

Lesson: Noah and a New Beginning (Genesis 6:9-7:24)

Genesis 6:1-8 discusses God’s regret in his creation and his determination to destroy it. The intermarriage of humans and angels triggered God’s wrath. God also saw the evil of humanity’s heart never ceased growing in scope and execution. So, God chose to remove the stain on his created order. But Noah found grace in God’s sight. God would use him and his family as a seed to replant the world for a new beginning.

Biblical Takeaways (6:9-7:24)

1. The Righteousness of Noah and the Evil of the World (6:9-13; 7:1)
 - a. There are other Mesopotamian flood narratives. One of the most famous is contained in the Epic of Gilgamesh. There is even a Greek story where Zeus flooded the world. The flood in Scripture may seem preposterous to many people but it preserves a real memory.
 - b. The reader might have just expected this section to cover the genealogy of Noah but we are told that Noah was both “righteous” and “perfect” in his generation. More than this, just like Enoch, Noah walked with God.
 - c. By contrast, the world was “filled with violence” and corrupt.
2. The Ark and the and Noah’s Obedience (6:14-22)
 - a. God told Noah to build an ark. The boat was to be 510 feet long, 51 feet high, and 85 feet wide.
 - b. God intended that every creature living on earth, on the land, would die. But Noah and his family would be preserved.
 - c. God commanded Noah to take the male and female of every animal and food into the ark to make a new start in the world. And, importantly, Noah believed God, obeyed, and survived. When God gives a command, our obedience will save us.
3. The Foundation of a New Beginning (7:1-24)
 - a. God instructed Noah to take seven pairs of clean animals and two of every other animal. At this point, there is no indication that animals were for food. The possible significance for the clean animal distinction was for sacrifices. Eating meat would not be allowed until after the flood.
 - b. Noah brought Shem, Ham, and Japheth, his wife, and their wives on the boat with him. They would be the foundation for repopulating the world.
 - c. The rain started on the very day Noah and his family entered the ark. It held until God was ready to make them go in. And the Lord shut him and his family in the ark. God’s hand curated this entire process. His purposes prevailed. It rained, as a consequence, for forty days and nights.
 - d. Verses 21-23 tell us everything on the land died. Particularly, v. 23 makes it clear “He”, God, killed everything on the earth. He all things for his purpose which is why instead of destroying it for good, God allowed it to begin anew. In every judgment of destruction, God gives the seeds of a new beginning. V. 24 emphasizes that Noah and his family survived because they were in the ark. The only way to survive God’s wrath is to be in what God has made for us to survive it.