

The Word of God is the absolute truth and the final authority

Let's pray...

So, last week we learned in chapter six – that the world had become so wicked that verse 6 of chapter six tells us that God was sorry that He had made man.

Now, this doesn't mean that mankind was an experiment that went out of control.

God knew all along that this was how things would turn out, but the scriptures clearly tells us that as God sees His plan for the ages unfold, our disobedience affects Him.

However, Noah did find grace in the eyes of the Lord.

And God commanded Noah to build this enormous ark for himself, his wife, his three sons and their wives as well as the animals.

Noah spends 100 years building this ark exactly as God had instructed him.

In fact the last verse in Genesis 6 tells us that Noah did according to all God commanded him.

Now, we could spend weeks on the flood on trying to produce evidence for the flood.

But instead of doing that – I am going to direct you to two websites.

Answersingenesis.org

ICR.org

Both of these websites have plenty of research and articles and videos that will provide evidence on the flood. So please check those out.

I believe that the focus of these chapters should be on God's faithfulness and His abundant grace and not necessarily on the semantics of what were the sleeping arrangements in the ark or what Noah did with all the animal poop -

[Gen 7:1-24 CSB] 1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. 2 "You are to take with you seven pairs, a male and its female, of all the clean animals, and two of the animals that are not clean, a male and its female, 3 "and seven pairs, male and female, of the birds of the sky; in order to keep offspring alive throughout the earth. 4 "Seven days from now I will make it rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing I have made I will wipe off the face of the earth." 5 And Noah did everything that the LORD commanded him. 6 Noah was six hundred years old when the flood came and

water covered the earth. 7 So Noah, his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives entered the ark because of the floodwaters. 8 From the clean animals, unclean animals, birds, and every creature that crawls on the ground, 9 two of each, male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, just as God had commanded him. 10 **Seven days later the floodwaters came on the earth.** 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, **on that day all the sources of the vast watery depths burst open, the floodgates of the sky were opened,** 12 and the rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. 13 On that same day Noah along with his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, Noah's wife, and his three sons' wives entered the ark with him. 14 They entered it with all the wildlife according to their kinds, all livestock according to their kinds, all the creatures that crawl on the earth according to their kinds, every flying creature; all the birds and every winged creature; according to their kinds. 15 Two of every creature that has the breath of life in it came to Noah and entered the ark. 16 Those that entered, male and female of every creature, entered just as God had commanded him. **Then the LORD shut him in.** 17 The flood continued for forty days on the earth; the water increased and lifted up the ark so that it rose above the earth. 18 The water surged and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. 19 Then the water surged even higher on the earth, and all the high mountains under the whole sky were covered. 20 **The mountains were covered as the water surged above them more than twenty feet.** 21 Every creature perished; those that crawl on the earth,

birds, livestock, wildlife, and those that swarm on the earth, as well as all mankind. 22 Everything with the breath of the spirit of life in its nostrils ;everything on dry land died. 23 He wiped out every living thing that was on the face of the earth, from mankind to livestock, to creatures that crawl, to the birds of the sky, and they were wiped off the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. 24 And the water surged on the earth 150 days.

I was reading this article this past week of someone who back in 2001 took all the different myths and legends from around the world that pertained to a global flood. This person collected over 200 stories from as far away as South America and the Pacific Islands.

These myths and legends had been passed down from generation to generation among people of different backgrounds and religion.

The author of the article then proceeded to create a list of things that were common among the stories.

This is what he found

Is there a favored family? 88%

Were they forewarned? 66%

Is flood due to wickedness of man? 66%

Is catastrophe only a flood? 95%

Was flood global? 95%

Is survival due to a boat? 70%

Were animals also saved? 67%

Did animals play any part? 73%

Did survivors land on a mountain? 57%

Were birds sent out? 35%

Was the rainbow mentioned? 7%

Did survivors offer a sacrifice? 13%

Were specifically eight persons saved? 9%

Usually in myths, people add to the stories as they get passed down. However, we have the perfect account of what happened during the flood here in our hands through God's perfect word.

The chapter begins with an invitation from the Lord for Noah and his family to enter the ark. If you have a NKJV, verse one reads, **And the Lord said unto Noah, Come...**

The Lord didn't order Noah to "go into the ark", he said "Come..."

We see this invitation from the Lord throughout scripture.

**[Isa 1:18 NKJV] 18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD,
"Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they
are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.**

**[Mat 11:28 NKJV] 28 "Come to Me, all [you] who labor and are heavy laden, and I
will give you rest.**

**[Rev 22:17 NKJV] 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who
hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take
the water of life freely.**

**It is a wonderful picture implying that the Lord was in the ark Himself and was awaiting
to receive Noah and his family in this ginormous vessel that was going to serve as their
place of refuge from judgment.**

Now, we don't know much about Noah's wife up until this point or his three children
and their wives. All we know is that God considered Noah righteous and therefore, God
chose to extend His grace to Noah's household as well.

Now this is something that we see over and over again in scriptures.

First Passover

In the first Passover, God commanded Moses and Aaron to tell the people to kill a
spotless lamb and to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood. Judgment was

coming upon Egypt and whoever had the blood on their doorpost was passed over from the judgment and the eldest son was not killed.

Households were saved from the judgment based upon the obedience of one.

In the New Testament, we have the conversions of Cornelius and the jailor – we talked about the jailor on Sunday, when he asks Peter and Silas, “What must I do to be saved?”

And the scriptures tell us that his entire family was saved. A similar thing happened to Cornelius.

Now, this doesn't mean that just because I am saved my wife and kids will be saved. It doesn't work like that.

What it means is that when one accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, now they become a vessel in the household which the Lord can utilize.

Through our fruits, through our examples, our children can see for themselves and then make that decision themselves.

As apparent, our job is to simply guide them.

We are still all accountable individually.

In verses two and three we find out there were other animals in the ark.

We all know that God wanted two of every kind on the ark.

However, God commands Noah to bring seven each of every clean animal.

In Leviticus 11, we actually have a list of the unclean animals.

These were animals that the children of Israel were forbidden to eat and forbidden to touch their carcass because they were deemed as unclean.

I was looking at the list and pig, rabbit, donkey, alligator, lobster, clams, octopus and frogs were on the list of unclean animals that I have eaten.

The reason for the extra clean animals was that God was already in His perfect plan, making it readily available for Noah to offer up a sacrifice once he gets off the ark.

If you only had two sheep in the ark and you sacrifice one, then you wouldn't have any more sheep.

In verse 10, it tells us that once they started going into the ark, they still had an extra week to wait upon God's grace.

Can you imagine as you have already waited 120 years for the judgment to come.

You are sitting in this ark with all these animals on dry land and you still have never seen it rain.

Notice in verse 16 that God is the One who shut the door to the ark.

Noah wasn't the one who prevented anyone else from coming into the ark – it was God. He waited until the very last minute and then grace ended.

God had extended His grace for 120 years plus the extra seven days and no one besides Noah and his family took up the invitation.

Then the rain started. Not only did it start to rain but also water started to come up from the ground.

That is what we read here in verse 11-

You have the flood water from the canopy of water that surrounded the earth – we talked about this in Genesis 1 and the water from below.

It rained for 40 days and 40 nights and the ark started to float.

Throughout scripture, the number 40 appears again and again with relation to judgment, trials and difficulty.

The rain fell for 40 days and 40 nights.

The Children of Israel wandered the wilderness for 40 years

Moses was on the mountaintop for 40 days and 40 nights

The spies that went into Canaan – they returned after 40 days

Jesus was tempted for 40 days

The flood water rose to the height of greater than 20 feet above the highest mountains.

This was a global flood church.

The last verse in chapter seven

24 And the water surged on the earth 150 days.

There is no indication in scriptures that God spoke to Noah during the months that he was in the ark. It would be a total of 377 days until Noah would hear the word of God again.

In our Christian walk, despite our obedience, there will be times were we may go through long periods without hearing the word of God – just like Noah. One of the things that I have learned during these times is to simply go back to the last time God spoke to you and continue to be obedient to that command.

[Gen 8:1-22 CSB] 1 God remembered Noah, as well as all the wildlife and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. God caused a wind to pass over the earth, and the water began to subside. 2 The sources of the watery depths and the floodgates of the sky were closed, and the rain from the sky stopped. 3 The water steadily receded from the earth, and by the end of 150 days the water had decreased significantly. 4 The ark came to rest in the seventh month, on the

seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. 5 The water continued to recede until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were visible. 6 After **forty days** Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made, 7 and he sent out a raven. It went back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. 8 Then he sent out a dove to see whether the water on the earth's surface had gone down, 9 but the dove found no resting place for its foot. It returned to him in the ark because water covered the surface of the whole earth. He reached out and brought it into the ark to himself. 10 So Noah waited **seven** more days and sent out the dove from the ark again. 11 When the dove came to him at evening, there was a plucked olive leaf in its beak. So Noah knew that the water on the earth's surface had gone down. 12 After he had waited another seven days, he sent out the dove, but it did not return to him again. 13 In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the water that had covered the earth was dried up. Then Noah removed the ark's cover and saw that the surface of the ground was drying. 14 By the twenty-seventh day of the second month, the earth was dry. 15 Then God spoke to Noah, 16 "Come out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives with you. 17 "Bring out all the living creatures that are with you; birds, livestock, those that crawl on the earth; and they will spread over the earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." 18 So Noah, along with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, came out. 19 All the animals, all the creatures that crawl, and all the flying creatures; everything that

moves on the earth; came out of the ark by their families. **20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD.** He took some of every kind of clean animal and every kind of clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. **21** When the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, he said to himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of human beings, even though the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth onward. And I will never again strike down every living thing as I have done. **22** "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease."

The idea in verse one isn't that God somehow forgot about Noah – God doesn't forget, As Noah was on the ark during the entire ordeal, God remembered Noah and He is constantly remembering us.

God not only remembered Noah and his family, but He also remembered the animals that were with them in the ark. God spared these creatures so they could live on the renewed earth and reproduce after their kind.

It was His desire that His creatures enjoy the earth and contribute to the happiness of the people He had created in His own image.

As we shall see later, the animals were included in God's covenant with Noah.

Now, regarding this wind...

The Hebrew word for wind is also translated as "Spirit"

If you remember back at the start of the book of Genesis,

[Gen 1:2 NKJV] 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

In scripture, wind is a type of the Holy Spirit.

At Pentecost,

[Act 2:2 NKJV] 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

What filled the house? Not wind but, the Holy Spirit.

So the ark comes to a rest and after 40 days Noah sends out a raven and he sends out a dove. Now the raven was an unclean bird because they are scavengers – they eat dead animals. The dove is a clean animal – only the dove returns.

The raven could have simply survive by landing on a floating carcasses and eating them. That is what scavengers do.

The dove returns to the ark.

Noah waits another week and send out the dove again and it comes back with an olive leaf.

Then Noah waited another seven days and sends a dove out again and it doesn't come back – however, Noah and his family continue to remain in the ark and being obedient to God's will.

They remained in the ark until God spoke to them in verses 15.

Now, when God told them to go into the ark, He used the word, come. Here He uses the word, go, to get them out of the ark.

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus speaking to His disciples and to us in the great commission says,

[Mat 28:19 NKJV] 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

There are many in the church who spend their entire Christian walk simply going to church and being filled by God's word day after day and then they simply don't act upon what they learned. That is not what we are commanded to do.

Our command is to make disciples of all nations.

Now, if I was in Noah's shoes, as soon as I got off the ark I would have looking for something to do after being cooped up in the ark over a year. Maybe throw the football around.

Something.

However, the first thing that Noah does when he gets out of the ark is that he builds an altar and he offers up a sacrifice to God. He begins to worship God.

God didn't have to tell Noah, Noah knew the right thing to do.

Many people would say Noah probably should have saved those clean animals so that they could procreate and produce other clean animals.

However, Noah understood that God values worship more than work.

We are commanded -

You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.

Notice the order. Worship Him first and then serve.

Many of us get that wrong. Even those in ministry. We get caught up in the serving aspect that we forget the worship portion.

Listen, worship is the highest most precious ministry you will ever perform.

Worship will bless you the most and honor God in the greatest way.

Ways we can worship God

- We can worship Him in songs

- We can worship Him through prayer – many times we get caught up with our own petitions. When we affirm who God is through our prayers, we put our prayer life in proper perspective. That's exactly how Jesus taught us to pray. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen
- We worship Him through our obedience
- We worship Him by reading His Word - The Bible says that we worship God in "spirit and in truth." How can we ever worship God without a clear understanding of who He is?

Now let's look at God's response to the worship.

[Gen 8:21 NKJV] 21 And 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.

The soothing aroma was in response to the sacrifice that Noah had burned.

It is important to know that the flood didn't solve the sin problem. Man continued to sin after the flood.

However, the sacrifice is a wonderful picture of the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus Christ did on the cross for you and me.

Noah found acceptance in the eyes of God based on his sacrifice and we find acceptance in God's eyes based upon the work on the cross.