

The Gospel in Genesis

[After 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
- What do we do after the flood?

Read [Gen 8:20]

God's Grace leads us to worship (8:20)

- **Significantly, Noah's first act after emerging from the ark is to worship the Lord. God's grace leads us to worship.**
 - What a great example → our response to God's grace and deliverance from the flood is worship.
 - Its not emotion, its not guilt, its not obligation... its called grace (unmerited favor and gift)
 - If you are not worshipping like you should.... Have you ever truly experienced the grace of God?
 - The greater the flood, the greater the deliverance. The greater the deliverance the deeper the and more consistent the worship.
 - Shallow theology = shallow worship
- **Your worship must be of your own initiative. No one forces Noah to worship.**
 - Worship cannot be force and worship can not be manipulated.
 - Be careful when others try to manipulate you to worship.
- **Your worship must be costly**
 - Worship is not free → The clean animal (goat, lamb, ox) was sacrificed and completely consumed. Noah spent 370 days on the ark.
 - Since this offering was wholly burned it represented the person's complete devotion to the Lord (NAC)
 - Worship demands obedience first.
 - Burnt offering is found again in Genesis when God tests Abraham's devotion by commanding him to offer up Isaac (NAC)

- In Jesus Christ, we have a great sacrifice. His willing death on the cross allows us to worship. Worship is not free but is through the grace of God

Your worship opens the door for God to work in your life (8:21)

- **Smelled—You have have assurance that your worship is accepted**
 - Shows that the sacrifice was accepted
 - **Is your worship accepted today?**
 - **Psalm 51:16** For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*; You do not delight in burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A **broken** and a **contrite** heart— These, O God, You will not despise.
 - **We have the same assurance in Jesus Christ. His sacrifice was accepted when he rose again.**
- **You can be sure that God enjoys your worship.**
 - The aroma of Noah’s sacrifice was pleasing
 - It’s as if Noah’s sacrifice soothed the “broken heart” (6:6) of God
- **Noah’s sacrifice opened the door for God to stop the curse**
 - Is God working in your life?
 - Are you worshipping with a broken spirit and heart?
 - Maybe you don’t see God work because you are not worshipping/obedient

○ God’s Covenant (9:11)

- They key term in this section is covenant (berit) which is repeated 7 times.
- A covenant is a solemn promise and agreement between two parties that cannot be broken.
- Only God can initiative a promise with Holiness
 - God’s declaration is emphatic in the Hebrew: the covenant obligation rests with the Lord alone who has determined not to devastate repeatedly the earth’s inhabitants (NAC)
 - **Think about this... you can enter into relationship and covenant with the Most High God.**
- **Only God can initiative a God-sized covenant**
 - Only the Lord had the power to stop the curse over the entire world!
 - Are you seeking person sized promises or God sized?
 - **God didn’t just promise not to flood Noah’s house/neighborhood**
- **Only God can initiate and stop the curse**
 - Is used once more in Genesis and describes excommunication for anyone who refuses to enter Abraham’s covenant by circumcision (NAC)
 - The phrase “cut off” refers to God handing over someone to the realm of death, which lies outside of God’s providential care (Walke)
 - **Only Jesus Christ can keep you from being cut off from the Lord because of your sin**

God's Gracious Sign (9:12)

- **God does not ask us to blindly follow.**
- **God gives us evidence of His grace in our lives – for Noah that was a BOW**
 - **A visible sign of God's invisible grace. “stretched between heaven and earth” (NAC)**
 - A common term used in war and hunting “bow” not rainbow (NAC). We have no obligation to conclude that the “rainbow” was unknown here before.
 - **What was often a symbol of hostility and war is not transformed into an image of reconciliation and grace.**
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- **It's importance life's in what it communicates and evokes, not the wonder itself.**
 - When you ask for a sign are you seeking a tangible image or the life giving message of the Cross?
 - Our hope is not in any sign... but the sign give
- The “sign” affects all generations to come (NAC)
 - Are you leaving signs for others to see God's grace?
 - Are you a living sign for others?
- It is surprising perhaps, to read that the sign is for God's benefit not for mans. When He sees it He will remember the promise he made to Noah.
 - Much like the blood on the door during Passover, the sign is a remember that His words are totally trustworthy. He backs up his word with an act to eliminate even the possibility of forgetfulness.
 - **This is what the Cross does. It is as much of a sign to God as it is to us. When God sees the cross He remembers the sacrifice and the grace offered to you if you receive it.**

In Jesus Christ, God offers you a sign of His grace... are you paying attention?

Conclusion

- **What was often a symbol of hostility and war is not transformed into an image of reconciliation and grace.**

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. 8:20 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 man, even though man’s inclination is evil from his youth. And I will never again strike down every living thing as I have done.

- Noah now builds an altar and brings burnt offerings on his own initiative. His act of worship not only expresses gratitude for the safe deliverance of the ark with its living cargo, but also probably has an expiatory function (JPS).
- Significantly, Noah’s first act after emerging from the ark is to worship God (Waltke)
- **Burnt offering**
 - Hebrew ‘olah is literally “that which ascends,” or that which is entirely consumed on the altar.
 - Was a voluntary offering for sin and as an act of thanksgiving in worship, where it usually is joined by peace offerings (NAC)
 - Burnt offering is found again in Genesis when God tests Abraham’s devotion by commanding him to offer up Isaac (NAC)
 - Since this offering was wholly burned it represented the person’s complete devotion to the Lord (NAC)
- **Smelled**
 - Shows that the sacrifice was accepted
- **Pleasing**
 - Hebrew nihoah is one more play on the name Noah (JPS)
 - Genesis has no difficulty in conceiving God enjoying the aroma of the burnt offering. (Alter)
 - Noah’s offering soothed the “broken heart” of God (
- **Curse/damned**
 - “I will not again damn the soil on humankind’s score.” (Alter)
 - God is not lifting the curse but promising not to destroy the earth again (Waltke)

11 I confirm My covenant with you that never again will every creature be wiped out by the waters of a flood; there will never again be a flood to destroy the earth.”

- The key term in this section is covenant (berit) which is repeated 7 times.
- Now I
 - God’s declaration is emphatic in the Hebrew: the covenant obligation rests with the Lord alone who has determined not to devastate repeatedly the earth’s inhabitants (NAC)
- Wiped/ cut off
 - Is used once more in Genesis and describes excommunication for anyone who refuses to enter Abraham’s covenant by circumcision (NAC)
 - The phrase “cut off” refers to God handing over someone to the realm of death, which lies outside of God’s providential care (Walke)

Gen. 9:12 And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between Me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all future generations: **13** I have placed My bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. **14** Whenever I form clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds,

- **Sign**
 - Hebrew is here a distinctive visible object that immediately calls to mind a particular message (JPS)
 - 3 things are said about the sign(NAC):
 - it is attached to covenant promises
 - it is the Lord’s doing
 - marks a universal covenant between “you and me”
 - the “sign” affects all generations to come (NAC)
 - its importance lies in what it communicates and evokes, not the wonder itself.
 - It is surprising perhaps, to read that the sign is for God’s benefit not for man. When we see it He will remember the promise he made to Noah. Much like the blood on the door during Passover, the sign is a reminder that His words are totally trustworthy. He backs up his word with an act to eliminate even the possibility of forgetfulness.
- **Bow**
 - More than likely the rainbow is an already existing natural phenomenon that is henceforth invested with new symbolic significance as a universal testimony (JPS)
 - **What was often a symbol of hostility and war is not transformed into an image of reconciliation and grace.**
 - **A visible sign of God’s invisible grace. “stretched between heaven and earth” (NAC)**
 - A common term used in war and hunting “bow” not rainbow (NAC). We have no obligation to conclude that the “rainbow” was unknown here before.
 - In ANE accounts stars in the shape of a bow was associated with the hostility of the God (Walke)
 - In what is nothing less than a radical reinterpretation of divine power, the bow ceases to function as a symbol of combat and is now a symbol of peace and well-being (NICOT)
- **Clouds**
 - There can be no bow unless there is a storm (NICOT). Not only does God place the bow in the sky, but he brings the cloud out of which the rainbow emerges.

15 I will remember My covenant between Me and you and all the living creatures: water will never again become a flood to destroy every creature. **16** The bow will be in the clouds, and I will look at it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all the living creatures on earth.” **17** God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have confirmed between Me and every creature on earth.”

- **Remember**
 - Marks the turning point in the divine narrative (NAC).

Illustrations

- “stretched between heaven and earth, it is a bond of peace between both, and , spanning the horizon, it points to the all-embracing universality of Divine mercy (Keil and Delitzsch)

Application

- Noah’s sacrifice and act of worship moves the Lord to make a dramatic announcement. If the Lord is not moving in your life are you truly worshipping and sacrificing?
- There can be no bow unless there is a storm (NICOT). Not only does God place the bow in the sky, but he brings the cloud out of which the rainbow emerges.
- It is surprising perhaps, to read that the sign is for God’s benefit not for mans. When we sees it He will remember the promise he made to Noah. Much like the blood on the door during Passover, the sign is a remember that His words are totally trustworthy. He backs up his word with an act to eliminate even the possibility of forgetfulness.