great faith.

Among the heroes of faith recorded in Hebrews 11, it is only Noah whose description both begins and ends with the phrase “by faith” (Hebrews 11:7).

Now, was Noah a sinner?

Yes.

We know this explicitly owing to the story of his drunken nakedness in Genesis 9:20-23.

What does this show?

Only that we all wrestle with sin and disobedience, not to mention the consequences of our actions. Even the greatest among us.

So was Noah a fictitious character?

Is the building of an immense ark in preparation for a catastrophic world-wide flood nothing more than a cute story in a book of superstitious fantasy or a children’s book?

What does the rest of scripture have to say about Noah?

Isaiah 54:9 says,

**“For this *is* like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you.”**

Ezekiel 14:12-14 says,

**“The word of the Lord came again to me, saying: 13“Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it. 14Even *if* these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver *only* themselves by their righteousness,” says the Lord God.”**

The same thing is repeated in verse 20.

Noah is in good company here.

Noah is also listed in the official genealogy of Jesus in 1 Chronicles 1:4 and Luke 3:36.

In the New Testament, Peter twice mentions Noah (1 Peter 3:20, and 2 Peter 2:5).

Perhaps most importantly, Jesus referenced Noah and the ark event as actual history.

(Matthew 24:37-39 and Luke 17:26)

Noah was listed as one of the greatest of all the historical men of faith, in Hebrews 11:7.

Note also that the ark itself was mentioned in most of these New Testament references.

III. God and Noah (God’s Provision and Noah’s Obedience)

Beginning with verse 11, the state of the earth and all its flesh is again highlighted.

All is corrupt and evil, to a level that at this point we probably can’t even imagine.

Think of it.

God wants to wipe it ALL out.

I think we have a ways to go before we are in this deep.

At this point in Genesis, the earth has forgotten God, but He still regards the earth and the people on it. Remember, our God is not passive.

He is actively concerned with each of us, and He will intervene.

Let me ask you this.

Did God intervene in your life to save you?

Were you actively, hungrily seeking Him when you were saved?

Did you have an insatiable desire to know Him and were you so sickened by your sin that you cried out to Him to save you?

Or did He pursue you and save you?

As for the pre-flood world and God’s motivation to intervene, how significant was God’s displeasure? Henry Morris writes,

“Now God further revealed, this time directly to Noah, that the earth itself would also be destroyed.

The method by which God spoke to Noah is not disclosed— whether by vision, dream, or direct theophany.

God told Noah He would destroy man with the earth.

Those who have advocated either a local flood or a tranquil flood are forced to read this verse as God destroying man from the earth.

However, the preposition is the Hebrew *eth*, which means “with,” not “from.”

Like it or not, the Bible does teach that the Flood was a world-destroying cataclysm.

As Peter says: “The world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished” (II Peter 3:6).”

So at this point, God gets personal.

He instructs Noah to do something seemingly crazy.

Verses 14-16 of chapter 6 detail how God instructs to build a giant floating rectangle.

According to God’s instructions, the Ark was to be designed for capacity and floating stability rather than for speed or navigability.

The dimensions were to be 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high.

Using the most conservative measurement of a cubit, 17.5” (a cubit could’ve been up to 24 inches long), Henry Morris writes that

“the Ark would have been 438 feet long, 72.9 feet wide, and 43.8 feet high.

It can be shown hydrodynamically that a gigantic box of such dimensions would be exceedingly stable, almost impossible to capsize.

Even in a sea of gigantic waves, the ark could be tilted through any angle up to just short of 90° and would immediately thereafter right itself again.

Furthermore, it would tend to align itself parallel with the direction of major wave advance and thus be subject to minimum pitching most of the time.

With the dimensions as calculated, the total volumetric capacity of the Ark was approximately 1,400,000 cubic feet, which is equal to the volumetric capacity of 522 standard livestock cars such as used on modern American railroads.

Since it is known that about 240 sheep can be transported in one stock car, a total of over 125,000 sheep could have been carried in the Ark.”

This is a good place to stop and ask, what would be the purpose of building such a gigantic vessel, especially if this wasn’t a huge, cataclysmic event?

God said earlier that man had 120 years before He brought destruction.

That is plenty of time to migrate somewhere else.

It is clear that there would be NO other means of escape.

The purpose of the Ark was to preserve life on the earth.

Regarding the amazing design of the ark, Jeremy Thomas notes,

“Dr Tim Lovett has been studying the Flood and the Ark for about 13 years, he’s a Mechanical Engineer and he says, “The proportions in the Bible are…so realistic that…those proportions happen to match a modern cargo ship.

And we wouldn’t expect that if that were a made-up story, we wouldn’t expect them to accidentally come up with 300x50x30 cubits as the proportions of this imaginary vessel…It gives you the right stability, not too much, not too little.

In fact, those proportions are so good that one of the naval architects I’ve been working with…actually realized that Genesis was literal because of those proportions…”

Thomas goes on to point out that

“Remarkably, there’s not another boat built as large as Noah’s ark until 1864, the best navies of Europe didn’t build boats this big, no boat that we know of was ever built equal to or to exceed the dimensions of Noah’s ark until the 1860’s.”

Another amazing instruction from God to Noah has to do with the One Door...

Henry Morris makes an interesting point here in writing,

“Although it is not definitely stated as such, it may be that this is also intended for instructional purposes as a type of Christ.

He is the one Way (John 14:6) to the Father’s house.

He is the one “Door” (John 10:7-9) to the resting-place for His sheep, through which the sheep must both enter for safety and rest and go out later for service.”

It is also interesting that the Hebrew word for pitch in verse 14 is Kafar, which is used later in the Bible as a term for atonement, or a covering in blood.

The theme of salvation in all this is obvious.

One more interesting thing about the door is that if you look ahead to chapter 7, verse 16, you can see that the Lord Himself shut them once it came time to shut the door.

Who do you think sealed it shut?

See how this all ties together?

In verse 17, God says He will bring a flood and destroy all flesh and that everything that has breath on the earth shall die.

A couple details of note here are that the Hebrew word used here for flood is *mabbul*.

This word for “flood” is used only in reference to the Noahic flood.

It is derived from an Assyrian word meaning “destruction,” and as I said, is unique to the flood account in Genesis 6-8.

Interestingly, when the Genesis flood is mentioned in the New Testament, the Greek word used is *kataklusmos*, instead of the usual Greek word for flood.

Also notice the words “all” and “every” in 6:17.

What do these words mean? God’s judgment was total and complete, as it will be in the future. However, because of His great love for us, He provided a way out.

ONE way of salvation.

17 is a mind-blowing verse.

God reveals clearly the nature of the destruction to come.

Imagine what Noah is going through as this is being revealed to him.

Have you ever doubted what God was telling you?

How must Noah have felt?

The Lord tells him that everything that has breath on the earth will be destroyed, and that it will happen by means of a flood.

This shows the great faith Noah had.

We know that Noah did exactly as the Lord said, and that it took him some 120 years to do it.

Do you think Noah doubted?

Do you think he ever wanted to quit?

How do you think people acted toward him?

What amazing faith!

Again, not blind faith, but a solid assurance that God would do what he said He would do.

In verse 18, God promises that He will enter into a covenant, or agreement with Noah and his progeny when all this is over.

He is giving Noah hope for the future.

We will go into detail regarding this covenant later, but for now, we know that God is personally invested in those who have faith in Him, and He wants for us to know this.

In Verses 19-21, God tells Noah how this is all going to work.

A couple of details worth noting here are that God says two (male and female) of every kind will come aboard.

He does not say of every derivative type or variant, but of every kind.

Dog kind, Cattle kind, Horse kind, etc.

Each of these kinds apparently carried the genetic potential for all the variants we have now. I know we covered this earlier, but Jeremy Thomas makes an interesting point regarding the issue of the ark’s having enough room for all its inhabitants.

“Dr John Woodmorappe wrote a book *Noah’s Ark: A Feasibility Study* back in the 90’s, he researched all the objections for over 10 years and he said that at most you would need about 16,000 animals on the ark (8,000 male + 8,000 female).

But what about the big dinosaurs?

Well, you don’t have to take adults, you can take babies.

Bottom line is the average size animal is smaller than a sheep.

Woodmorappe calculated that the volume of the ark was 522 standard American boxcars.

And if you took 16,000 sheep size animals and put them in the boxcars more than half of the ark would be empty, that leaves plenty of room for food and water which could be stored near the animals.

So, there’s no problems with the Ark size.

People have also raised the objection about how could eight people handle the manure, how could they do the feeding?

Well, Woodmorappe goes into all that and talks about theories about whether the animals were in a semi-hibernating state during the flood, where the food and water could have been stored, what they did with the manure.

But the point remains that this ark was a massive thing, equal to a modern vessel in size, as far as the principles of naval architecture and hydrodynamics stability it was outstanding, it was 522 times the size of a standard American boxcar, it had plenty of volume to do the job. And remember, this wasn’t a luxury cruise liner, this was an emergency situation, they just have to be on the ark for a little over a year and the ark was sufficient for such a rescue operation.”

I’ll remind you here that, conservatively, there was likely as much as 50% of the capacity remaining after all entered and all the food was stored.

Plenty of room for others to be saved, in other words.

Finally, in verse 22, It is clear that Noah obeyed God.

He did all that God commanded him to do.

Noah was Faith-Full. His belief and trust in God spurred him to action.

God saw fit to save all through one man, just as He did through the obedience of Jesus.

Noah was a type, an illustrative forerunner.

God set people up to believe in Jesus and what His death, burial and resurrection was all about by giving us an example from the past.

Given this, isn’t it interesting how we trivialize and diminish Noah’s obedience and the flood itself?

Does not the world do the same with Jesus and the cross?

We are all sinners in need of saving.

Jesus has come to save us.

This is the message today.

God has provided a way for you and me.

So what can we walk away with today?

Application

Be a Noah!

* **Understand your need. We all need saving.**
* **Accept God’s grace and seek His righteousness.**
* **Listen and obey.**

**One final note. The reality and factuality of a world-wide flood that almost completely wiped out evil and remodeled the earth should be a given. There is no good reason to question it. If the Genesis is not true, what else in the Bible is not true? Do we as judges over God’s word get to pick and choose? No.**

1. Mears, Henrietta C. *What the Bible Is All about KJV: Bible Handbook*, Tyndale House Publishers, 2016. 30. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Morris, Henry M. *The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings*, Baker Books, 2009. 144. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Morris, Henry M. *The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings*, Baker Books, 2009. 144. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)