**Genesis 6-9**

**Noah and the Flood**

**Introduction**

For today’s lesson, we will be looking at a very well-known figure and event in the Bible, namely, Noah and the Flood. We often think of Noah’s Ark as a kids story right. Something we learn in Children’s Church or a story that we heard from our parents for those of us who were raised in a Christian a home. For those of us who were not raised as Christians, we sort of know who Noah is and are familiar with the Flood account in Genesis but don’t really understand why it matters so much and how it even ties into the person and work of Jesus Christ. Today, we will take a deeper dive into the significance of this historical narrative and how it relates to God, man, and the story of redemption.

Last week Pastor Harry took us through Genesis 1-3 where we looked at the Creation and the Fall in light of redemptive history.

1. In chapters 1 and 2, we see God creating everything in six literal, 24-hour days.
2. We also saw in Chapters 1 and 2 that in addition to creating everything in that six day period that God wonderfully formed both man and woman into His own image.
3. Yet we also saw, in Genesis three that although God had declared all that He had made to be perfect in Genesis 1 verse 31, we read in Genesis 3, that sin entered into the world through man’s disobedience, placing the human race under divine judgement.
4. Yet all would not be lost because we did see God demonstrate His mercy and grace almost immediately in Genesis 3:15, where He promised a Seed that would come and reverse the curse of the Fall in order to restore the paradise that was lost for His own glory and our joy.

In the meantime, we have Genesis 4 and 5 which demonstrate to us the outworking of the consequences of sin as we witness the first murder, where Adam and Eve’s son Cain killed his brother Abel in a jealous rage. Adam and Eve then bore another son “in place of Abel” and gave him the name Seth; thinking that maybe this would be the promised Seed; yet as the theme of chapter 5 indicates that, “he died” and therefore could not be the promised Seed. All throughout chapter 5, we see a common thread running through each man’s generation, “and he died . . . and he died . . . and he died.”

We then finally get to Noah.

**Q:** What are some things that we can say about Noah?

Open the floor to people. In Genesis 6:8-9, we see that having found favor in God’s sight, Noah was declared righteous and blameless; set apart for God’s own intended purpose which we will get to a little later.

**Q:** Does anyone know what his name means?

His name is said to mean “rest,” “comfort,” or “bring relief”.

**Q:** What is the significance of the meaning of his name in relation to the Fall?

Ever since sin entered into the world through man’s disobedience, humanity was waiting upon God’s promise to be fulfilled.

**Q:** What is that promise?

That He would bring forth a Seed from the woman, who would crush the serpents head and restore man unto God. Again, we see it in Genesis 3:15. Sin set the stage for God's covenantal promises that would be a backdrop for His redemptive plan seen in Genesis 3:15.

God's *re-creative* process begins however with the Noahic Covenant which is traced back to the sixth chapter of Genesis.

As we scan through the next three chapters we will see three themes unfold: **The Just Reason, the Temporal Rescue and the Eternal Redemption**. These will sort of be our Three Big Picture Takeaways.

**First, the Just Reason**

**Q:** Read Genesis 6:5, 11-12. How can we describe the state of man up until this point in human history?

At this point in human history, man reaches the climax of his sinful nature whereby wickedness abounded on earth and every intent of man was evil continually; it was corruption to the core and God’s holy response would be to put an end to this kind of injustice by destroying it (vv. 5, 11, 12).

**Q:** Read Genesis 6:13. How does God respond to man’s sin?

God responds to man’s sin in bringing judgement upon them by saying that He would wipe out every single person alive, putting an end to their wickedness.

Q: Read Genesis 6:14-17. And how did God plan to do it?

God instructed Noah to build an ark in preparation for a universal flood (vv. 14-17).

**Q:** What does this say about God’s character, in planning to destroy the earth and everything in it because of man’s sinful disobedience?

It tells us that God is Holy, and that He cannot look upon evil. It also says that He is just, in that He will rightly judge those who have sinned against Him. In fact, we can even say that if God could tolerate sin by not judging it, He would cease to be Holy and therefore cease to be God.

**Q:** What does it say about man?

This was a mark of man’s total depravity, as he proceeded to go from bad to worse. Therefore, we deserve the just punishment of a Holy God who cannot look upon sin. At this point the hope of humanity look pretty dim. God is not finished however, because if we remember, God made a special promise in Genesis 3:15.

So we go from the Reason for God’s Judgement, **to the Temporal Rescue**:

**Q:** Let’s take a look at Genesis 6:8-10; 18-21; what does God do after He says that He would drown the entire earth?

God sovereignly chooses Noah, in that he was justified before God, verse 8: “Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.”

Having been justified, Noah was declared righteous, verse 9: “Noah was a righteous man.”

In Hebrews 11:6-7, we see just how Noah was justified and declared righteous before God:

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would draw near to God, must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.”

First and foremost, we must believe that there is a God, and in believing we must come to Him, seeking the gift of eternal life that He offers us through faith.

“By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent awe 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.”

The object of Noah’s faith then, was not the Ark, but God. For how else, would he be declared righteous unless he possessed the perfect righteousness of God?

God then makes a covenant with Noah in verse eighteen for the preservation of his life and the life of his family and in addition to that, the enjoyment of provision and protection through this covenantal relationship with God.

Noah, just as any true believer who has been justified by faith alone and therefore declared righteous before God, responds by being obedient, verse 22: “he did all that God had commanded him.”

Faith always produces the active and deliberate response of obedience.

Read Genesis 7:1-5, 9, 15

I said before, and it is worth mentioning again. Faith always produces obedience. And when we fail to be obedient, we repent and run back to the Lord to be what we desire to be and that is obedient.

So in chapter 7, the flood comes, destroys everything in sight and changes the structure of the entire ecosystem. Yet, the Lord sovereignly chose to rescue one man and his family; a total of eight people with the addition of many animals.

We then move from the Temporal Rescue to **the Eternal Redemption**.

About a year later, the flood had subsided and Noah was told to leave the ark.

**Q:** Read Genesis 8:20-22. What did Noah do in response to God’s rescue of him and his family? And what was the Lord’s response to Noah’s sacrificial offering?

Noah built an altar to the Lord as an act of worship and reverence; he offered burnt offerings of every clean animal and bird which was pleasant in the sight of the Lord (Gen. 8:20-22).

The Lord then graciously made a promise that he would never again curse the ground on account of man’s sinful nature and will never again destroy the earth in the same manner; that is through the flood (v. 21-22).

As with other biblical covenants, the Noahic Covenant is accompanied by covenant mandates or stipulations, and the giving of a covenant sign.

**Q:** Read Genesis 9:9-17. What was the sign that God offered Noah and what did it symbolize?

The apex of the Noahic Covenant is vividly expressed however in the very next chapter of Genesis (9:9-17); here we find the details summarized in a concise way by God that the promise would be made visibly evident through a rainbow which would symbolize the everlasting perpetual covenant God made with Noah. Today, when people look up and see a rainbow, we can rest assured that God will never again deluge the earth and that His promise has been fulfilled (vv. 11-13); this indicates that the promise is not just with Noah alone but with all the peoples of the earth (vv. 8, 15-17).

**Q:** What does it say about the character of God and what significance does it hold, that He spared this one family from destruction?

It demonstrates to us that God keeps His promises, and even in the midst of man’s sin, God would make a way for His covenant or promise to be fulfilled. He is a God who cannot lie because He is unchanging; only truth resides in Him.

**Q:** In the beginning of our lesson, we mentioned that Noah had a purpose. What was God’s primary purpose for rescuing Noah and his family?

God’s purpose for rescuing Noah and his family was to preserve the existence of man and therefore fulfill His covenantal promise. Noah was to give life to a new humanity, leading his people into a new world.

Now, in Scripture, there is something theologians call “typology” which is a study of types and symbols. For example, we see that Noah was a type of Christ, yet he was not the fulfillment of the covenant made by God to Adam in Genesis 3, namely the Seed that would come and reverse the curse.

Although Noah was chosen by God as an instrument through which He would continue His promise, we see in Genesis 9:21-22, that even Noah had the capacity to sin against God and therefore could not be the long-awaited promised Messiah.

We see in the New Testament however, that it was Jesus that fulfilled the covenant of Genesis 3:15, and where Noah gave birth to a new humanity that would eventually die in a foreign land, Jesus’ through the Spirit of God gave eternal life to those who would believe upon Him and they would become new creations in Him, possessing an eternal inheritance in a new world called heaven, where sin and death would cease.

Jesus delivers us from judgement, just as the ark did for Noah and therefore we see that the ark is analogous to our experience of salvation by being in Christ, the ark of one’s salvation.

We see this in 1 Peter 3:18-22. Turn there if you will, and this is where we will end our time together. Unless it is in the Bible, we cannot make everything we find in it a type of Christ. To do that, would take the idea of “typology” too far, so I do want to show you that it is not something we pulled out of thin air.

We know that Peter is not at all referring to water baptism here, but rather a figurative immersion into our union with Christ as an Ark of safety from the judgement of God. The resurrection of Christ demonstrates God’s acceptance of Christ substitutionary death for the sins of those who believe.

Judgement fell on Christ just as the judgement of the flood waters fell on the ark.

As one commentator put it, “The believer who is in Christ is thus in the ark of safety that will sail over the waters of judgement into eternal glory.”

Where a wooden ark temporarily rescued Noah from physical death thus preserving God’s covenant, the wooden cross of Christ delivers all who repent and believe upon Him from spiritual death, thus fulfilling the covenant of God made all the way back in Genesis 3:15. That although, Satan would bruise Him on the heel, Christ would have the victory on the cross by crushing him on the head and therefore putting an end to the curse of the Fall, namely, sin, death and judgement.

You see, Jesus succeeds where Noah naturally falls short because he was just a man who also needed a Savior.

And what brings us great assurance in all of this is His resurrection, which vindicated and validated His work on the cross. That Jesus is the long-awaited promised Messiah and that if we confess with our mouths that He is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead we will be saved (cf. Romans 10:9). “For there is no other name under heaven, given among for which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12), then the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of God our Father.