

Genesis—Series Overview

Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope

The book of Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horrifying result of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Consider the Horror of Sin. How do we tend to trivialize the seriousness of sin? How does the account of Noah challenge us?

Praise God for His Redemption! God has saved His people to continue our sacred responsibility as stewards of Creation. How are you living that out to His glory? Consider ways that you can encourage others to join us in this great privilege.

Praise Christ! The covenant is fulfilled in Jesus. The war bow of God's wrath was released on Him and He bore it all. Praise Him!

Ezra-Nehemiah—Series Overview

A Community Restored for Worship

The book of Ezra-Nehemiah was written to encourage God's people returning after exile to believe the covenant promises and restore the temple in Jerusalem. God's people were being restored in the place of promise as a worshipping community. The restoration of purpose was far greater than their real estate. The place always has to do with what God promised would happen there.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
February 10th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 6 – 9

The Gospel According to Noah

1. God Ordinarily Works Salvation Through Families.
2. God Saves His People From Destruction.
3. God Redeems Us as Stewards of Creation.

God used Noah's faith and obedience to provide a picture of His redemption of His people. The waters that brought destruction for all those living on the earth were the very same waters that carried the ark to safety with all those God had sealed within it. His covenant promise of a war bow placed in the sky reminds us just how far Christ went to deliver us from the wrath we too deserve.

Evening Service:

Nehemiah 11: 1 – 36

The Orderly Worship of God

1. God Restores a Fully Functioning Temple Complex.
2. The Holy City Serves All the Surrounding Towns.
3. The Temple Points to Christ and His People.

God as the King of all Creation is the only One capable of directing us in how we are to worship Him. We are not free to offer whatever we think might be appropriate, but should in every instance only worship God according to His commands. This chapter helps us to see the orderly appointment of all the personnel necessary for His Temple in the Holy City. Let us see how Christ fulfills this and how we as His Church are to be engaged in worshipping Him as He commands.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

How bad off is the sin of humanity? Do we really believe that it is so bad that the whole earth deserved to be wiped out?! God did. He is perfectly just. We need to grapple with the fact that our problem with His justice is NOT because He is unjust, but because we are. The account of Noah and his family challenges us to the very core. How will you wrestle with these truths this week?

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 6-9**. DISCUSS: Why does sin result in death? How are we to “wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ” and what is the eternal life He will bring? PRAY for God to help us a congregation to more and more trust Christ by faith.

Sunday PM

READ today’s passage: **Nehemiah 11:1-36**. Why does God specify such detail in how His people are to worship Him? Why is it necessary? REJOICE in God’s greatness. PRAISE Him.

Monday

READ **Genesis 6:1-22; Jeremiah 17:9-10**. DISCUSS: The world tells us to follow our heart. Why might this not be a great plan? What should we follow instead? PRAY for godly wisdom. REPENT of ways you (we) disobey God and treat sin lightly. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead us in biblical faithfulness.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 7:1-24; Hebrews 11:5-7**. DISCUSS: How did Noah express faith in God? What has God called you (us) to do that may make no sense to anyone apart from Christ? MEDITATE on God’s absolute holiness—in Him there is not even a shadow of evil. PRAY, “Lord Jesus, thank You that You are trust-worthy and just. Thank You for loving us and giving us Your righteousness. Amen.”

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 7:24-8:22; Psalm 98:1-9**. DISCUSS: What does it mean for God to remember Noah? How are you (we) trusting in God’s faithfulness? REJOICE for the ways God remembers all of us who are in Christ. SING praises to the Lord. Use a favorite hymn or praise chorus to sing your praises to our King.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 9:1-29; Jeremiah 31:31-34**. DISCUSS: How are these covenants similar? How are they different? What is the sign of God’s covenant promise to Noah? REJOICE over the freedom we have in Christ. PRAY, “Lord, You are just in all Your ways. We have a difficult time thinking about destruction on the scale of the flood. Teach us to see our sin for what it really is and how much it cost You, Lord Christ. Show us the beauty of Your covenant.”

Friday

READ **Genesis 6-9**. DISCUSS: What have you been learning this week? How does seeing the judgment of the earth in the flood and God’s redemption of Noah and his family help us see Jesus more clearly? REJOICE for Christ has set us free from our bondage to death. PRAY for your neighbors who are deceived and unable to even see their own sin for what it really is. Pray for their repentance. Reach out in friendship.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. READ **Genesis 10-11**. DISCUSS: What questions do you have? PLAN AHEAD: Do what you can today to free you up tomorrow to concentrate on worshipping Christ with His people. INVITE someone you know to join you for the worship service tomorrow. Ask Christ to draw them to Himself.