

A degenerate world ...

I. Man's Regression

- A. Expansion
- B. Indiscretion
- C. Depravity

II. God's Grief

- A. What Was Good
- B. Becomes Regrettable

III. Fearful Expectation

- A. Wrath
- B. Just Deserts

... and the God of mercy.

Children, Listen ...

1. Do you remember how God felt about the man and woman he created? (Genesis 1:27, 31)
 2. After Adam and Eve sinned, did people get better or worse?
 3. How did God feel about mankind when he saw how wicked they had become?
 4. God said he would destroy man and animals. Does God ever do wrong?
 5. Looking ahead: Who will God use to keep mankind alive when all is destroyed?
- Bonus: Who does God send to save us from the punishment for sin that we deserve?

Not A Pretty Picture

The prologue to the flood shows the ugliness of depravity and God's response to it. No matter how tame we try to make the story of the world-wide deluge in children's books we cannot diminish the seriousness of the rampant sin that provoke the horrors God's wrath upon the population of the entire earth those ancient days. It is hard to find even a glimmer of hope in the text selected for today's message but that does not mean there is no hope surrounding it. Standing as bookends on either side of our text is "comfort" in the form of a man named Noah. This righteous man will be the instrument of mercy through which God will spare the entire human race from extinction. But Noah and his ark are representative of a greater salvation from the everlasting wrath of God that mankind deserves for degenerate living. Jesus the wholly righteous one and perfectly blameless in the deliverer and the one in Whom the sinner is hidden from the fury of God's anger at sin. The mercy that God shows should not detract from our horror over sin, there is nothing pretty about it and there is nothing cutesy in the way of deliverance from it. Sin is a grotesque perversion and an abomination to God – so heinous is rebellion against God that it took the Son of God in our flesh to bear the horror of crucifixion, the curse of the cross and the full wrath of God upon His sacred soul to atone for our transgressions. Never minimize the repulsive nature of depravity in the eyes of God and never cease to marvel that he shows mercy to sinners who are worthy of destruction – there is nothing uglier than unleashed corruption – and there is nothing more beautiful than undeserved grace in the Lord Jesus Christ.