

INTRODUCTION

When God created us, so wise is He, and so caring is He, that He made arrangements for our happiness, for our well-being. We notice that they come in two pairs of things:

Marriage and childbearing

Work and sabbath-keeping

When God made us, He also made these provisions for our happiness.

When God gave us our being, He also gave us these arrangements for our well-being.

We want to look into this doctrine, so that we can

-give thanks to God for them, in keeping with this week's national Thanksgiving Day

-understand how the Ten Commandments, which speak of these things, apply to us today

-see in them the gospel, the good news, of forgiveness of sins for sinners in Jesus Christ

So we're looking through the Bible, to see how these arrangements appear through history, and through God's revelation of Himself to us in the Holy Scriptures.

Right after Genesis chapters 1 and 2, where we read about these arrangements God has made for us, we read in Genesis chapter 3 about how we sinned against God, when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. When we sinned against God in Adam, God showed that these arrangements He had made for our well-being

-could not be destroyed by our fall, but would endure, continuing to be for our great benefit even when we had sinned; and that

-had, built into them, the mystery of the gospel of salvation for sinners in Jesus Christ.

-God's observing a sabbath day after six days' work for our creation, pointed to the rest that Jesus Christ would have from His work for our salvation, and of the rest we would have through faith in Him

-God's making Eve out of Adam's side, and the two of them being joined as one flesh, pointed to how sinners would be saved and joined to Jesus Christ as His bride

As we track God's revelation of these things through the Bible, we observe them next in the account of Noah and the great flood. What do we learn about these arrangements for our happiness in the account of Noah and the great flood?

Man, being sinful, mis-uses those arrangements God made for our well-being; and so they are corrupted. But God, being exceedingly patient and longsuffering, still allows us to continue using them despite our mis-use of them. And God, abounding in mercy, makes perfect use of those very things we have corrupted for our salvation in Jesus Christ.

TEXT

Genesis 6:1 - 7:16

BODY

Man, being sinful, mis-uses those arrangements God made for our well-being; and so they are corrupted. But God, being exceedingly patient and longsuffering, still allows us to continue using them despite our mis-use of them. And God, abounding in mercy, makes perfect use of those very things we have corrupted for our salvation in Jesus Christ.

- I. Men use marriage corruptly, which causes corruption in child-rearing, also
Genesis 6:2-5 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. 3 And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." 4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. 5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
 - A. Men mis-used God's institution of marriage, when they made marriages
 - 1. between those of God-fearing families and those carnal
 - 2. on the basis of beauty and attraction only
 - B. The resulting children were very wicked and evil
 - C. This is recorded in Genesis chapter 6, but of course goes on all around us today
 - D. APPLICATION - Let Christians marry only other Christians
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
 - E. APPLICATION - Let a partner for marriage be chosen not for outward beauty only, but for the true beauty of Christian virtue
 - 1. Proverbs 31:30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.
 - 2. chastity, hard work, meekness, submission
 - F. APPLICATION - Let parents raise their children to know the Lord

Men use marriage corruptly, which causes corruption in child-bearing, also; but

II. God makes a perfect use of marriage and childbearing to save us

- A. God ordains Noah to be the savior of our race; God then saves those who are related to Noah by birth and by marriage

Genesis 7:1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

Genesis 7:13 On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark--

- B. See this in how God saves us from the wrath to come, by reckoning those who believe in Christ to be Christ's wife and God's children

Revelation 21:1-8 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

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CONCLUSION

Let us be thankful to God for these good things He has given us---marriage and childbearing---and all the blessings that He has caused to come to us from His hand by means of these things.

Understand that mankind, because of sin, are in need of commandments from the Lord regarding our use of those arrangements He has made for our well-being, lest we use them so corruptly that we bring judgment on ourselves.

See in sinful man's mis-use of these things our need for salvation from God's wrath.

Understand that the great salvation God has worked for us in Jesus Christ is for those who are reckoned to be His wife and God's children through faith. Believe in Jesus Christ today, and be counted as a member of His household, and so be saved. There is a terrible judgment to come upon this wicked world. Come into the ark, and God will shut you in, to save you in Jesus Christ.

Man, being sinful, mis-uses those arrangements God made for our well-being; and so they are corrupted. But God, being exceedingly patient and longsuffering, still allows us to continue using them despite our mis-use of them. And God, abounding in mercy, makes perfect use of those very things we have corrupted for our salvation in Jesus Christ.

Dillon - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 100

Stephen Jeff - Scripture Reading - Psalm 107

Roel - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - Revelation 7:12

Angie - Prelude - please pick

Allison - Trinity 212 "A Hymn of Glory"

Audrey - Trinity 83 "We Praise Thee, O God"

Cecily - Trinity 506 "Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me?"

- III. God ordained that through the work of man, God would save us from His wrath that was coming on the wicked
- A. Genesis 6:14 Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.
 - B. Genesis 6:22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.
 - C. Hebrews 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.
 - D. See this wonderfully fulfilled in Jesus Christ
 - 1. 1689.8.7 Christ, in the work of mediation, acteth according to both natures, by each nature doing that which is proper to itself...
 - 2. 1689.11.1 ...imputing Christ's active obedience unto the whole law, and passive obedience in his death for their whole and sole righteousness...
 - E. death from the judgment of God would be all around, but those who are with Noah will be saved from it, and brought out of the flood alive
 - F. death from the judgment of God would be all around, but those who are with Moses will be saved from it, and brought through the sea on dry ground
 - G. Death from the judgment of God will be all around, but those who are with Jesus Christ through faith will be saved from it, and raised from the dead to live with Him forever

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- V. The Seven-Day week from creation
- A. In God's salvation

1. Genesis 7:1-10 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. 2 You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; 3 also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. 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." 5 And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him. 6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth. 7 So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. 8 Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, 9 two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth.

B. In Noah's observing of the seven-day week God instituted at creation, Noah learned that the earth was dry, and safe for man again.

1. Genesis 8:8-13 He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. 9 But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. 10 And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. 11 Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. 12 So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore. 13 And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry.

C. How this is fulfilled in Jesus Christ

VI. After the great flood, God once again pronounced His blessing on our race through child-bearing.

A. Genesis 9:1 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

B. Genesis 9:7 And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."

C.

See how our Lord Jesus showed Himself alive to His disciples

Genesis 8:10 And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark.

Henry:

This intimates that it was done on the sabbath day, which, it should seem, Noah religiously observed in the ark. Having kept the sabbath in a solemn assembly of his little church, he then expected special blessings from heaven, and enquired concerning them.

Gill:

this dove sent out the second time, and returning, may be considered as an emblem of a Gospel minister, comparable to a dove, for the dove like gifts of the Spirit of God, by which he is qualified for his work, and for his simplicity, harmlessness, meekness, and humility; and the olive leaf in its mouth may be an emblem of the Gospel, which is from Christ, the good olive; is the Gospel of peace, which an olive branch is a symbol of, proclaiming and publishing peace and reconciliation by Christ; and as that is ever green, the Gospel always continues, and is the everlasting Gospel, and which was brought, and more fully and clearly dispensed in the evening of the world; and by it, it is known that the waters of divine wrath are assuaged, and the people of God may be assured they will never return to come upon them

Barnes:

From this event, the olive branch became the symbol of peace [as also Ellicott], and the dove the emblem of the Comforter, the messenger of peace.

The number seven figures very conspicuously in this narrative. Seven days before the showers commence the command to enter the ark is given; and at intervals of seven days the winged messengers are sent out. These intervals point evidently to the period of seven days, determined by the six days of creation and the seventh day of rest.

This passage is important on account of the divisions of time which it brings out at this early epoch. The week of seven days is plainly intimated.

JFB:

a strong presumptive proof that Noah observed the Sabbath during his residence in the ark

K&D:

The fresh olive-leaf was the first sign of the resurrection of the earth to new life after the flood, and the dove with the olive-leaf a herald of salvation.

The seven days constituted the week established at the creation, and God had already conformed to it in arranging their entrance into the ark (Gen_7:4, Gen_7:10)

Spurgeon:

I wonder whether Noah sent out these creatures on the Sabbath mornings. The mention of seven days, and the resting in between seems to look like it. Oh, dear friends, sometimes people send out a raven on the Lord's day morning, and it never brings them anything. Send out a dove rather than a raven; come to the house of God with quiet, gentle, holy expectation, and your dove will come back to you. It may be that it will bring you something worth bringing one of these days, as Noah's dove brought to him.

1 Peter 3:18-22 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

It will be Thanksgiving Day this week.