



GENESIS

God's Grief & The Flood



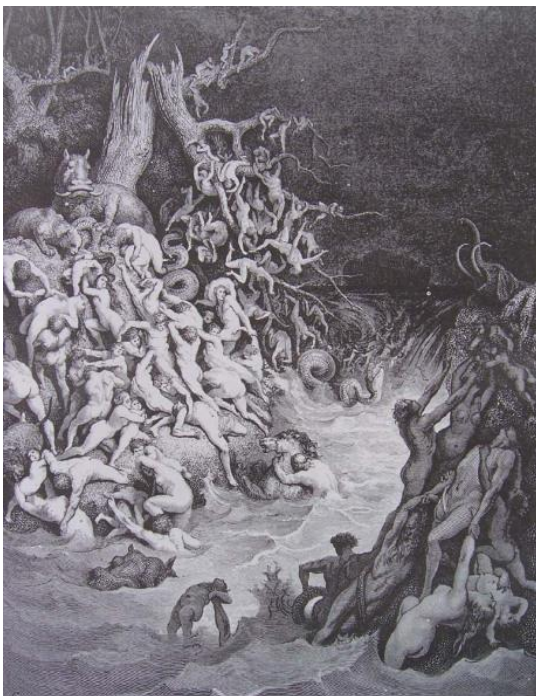
SESSION 25

Some Application of Genesis 6-8

MATTHEW 24:36-44

But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

- 1 What applications can we make for ourselves as we study the flood considering God's promise to send another worldwide judgment on the earth?
- 2 When the fountains of the great deep burst forth, stubborn, sinful humans learned a lesson far too late—finite creatures cannot snub their mighty Creator forever. It's hard to imagine the fear and terror that gripped the unbelievers as they experienced the raw power of the waters that wiped them off the face of the earth. Each occupant of the ark undoubtedly felt that same vulnerability as their ship was lifted high above the earth and tossed upon the waves. Year by year natural disasters remind us we too are finite creatures living in a damaged creation.



In the flood we stand face to face with God's terrifying wrath. We picture thousands, perhaps millions of terrified men, women and children seeking higher ground, only to be swept away in the raging waters. That doesn't seem consistent with the God of love and grace who sent His only Son to save the world. Many people have the same difficulty when they are confronted with the Bible's teachings about hell. We are asked, "How can you call God loving if He punishes people in the flames of hell forever without any relief, without any chance of escape?"

- † What are some reasons people reject the idea of hell?
- † How would you answer someone who said the God of the Bible is unjust, cruel, vindictive and perhaps even genocidal?

3 Our culture's emphasis on tolerance may have something to do with this accusation. We are bombarded by the idea that each person should be free to live as he or she chooses. And we try to extend that obligation to God.

- † Why does our culture consider tolerance so important?
- † How strongly do you react when someone questions or challenges your lifestyle or beliefs?

4 We close this section with one final passage. It warns us against casting aside God's wrath and the sacrifice Jesus made to satisfy that wrath.

HEBREWS 10:26-31.

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- † Why should each of us take this important reminder to heart?
Why might pastors and other church leaders need this reminder more than other Christians?

Read Genesis 8:20 - 9:7

5 Noah and his family have just endured the most traumatic and catastrophic event that has ever been witnessed on the face of the earth. They emerge from the ark into a strange new world. They have no sense of direction or distance; no familiar landmarks to guide and give them bearing. The world they knew is completely gone... their home, their land, their property. No doubt the new world they find themselves in is filled with hidden dangers. Indeed, the unknown almost always seems that way. What assurances, blessings, and directions does God give Noah and his sons to help provide for them and encourage them?

A. Despite man's sinful inclinations, God will never again _____ all the earth through some global disaster like the flood.

- B. God will preserve the _____.
- C. God reaffirms the basic purpose of _____.
- D. God gives animals as _____.
- E. God establishes the sacredness of _____ life.

Read Genesis 9:8-17

- 6 What meaning does God attach to the sign of the rainbow? In what ways does the rainbow preach the Law of God and His just wrath over sin? In what ways does the rainbow preach the Gospel of God and His mercy upon mankind?
- 7 In our day, the image of the rainbow is often used by those who celebrate a decidedly anti-biblical view of marriage, sex, and the rearing of children. How does this use of the rainbow's image differ from the message of Law and Gospel that God has attached to it in His Word?
- 8 The rainbow is a sign of great comfort, as it reminds all of creation that God has promised never to destroy the earth with a great flood again. But that message is meaningless if we do not remember that God sent the flood as an outpouring of His wrath over sin. How are sinners robbed of that comfort when the image of the rainbow is used to support an anti-biblical teaching?

Read Genesis 9:18-29

- 9 Noah gets rip-roaring drunk. Of all the things that Noah did during his 350 years lived after the flood, why do you think the Holy Spirit chooses to show us this unfortunate incident?
- 10 What exactly was so heinous about Ham's sin?

LEVITICUS 18:6-10

None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the Lord. ⁷You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness. ⁸You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness. ⁹You shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether brought up in the family or in another home. ¹⁰You shall not uncover the nakedness of your son's daughter or of your daughter's daughter, for their nakedness is your own nakedness.

LEVITICUS 20:17

If a man takes his sister, a daughter of his father or a daughter of his mother, and she sees her nakedness, and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace, and they shall both be cut off in the sight of the children of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness and he shall bear his iniquity.

- 11 Noah's prophecy set the stage for the rest of world history. How was this prophecy fulfilled?
- 12 On which son of Noah does the "blessing" rest?