

The Flood of Judgment ▪ Genesis 7:1-24

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There seems to be one major thing severely lacking in the American church: it's *reverent fear* of God.

- Listen to the music.
- Read the bestsellers in the Christian publishing industry.

You will find a lot of therapeutic, self-help books....very little that leads to a reverent fear of God.

- The flood story (Aka Noah's Flood—we know it's God's) - if we hear it right, with the right ears, should produce a *reverent fear*.
- The very thing that stood out about Noah was his *reverent fear*.

Hebrews 11:7 ESV

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

- I believe 3 things about the flood: historical, global, doxological.

Historical: real people (Noah), places, precise dates

Global: the flood covers all the earth (v19)

Doxological: (Gives God glory)

Psalms 29:3 ESV

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over many waters.

The flood story is another thing that's foundational. It's needed if we are going to recover a reverent fear of God, we need to think hard about what this is teaching us.

There are other non-biblical ancient flood accounts—well over 200 that are from places all over the world.

They carry many similarities. Massive death and destruction; one family stays safe.

--- Yet there is one key difference: they lack the Main Character: The LORD.

- As we work through this text today, our focus is on one main character: the Lord God.
- It's the LORD's actions that drive everything else in the story.

We see 3 distinct actions: God speaks, sends, and spares.

- As we reflect on these actions, it helps us move in steps toward recovering a *reverent fear* of God.

God Speaks

- The text begins with the Lord speaking to Noah (v1)
- My view is that Noah had spent considerable time building the ark—the 120 years “when God's patience waited in the days of Noah”.

--But now it's time; there is one week to embark the ark

--We see a similar command to exit the ark when it's all done (8:16)

The ARK—a few details:

Dimensions: 450 ft x 75 x 45; it was deigned just for steadily floating. No sails, no rows.

Which means...it was left to the complete sovereign direction and care of God.

- Josh set me up for explaining the 7 clean animals....I'm going to punt that to next week.
- Our attention is drawn to how Noah responds: Obedience (6:22, 7:5)

What we've seen about Noah is that obedience is *characteristic* of him.

› *When God spoke, Noah obeyed all.*

And in our day, we hear God speak regularly: every Sunday, every time you open the word personally, or in family devotions.

Is obedience characteristic of you?

When God speaks, what is characteristic of how you respond?

James 1:22–23 ESV

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.

Recovering a reverent fear...taking God's speaking with utter seriousness.

- Before we move on—Noah's life is also a picture of discipleship at one level.

Noah probably had a home he built; a garden; his own farm; trees that he planted and grew. Things he crafted with his own hands.

But he had to bid farewell to his all.

It's that simple reminder: Never hold tight to the things of this world!

Be ready to leave it behind, and quickly when God calls.

God Sends

One of the proofs of how our secular world had shaped our thinking is how we answer very basic questions.

Where does your food come from? Aldi? Publix?

Where does the rain come from? Sky?

The correct answer to both is God.

- V4—God sends the rain

Over and over, Scripture reminds us of this basic fact:

Deuteronomy 11:14 ESV

he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil.

One of Job's friends—poor counselor, good theologian

Job 5:9–10 ESV

who does great things and unsearchable,
marvelous things without number:
he gives rain on the earth
and sends waters on the fields;

Jesus teaching on common grace:

Matthew 5:45 (ESV)

...your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Paul evangelizing

Acts 14:17 ESV

Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”

A basic catechism question for kids:

Q: Where does the rain come from?

A: From God, who always sends it for his good purposes

› We need this basic way of thinking to keep a God-centered perspective.

- The text describes in v11 that some subterranean collection of water was released. It's possible that a combo of earthquake and tsunamis and hurricanes were happening.

Think of the power of God

- It's also implied that God sends something else with the rain: Death.

- Here in Gen. 7, the rains are not a good thing to help grow crops and water plants. It's a terrifying thing to judge sin.
- The working of this out is v20-21.

There is an emphasis on the prevailing waters (v18, v19, 20, 24).

The way we can understand this is a factory reset.

If your phone or device gets a virus or severely malfunctions, you can do a factory reset; everything is wiped out to get back to original settings.

- That is how the flood is portrayed (v17-19)—factory reset to Gen 1.

God's sovereign ability to send prevailing judgment over all his creation...should move us to recover a reverent fear...and also see and worship him as our King!

Psalm 29:10 ESV

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

When God sends, do you fear him?

God Spares

Even though the flood narrative is so thick with judgment...grace and mercy also shines through.

Twice:

- V16: And the LORD shut him in
- There are other Mesopotamia flood stories. In some of those stories, the hero is the captain of the ship—and he closes the hatch on the door.

Here...the focus is not on Noah being a hero, but on the covenant LORD and his awesome grace to save.

The picture is of God shutting the door of the Ark with his mighty hand.

We can see this at the Father's Touch of Grace.

- V23: Only Noah was left ... and those with him in the ark. The verb here "left" is where later the word remnant comes from.
- It's also important to look at what the NT says about the flood.

The NT reads the flood to show us serious and sure things.

1) The Future judgment of the ungodly is a serious and sure thing

2 Peter 2:5 ESV

if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2 Peter 2:9 ESV

then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

2) The second coming of Christ is a serious and sure thing

Matthew 24:36–37 ESV

"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.

Matthew 24:44 ESV

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

There were probably people mocking Noah: "What's this crazy guy doing?"

--Or maybe it was not mocking, but just ignoring.

People are the same today.

Some mock. Some mock God and the preaching of righteousness.

Others ignore. Some are happy to just carry on with life.

More are concerned about what's for lunch than what God is doing.

We have a God who warns us about serious and sure things.

But here is the good news friends...God spares.

- › God judges and destroys the wicked and ungodly...yet spares a few *based on the obedience of one Righteous Man*.
- Noah is a very important biblical story in the Bible for many reasons: He is the first man called Righteous.

“The righteous man rests everything on the Word of God and obeys it...everything about him is covered by the obedience of God's perfect word.” (Kent Hughes)

The only hope in the days of Noah....if you listen, follow, trust, obey one Righteous Man and follow him into the ark.

The Righteous Man for Christians is not Noah, but the Lord Jesus Christ.

- › Christians don't follow Noah into the ark; we follow Jesus who bore a cross and crown of thorns.whose obedience did not cause him to escape death, but embrace it as God's will.

Philippians 2:8 (ESV)

...he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The flood teaches us this basic truth:

God has the power to judge, and the grace to save.

In the Bible, salvation only comes to those who trust and follow the One Righteous Man!

- Fellow believers, keep your trust and hope in the One Righteous Man.
- All others, today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.

God still has the power to judge, and grace to save.