

The World-Wide Flood – Genesis Chapter 6 – 8.

Introduction

We now move on in our studies in the book of Genesis to chapters 6, 7, and 8.

This is the narrative about the worst disaster ever to come upon this earth. There is a lot of material to cover in these chapters, so I will divide it into 4 sections.

First of all we will look into the reasons for the flood. This is chapter 6: v. 1-12

Then we will cover the preparations that were needed before the flood actually happened, these are contained in chapter 6: v. 13 – 7: v. 16

Then we will notice some things about the flood itself from chapter 7: v. 17 – 8: v. 14.

Finally we will note God's covenant with creation in Chapter 8 v. 15-22.

We are not going to read the whole account of the flood in one reading. We will split that up into 4 readings before we cover each section.

1. The reason for the flood – 6: v. 1-12

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,² that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they *were* beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

³ And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

⁴ There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore *children* to them. Those *were* the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. ⁶ And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

⁷ So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

⁹ This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

¹⁰ And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹ The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

¹² So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

It is very clear from the text that wickedness and evil was very great on the earth at this time. God was grieved in his heart and it even says that God was sorry that He made man. It was an awful time for mankind, and a bad time for God Himself.

Verses 1-4 are one of the most controversial passages in the whole Bible.

The terms “Sons of God” and “Nephilim” or “Giants” have challenged theologians over the years. Deciding the correct meaning can be challenging.

However I always maintain that scripture interprets scripture and if God wants us to discover the answer to problems in the Bible, then we can search the whole Bible for clues before coming to a conclusion.

Q. Who are the Sons of God?

The Hebrew translation is “b nei ha – Elohim”. This word is consistently used of Angels in the Old Testament.

For example if you turn to the book of Job 1: v. 6 you read these words.

“Now there was a day when the sons of god came to present themselves before the Lord and Satan also came among them” This verse is almost repeated in Job chapter 2: v. 1.

In Job 38: v. 7 we are told that the Sons of God were around when God created the world.

There is another variation of the Sons of God used in the Bible. The Hebrew meaning is “Sons of the Mighty”. It is used in Psalm 29: v. 1 & in Psalm 89: v. 6.

I will read Psalm 89: v. 6

⁶ For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? *Who* among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the LORD?

So if everywhere in the Bible, the Sons of God are treated as “Angels”, then there is no doubt that what Moses is referring to here in this passage, when he writes “Sons of God” actually refer to Angels.

Angels in the Bible are always male. They are never feminine or neuter.

In Daniel 9: v.21, Daniel refers to one leading Angel as the “man Gabriel”

The Angel Gabriel is best known for announcing the birth of Jesus to Joseph and Mary.

The name Gabriel even means “Man of God”.

Angels in the Bible are also mistaken for men when they become visible to the human eye.

In Genesis 18: v. 1-2 Abraham greeted three men who turned out to be Angels and after the resurrection two of the gospel writers describe the Angels at the tomb as men. (Mark 16: v. 5-7, Luke 24: v. 4-7) Finally in Acts Chapter 1: v. 10-11, the two Angels are described as men in white robes.

So the description in Genesis 6 of “Sons of God” marrying daughters of men makes perfect sense if the Sons of God were Angels.

There is also support in the New Testament for this.

Turn with me to 2 Peter Chapter 2: v. 4-5

⁴ For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; ⁵ and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

Finally there is a compelling reference in Jude v. 6. (Quote this)

⁶ And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

We know that New Testament writers expect their readers to understand the Old Testament, therefore it is clear to me what is on view here in the text.

What we are told here in simple English is that Angels left their normal habitation and committed acts of sexual intercourse with human women. They did something that they were not created for.

2 Peter 2: v. 4 tells us that they were cast down to hell and delivered into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgement.

In God's eyes this was a horrible sin. This was one of the many reasons for the world wide flood.

Why these fallen Angels decided to have sexual intercourse with women is uncertain, but it is likely that Satan, knowing that it was the seed of the woman who would come and destroy him, he probably thought that by corrupting women he could destroy God's plan.

We know that Satan is always out to destroy God's plan, but God is greater than Satan and He is always in control of His plans and purposes.

As a result of the sins of these fallen Angels strange people were born into the world. In Hebrew these people are described as "Nephilim". The translation of this Hebrew word is "Fallen ones".

Unfortunately in many Bibles the word "Giants" is used. This translation was an attempt to connect with contemporary life in the 1st century. However it does not accurately describe these offspring.

The wrong translation using the word giants led to the claim about a giant human skeleton discovered during gas exploration in Saudi Arabia. This has circulated through the internet and is based upon an image manipulated by Photoshop.

Another claim for real giants was based upon a supposed giant footprint.

However since this was granite rock, it would involve treading bare foot on it when it was still molten. The surface would have been 800 degrees. Not even a giant would walk on surfaces that hot.

So the correct translation here in Hebrew and one that fits the context is "Fallen ones"

The main thing to remember here is that the activity of these fallen Angels and all the wickedness on the earth, grieved the heart of God.

We don't often look upon God as somebody whose heart can be grieved.

However we are made in the image of God and we have hearts that can be grieved.

Think of the worst experience in your life, where your heart has been absolutely broken and grieved and you will go some way in understanding the heart of God and why He decided to bring a universal flood upon the earth and destroy nearly all of his created people.

Chapter 6 v. 7

⁷ So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

This is all very sad news until we come to verse 8.

⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

We are told in v. 9 that Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations and that he walked with God. It is no wonder that God chose Noah to start a new world after the flood.

The Phrase "walking with God" was obviously the highest level of intimacy that could be held at that time.

In Genesis Chapter 5 v. 24 we are told that Enoch walked with God and suddenly he was taken to Heaven to be with God. God was not going to call Noah home to Heaven yet, he had an important job to do.

Now we turn to the preparations for the flood.

2. The preparations for the flood – 6: v. 13 - 7: v. 16.

¹³ And 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. ¹⁴ Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.

¹⁵ And 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. ¹⁶ You 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*.

¹⁷ And 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. ¹⁸ But 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.

¹⁹ And 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.

²⁰ Of 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.

²¹ And 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.” ²² Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Then the LORD said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen *that* you *are* righteous before Me in this generation. ² You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that *are* unclean, a male and his female;

³ also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth.

⁴ For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made.”

⁵ And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him. ⁶ Noah *was* six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth. ⁷ So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood.

⁸ Of clean animals, of animals that *are* unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, ⁹ two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth.

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. ¹² And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³ On the very same day Noah and Noah’s sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark— ¹⁴ they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort.

¹⁵ And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which *is* the breath of life. ¹⁶ So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

God told Noah that He was going to flood the earth and destroy all living creatures. However God was going to save Noah and his family and two of every kind of the animals that were living on the earth.

In order to achieve his aim, Noah had to follow God's instructions on how to build a large boat to house the animals and keep himself and his family safe.

Somebody in Holland decided to follow God's exact dimensions and build a replica of Noah's Ark.

On the screen there is a picture of what the "Ark" may have looked like.

The important thing is that the exact dimensions given in the Bible are correct and that by following the instructions Noah was able to build a boat that could not only take all the animals but would withstand a violent storm and would be able to hold the food needed for both the animals and Noah and his family.

The boat was not built to travel like boats are built today. It was built to withstand the world-wide flood that was about to come upon this earth. It was a safety vessel, mainly for animals and one family.

We are told in v. 16 that there was only one window and one door to the Ark. The door of the Ark had to be on the side. There were at least 3 decks.

It would have taken a long time to build the "Ark" and Noah would have needed lots of help. We are told in 2 Peter chapter 2: v. 5 that Noah was a preacher of righteousness. No doubt Noah was warning the people about the flood and preaching God's message to the people.

Hebrews 11: v. 7

⁷ By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

In Chapter 7 v. 1 Noah was invited to come to the Ark. He was invited by God because He was righteous. It took 7 days to load up the Ark.

The key thing we need to notice in v. 16 is that God closed the door. This will be significant when we come to our application later.

3. The Flood actually happened – 7: v. 17 – 8: v. 19 – Read this passage in N.K.J.

¹⁷ Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters.

¹⁹ And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰ The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered.

²¹ And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. ²² All in whose nostrils *was* the breath of the spirit of life, all that *was* on the dry *land*, died.

²³ So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who *were* with him in the ark remained *alive*. ²⁴ And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that *were* with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. ² The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained.

³ And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. ⁴ Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.

⁵ And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth *month*, on the first *day* of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. ⁶ So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made.

⁷ Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. ⁸ He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground.

⁹ But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters *were* on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. ¹⁰ And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark.

¹¹ Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf *was* in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. ¹² So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

¹³ And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first *month*, the first *day* of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry.

¹⁴ And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried. ¹⁵ Then God spoke to Noah, saying, ¹⁶ "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you.

¹⁷ Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that *is* with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

¹⁸ So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. ¹⁹ Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, *and* whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

We are told in chapter 7: v. 17-24 that God flooded the earth for 40 days. The Ark was lifted up and it rose high above the earth. All the mountains and the hills under the whole heaven were covered with water. This speaks very clearly of a "Universal Flood". We are told in v. 21 that all flesh, all the animals, and the cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth died. All living things were destroyed.

The only people who were safe were Noah and his family and the animals that Noah was told to rescue from the earth.

Although the flood only last 40 days, water remained on the earth for 150 days.

(7: v. 24) Also Noah and his family were in the boat for a total of 371 days before God opened the door and let them out. So they were in the boat for at least 1 year.

This is why it was such a large boat. Food would be needed to feed the animals and there would have been food needed for Noah and his family.

It is estimated that only about 60% of the boat would have been populated by the animals and this left 40% of the boat for food for the animals and Noah and his family.

In Chapter 8: v. 4 we are told that the Ark rested on the mountains of Ararat in the seventh month on the seventeenth day. So it was about 5 months since the fountains of the deep were broken up. The waters continued to decrease for 3 months.(v. 5)

We are now 8 months since the start of the flood, and in v. 6 we are told that Noah waited another 40 days and then opened the window of the Ark. So now we are over 9 months since the start of the flood.

After sending out a dove a second time, the dove returned with a freshly plucked olive leaf. It was at this point that Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth.

In v. 13 we are told that Noah removed the covering of the Ark in the 601st year of Noah's life, this was 1 year after the start of the flood. (7: v. 11)

Verse 14 tells us that it was another month before the earth was completely dry.

After this God spoke to Noah and told him to go out of the Ark with his family and bring out all of the animals. He was told to be fruitful and multiply.

God was going to start again and this time, not with Adam and Eve, but with Noah and his family.

4. God's Covenant with creation – 8: v. 20-22. – Read first in the N.K.J.

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart,

“I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. ²²“While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.”

We are told that the first thing that Noah did when he left the Ark was to build an altar and offer burnt offerings to God. This was evidence that Noah had confidence in God about blood sacrifices.

Remember last week that I explained that blood sacrifices had two aspects.

Firstly there was “Substitution”, normally, a person would die for his own sins, but based upon future events, God would accept an innocent animal's death in man's place. – as a substitute. It was a life for a life, the innocent dying in place of the guilty.

Secondly there was atonement. The blood would make atonement for sin. The shed blood would cover man's sin. When God looked at man He would no longer see the sin. Man would be viewed by God as righteous and therefore be acceptable to Him.

When God smelled the aroma of the sacrifices, He made a promise.

1. God said He would never again curse the ground for man's sake, even though the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.
2. God said He would never again destroy every living thing in the way He has done it in the flood.
3. God made a promise concerning the future harvests and the seasons.

²²“While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.”

So very briefly that is the story of the worst disaster ever to come upon this earth. So what does it mean for us here at O.I.C.?

Application

The story about the flood is all about the “Judgement of God” because of man’s sin and the “Rescue of God” to save the world, through one man Noah.

There is no doubt about it that Noah and his Ark are an illustration of the Gospel Message and a “Type” of Jesus Christ.

First of all everybody has a heart that is sinful by nature. It is not that we always intend to do wrong but that we are sinners by nature and we deserve God’s punishment for our sin. The flood was God’s punishment for mankind’s sin. (Romans 3: v. 23)

Second Noah rescued the world because of God’s “GRACE.” (Genesis 6: v. 8)

In Ephesians 2: v. 8 says “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Thirdly the Ark was the place of safety. Everybody who entered the Ark was safe. They may have got sea sick but they were definitely safe from God’s wrath.

Everybody who puts their Faith and Trust in Jesus Christ will be safe from the wrath of God to come. (John 3: v. 16)

Fourthly the Ark had only one door. You couldn’t get into the Ark except through that one door.

(John 10: v. 9)

⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

There is no other way that you can be safe from God’s wrath for your sin, except by putting your faith in Jesus Christ.

Matthew 7: v. 13-14.

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

People must have laughed at Noah while he was building his Ark, until the flood came and then they were all destroyed.

Don’t wait for disaster to strike upon you, come to Jesus today and put your faith and trust in Him.