

The Gospel in Genesis

Comfort in the midst of the flood

Genesis 6:21-22

True faith always requires obedience (6:22)

God's judgment is real and timely (7:4)

Even in the flood God protects (7:15)

Even in the flood God is faithful (8:1)

Even in the flood our God is faithful

The Gospel in Genesis

[Comfort in the midst of the flood]

Introduction

- The flood is God's response to sinful man.
- This is not just a story → The day of Judgement in Genesis points us to a day of greater judgment:
 - **2 Pet 3:7** But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
 - **Rev. 20:11** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.
- God will not be silent, and he will not ignore our brokenness. When the flood comes... where will you find comfort?

Read [Gen 6:21-22]

True faith always requires obedience (6:22)

- God's Word stresses the unquestioning obedience and unfaltering trust in the Lord God.
- True Faith requires obedience [Noah DID]
 - **Heb. 11:7** 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.
 - **Jesus also stressed the intersection of faith/obedience**
 - **John 14:21** He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

Obedience is the evidence of your faith... so how much faith did you have this week? Did I Do this week?

- Obedience is difficult

- God does not call us into cultural Christianity (Noah wasn't just going to church)
 - Think about the tremendous investment of time
 - Think about the tremendous investment of resources
 - Think about the trust (No wheel, no sail, no rudder)
 - Think about the ridicule (40 days or 120 years)
 - We don't know if Noah was an animal lover
 - Noah was 600 years old!
 - **Matt. 7:13** "Enter by the narrow gate
- Obedience leads to God's protection (7:15)

Are you ready to obey? Are you ready to live for Christ even if that is difficult? What is keeping you from obeying? Is comfort keeping you from obedience?

God's judgment is real and timely (7:4)

- **God destroys what he alone has made... what he destroys... he alone makes new.**
- **As He predicted... God followed through.**
 - **Gen. 6:13** 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.
 - **2 Pet 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. **2Pet. 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night,
- **A God w/out justice and judgment is no God at all that is an idol**
 - We see God's judgment in Genesis and Revelation

When the time comes... are you ready to be judged? When the flood rises... where is your comfort?

Even in the flood God protects (7:15)

- **Our salvation and protection is solely dependent upon the Lord**
 - In ANE accounts, the heroes shut the hatch themselves. Here, Noah's salvation is due to divine grace. God keeps the flood out and keeps the ark from capsizing in the raging flood (Waltke)
- **Do you trust God to protect you?**
 - Do you trust that God knows better for you?
 - Casey seeing President Bush. The CIA was there even if she did not see them.
- **You trust that the Lord can keep the floodwaters out?**
- **Do you trust that God can protect you even when your world is chaotic?**
 - We know almost nothing about the inner workings of the ark
 - All we know is that God shut Noah in.
 - Despite the chaos on the outside God comforted Noah

Even in the flood God is faithful (8:1)

- **There was a flood... then God. Some of you need to hear that today because you in the midst of the flood.... But God.**
 - God faithfulness is not washed away by any flood that can come upon you
- **God will remember you**
 - Do you feel like God has forgotten about you sometimes? How do you think Noah felt?
 - Remember... not simply mental recognition... in the Hebrew with reference to God **signifies to act upon a previous commitment** to a covenant partner (Waltke)
 - Don't worry God will not forget about you... He has the best memory the world has ever known.
 - This is why there was so much comfort for the thief on the cross who asked:
 - **Luke 23:42** Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, **remember** me when You come into Your kingdom."
- **But what does this mean for our sins? He will not forget them**
 - Hos. 7:2 They do not consider in their hearts That I remember all their wickedness; Now their own deeds have surrounded them; They are before My face.
- **We deserve to be on the outside of the Ark. But in Christ, we have covering for our sins:**
 - Noah did not get to build the ark anyway he wanted. The plan of the ark and his salvation was set.
 - There is only one name under heaven whereby men can be saved. If you put your faith in Jesus Christ... through obedience...
 - **Is. 43:25** "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; **And I will not remember your sins.**
 - **May the Lord remember Jesus sacrifice and not remember our sins**

Conclusion

- **One day when we are all judged... what will your obedience say about your faith?**
 - ⁹ that if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- **Even in the flood our God is faithful**
 - **Opportunity to respond publically**
 - Come forward// Connect Card

Why does it Matter?

- We have been justified (made right before the Lord) and accepted
- We receive forgiveness (redeemed)
- We escape God's wrath (reconciled)
- We are adopted in to a new family
- We gain a new identity (New Creation)
- **Believe, Confess, Faith, Baptism**

Notes

Gen. 6:22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Gen. 7:1 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.

- Noah’s unquestioning obedience and unflinching trust in God are stressed. According to Rashi this verse refers to the actual construction of the ark. (JPS)
- Come into→ this key verb (go/come) appears seven times in this chapter (JPS)
 - God also calls Noah out of the ark (8:16)
- “for it is you I have seen righteous before me in this generation. God’s word confirms that narrative report in 6:9 that Noah was blameless and righteous” (Alter).
- Noah did..
 - **These Words underscore that Noah lived by Faith (Heb. 11:7)** but blank the tremendous effort and investment involved. It must have taken years to build and a fortune to resource the building project (Waltke)
- Noah’s righteousness saves (deliverance from the flood) his family and his sacrifice after the flood saves generations.
- Noah’s actions model for later generations obedience: his venture to build his vessel upon dry land while awaiting the impending flood waters is exemplary of a person trusting in what cannot be seen or proven (NAC).
 - As for many saints, God is calling upon Noah to accomplish a task that has no precedent, for an experience that had no counterpart (NAC).

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.”

- It takes seven days for the animal occupants to board the ark and to be accommodated. Noah and his family however enter the ark the day the flood begins (Waltke)
- **Rain→ the word rain here refers to a normal rainfall not some overwhelming torrent (NICOT)**
- **God destroys what he alone has made... what he destroys... he alone makes new.**

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.

- Atrahasis and Utnapishtim shut the hatch themselves. Here the test is careful to note that the salvation of Noah is solely due to divine will not to any interdependent measures of his own. (JPS)
- In ANE accounts, the heroes shut the hatch themselves. Here, Noah’s salvation is due to divine grace. God keeps the flood out and keeps the ark from capsizing in the raging flood (Waltke)
- Obedience = God’s protection. Noah did his part now the Lord seals the door which could either result in their doom or their salvation (NAC).

Gen. 8:1 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.

- Then God... even in judgement God is faithful.
- In the bible “remembering” particularly on the part of God, is not the retention or recollection of a mental a mental image, but a focusing upon the object of memory that results in action (JPS)
- Remember... not simply mental recognition... in the Hebrew with reference to God signifies to act upon a previous commitment to a covenant partner (Waltke)
- God remembered... the point is made that when all appears helpless God intervenes to prevent tragedy.
-

Psa. 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses;

But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

Is. 43:25 “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake;

And I will not remember your sins.

Hos. 7:2 They do not consider in their hearts
*That I **remember** all their wickedness;*
Now their own deeds have surrounded them;
They are before My face.

Luke 23:42 Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, **remember** me when You come into Your kingdom.”

Illustrations

- Evil continually.. (What do we see in the news)

Application

- The only way to separate yourself from your sin is to trust in Jesus.
- **If you cling you your sin you will be judged with your sin. In the flood, your sin will not float to save you.**

⁶ and He has kept, with eternal chains in darkness for the judgment of the great day, the angels who did not keep their own position but deserted their proper dwelling. ⁷ In the same way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them committed sexual immorality and practiced perversions, just as angels did, and serve as an example by undergoing the punishment of eternal fire. (Jude)

2Pet. 2:4 For if God didn't spare the angels who sinned but threw them down into Tartarus and delivered them to be kept in chains of darkness until judgment; ⁵ and if He didn't spare the ancient world, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others, when He brought a flood on the world of the ungodly; ⁶ and if He reduced the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes and condemned them to ruin, making them an example to those who were going to be ungodly

33 We even saw the Nephilim there—the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim! To ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers, and we must have seemed the same to them.”

Gen. 6:1 When men began to increase on earth and daughters were born to them, ² the divine beings saw how beautiful the daughters of men were and took wives from among those that pleased them. —

- Verse one forms a bridge between the ungodly Cain and the godly line of Seth to the flood.
- Key to interpretation is the identification of “sons of God” and the “daughters of men”
 - Most likely this is a refutation of other ANE myths that supported the marriage of gods with men and procreation
 - **The bible not only “set the record straight” but condemned the wicked generation (NAC)**
 - **Common thread: each view shows how human conduct transgressed divinely established boundaries (NAC)**
- Divine beings
 - The definite article points to a familiar and well understood term. The context in Job 1:6; 2:1; and 38:7 unmistakably proves the reference to be to the angelic host, the celestial entourage of God. (JPS)
 - Draw backs: no identification of the angelic host, at least in the sense of the heavenly court until this point.
 - Focus of flood is on humanity.
 - Procreation was given to humans and animals (Gen 1:22,28)
 - Most see Peter's audience as familiar with Enoch and thus he alluded to it.
- Sons of God
 - This problematic expression has been defined as Sethites, angels, or a dynasty of tyrants who succeed Lamech (Waltke)
 - All 3 interpretations can be defended from the Hebrew grammar.

- The traditional view since the 3rd century (including Luther and Calvin) understood the sons of God and the daughters of men to be the sons of Seth and the daughters of Cain, and the sin of the mingling of two seeds – defiling the line. Problem: men and daughters are generic and cannot be tied to specific lineage
- Righteous men and Cainite women. The flood is embedded within the Sethite genealogy.
 - Exod 34:16 excludes marrying Caananite neighbors
- The view that angels had sexual relations is ancient. Held by early apocalyptic literature, rabbinic Judaism, and by the early church fathers (1 Enoch 6:1-7; and possibly Jude 6-7 and 2 Peter 2:4).
 - **Matt 22:30** For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven.
- Kings
 - The “sons of gods” could often be translated “nobles, aristocrats, and princes who married girls outside their social status and took great numbers of them into their harems.
 - In this view these tyrants, a continuation of the cursed line of Cain, were supposed to administer justice, but instead they claimed for themselves deity, violated the divine order by forming royal harems and perverted their mandate to rule the earth under God.
 - Any they choose (ie Pharoah (Gen 12:10; and David 1 Sam 11)
 - Also most likely demon possessed or controlled by angelic influences (Waltke)
- Context
 - The flood is judgment against humanity and not the heavenly realm. God specifically labels the offender flesh.
- How beautiful
 - The implication is that they were driven by lust, so that external beauty, and not character was their sole criterion in the selection of mates (JPS)
- Took wives
 - The regular term for the marriage relationship

3 The LORD said, “My breath shall not abide in man forever, since he too is flesh; let the days allowed him be one hundred and twenty years.” —

- Either the life span is shortened or as early exegesis prefers this is the span before the flood (ie 3 generations)

4 It was then, and later too, that the Nephilim appeared on earth — when the divine beings cohabited with the daughters of men, who bore them offspring. They were the heroes of old, the men of renown.

- An obscure verse. The root renders this the “fallen ones” but it is not clear from the context that the Nephilim are identical with the divine beings (JPS)
- Nephelim
 - Also called “heroes” these are offspring of the demonic tyrants filling the earth with violence.
 - Are they offspring or contemporaries? Word only used once more in Num 13:33. Did they survive the flood? Most likely the Nephilim in Num 13 is a figurative reference to the Nephilim of ancient times (NAC)
- Heroes
 - The Hebrew here is also used for Nimrod and his bestial kingdom. (Waltke)
 - Could be the basis of the Gilgamesh epic

The mysterious identity of the “sons of God” continues to humble the expositor (NAC)