

DEVILS, DEMONS, & DINOSAURS

The Longest Week on Earth

GENESIS 6-8

Perhaps the greatest word in the Bible as far as we who are saved are concerned is the word GRACE. God introduces us to grace with an astoundingly vivid backdrop. You see the Lord has planned to pour out His wrath against sin two times on earth. First at the Flood secondly at the Tribulation. Both are fantastic pictures of His Grace.

GOD SENT A WARNING

In the flood times God sent Enoch a preaching prophet who told the world

Jude 14-15 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." (NKJV)

Then He sent Methuselah son of Enoch, whose 969 years were the longest human life span and whose name meant "when he dies it comes". Then he sent Noah a preacher of righteousness!

THE LONGEST WEEK IN HISTORY

The longest seven days in history may have started with the loud thud of the massive entrance to the ark slamming shut. With no other means of exit other than a 45 foot plus drop from the deck Noah and family were trapped. Day one the crowds yelled jeered and called out for the flood. Day two and growing animal smells and sounds, passed slowly, more yells and jeers as the crowd grew larger. Many people along the roads had followed the incredible river of animals walking quickly and orderly two by two. Crossing Noah's field they went up the ramp into that huge building Noah had built over the past 120 years. Day three was really hard, nothing happened except it was getting warm in here. The animals seemed to be all quieting down almost like they were going to sleep. Days four through six passed with constant heckling drifting up the walls to the family

quarters atop the Ark. Then on Day seven November 17th, 1656 a loud thud was heard on the roof, and then another as massive drops of rain began to pelt the earth. . . the flood had come.

A massive splat of water hit Mr. & Mrs. Scoffer sitting in their lawn chairs in their back yard. They have sat here on and off over the last century drinking and jeering that old neighbor and his kids that had gone off the deep end. This guy who lived next door was crazy. He was ruining the neighborhood. His farm was now a construction site. A massive 450 foot long building, 75 feet deep and nearly five stories high was out in his pasture. When he wasn't out there dragging wood around he would loudly preach to all of the spectators that gathered to watch about some crazy disaster coming. Water was going to fall on us and cover all of us up? He claimed some deity somewhere was offended by our demon worship, drunkenness and murder. Splat, another wet object jarred Mrs. Scoffer awake. She had been dozing after the effects of last night's revelry.

ON THE GROUND IN THE FLOOD

In fact most of the hundreds of milling town's people were still red eyed. It was almost exactly seven days since Noah and all his family went up that ramp into their wooded building. Some say that the ramp had lifted itself up and sealed the entrance. All we out here know is that the building had no visible entrance left. And now it was getting had to see as the sky had grown darker and darker. Animal sounds were the only sign of life coming from the small windows at the top. All of them were starting to get their mocking banter going when the huge clear missiles started arriving from the sky. It was fun at first. The water was cool and drenched us and our seats. Then as the tempo increased it became uncomfortable to stand under them so we began to retreat out of old Noah's yard and back across the field to our homes. As we walked by the piles of lumber, saws and scaffolding the water raining down on us was like a thick curtain. We could hardly see to walk.

At almost the same instant they stopped and with ashen faces shouted to one another, "Is this the FLOOD old Noah was talking about so long?" Then a blinding flash of fire from the sky lit up the countryside like noon day. A deafening boom followed and with terror filled steps they all turned and ran to the huge building Noah had built. Climbing up the scaffolding they pounded frantically on the place the door used to be. The thick sawed gopher wood absorbed the blows and the gooey black pitch stuck to their hands. In the alternating blackness and blinding flashes and booming explosions they crawled home. Soon the ground began to be covered with water and all their deepest fears were confirmed the FLOOD arrived and they were wrong.

A FLOOD PREVIEW

On November 17th, 1656 the most disastrous event that has ever happened on earth began. There have been killer quakes over the centuries killing thousands, but nothing

like this. There have been deadly plagues over the years killing millions, but never has there been a time that all the inhabitants of the planet except EIGHT were eliminated.

What happened on the ground must have been beyond description. It was not only rain that fell. The fountains of the deep must certainly describe the volcanic activity that surrounded the FLOOD. A brief description of EXPLODING MOUNTAINS SINCE THE FLOOD¹ can give us a little insight into what the earth did during those horrifying days of judgment. In August of 1883, the island of Krakatoa in the Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia) "burst with a roar heard more than 2,000 miles away; the resultant aerial vibrations circled the globe several times. Volcanic dust blocked out the sun for a radius of 100 miles. Some of it eventually sifted to earth 1,000 miles from Krakatoa; the rest, ejected with a force that drove it into the stratosphere, dispersed over the entire planet, causing spectacular sunsets through the closing months of 1883. Finally came the culminating horror-the tidal waves. More than 100 feet high and with a velocity in excess of 50 miles an hour, they ravaged the nearby coasts of Java and Sumatra. In places they raged inland of 1,000 yards and were still 30 feet high. They swept away entire towns and villages, almost 300 of them. This disaster crushed the life from more than 36,000 people"²

BEYOND IMAGINATION

Multiply these crustal paroxysms by hundreds of thousands and a mental picture of the early phase of the Flood year will begin to emerge-"on the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up ... and every living thing was destroyed" (Gen. 7:11, 23).

MODERN SCOFFERS

For just a moment consider the scoffing of our modern days. The apostle Paul asks, "Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?" (I Cor. 1:20). Foolishness in the Biblical sense of that term-is a willful refusal to accept God's explanations of reality in favor of mere human explanations. Uniformitarian geologists today are far less rigid than their nineteenth-century counterparts. They speak of their new freedom and flexibility, even to the point of tolerating major catastrophes. But the trend is somewhat dangerous for their uniformitarian/evolutionary model of earth history.

- Can their system absorb the discovery that the earth's magnetic field began less than 15,000 years ago because of its present rate of dissipation?
- Or the lack of helium in the atmosphere in spite of rapid accretion through radioactive decay processes?
- Or the lack of meteoritic dust on the moon and earth in spite of its present rapid rate of accumulation?
- Or the discovery that oil reservoirs are of recent origin because of the impossibility of long maintaining high fluid pressures under the observed permeabilities of reservoir and trap formations?

¹ World that Perished, pp. 86-87.

² Spyridon Marinatos, "Thera: Key to the Riddle of Minos," *National Geographic Magazine*, May, 1972, p. 715.

- Or the necessarily sudden and recent formation of all of the earth's vast coal deposits?
- Or the rapid formation and excavation of the Grand Canyon, together with the presence of pollen grains in its lowest strata?
- Or the presence of human footprints in the same rock layers with the footprints of huge reptilian dinosaurs?

WHAT GOD WANTS US TO REMEMBER

THE FLOOD CONSIDERED TYPICALLY. The ark is a wonderful picture of our salvation in Christ.

TRUE SALVATION IS DIVINE [6:13-14]: It was planned by God, not invented by man. John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. (KJV); Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (NKJV); Revelation 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (NKJV)

TRUE SALVATION DEALS WITH SIN [6:14]: The word for "pitch" in 6:14 is the same as the word "atonement" used later in the OT. Matthew 1:21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (NKJV); John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (NKJV); 1 John 3:9-10 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor [is] he who does not love his brother. (NKJV)

TRUE SALVATION IS PERSONAL [7:1]: The ark was made of wood, speaking of the humanity of Christ: He had to be born as man in order to save us. Philippians 2:7-8 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, [and] coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to [the point of] death, even the death of the cross. (NKJV); John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (NKJV); Acts 3:16 "And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which [comes] through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. (NKJV); Acts 26:18 'to open their eyes, [in order] to turn [them] from darkness to light, and [from] the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' (NKJV)

GOD SAVES BY INVITATION: God invited Noah and his family into the ark (7:2). John 6:37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. v. 44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. (NKJV)

TRUE SALVATION IS EXCLUSIVE [7:13-15]: There was only one way of salvation; there was only one ark and only one door in the ark. John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (NKJV); Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (NKJV).

GOD SAVES ETERNALLY [7:16]: and once they were in, God shut them in so that they were secure Jude 24-25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present [you] faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, [Be] glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen. (NKJV); Hebrews 7:24-25 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (NKJV)

TRUE SALVATION LIBERATES THE COSMOS: The ark not only saved mankind, but also the creatures within it; just as Christ's death will one day deliver creation from the bondage of sin. Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. (NKJV)

TRUE SALVATION PROTECTS US FROM GOD'S WRATH: The ark saved them from judgment; Christ saves us from the wrath to come. First Peter 3:18-22 connects the ark with the resurrection of Christ; the waters buried the old world but raised Noah to a new life. 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, [even] Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come; 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (NKJV)

TRUE SALVATION ALWAYS POINTS TO CHRIST: If you will check the Flood schedule, you will see that the ark rested on Ararat on the 17th day of the 7th month. The first month in the Hebrew calendar is October, so the 7th month would be April; and April 17th (three days after Passover, Exodus 12:1-3) is the day our Lord arose from the dead! April was made the first month of the religious year at the Passover, but October remains the first month of the civil year. Luke 24:44-45 Then He said to them, "These [are] the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and [the] Prophets and [the] Psalms concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. (NKJV)

960721 AM TRANSCRIPT

Open in your bibles to Genesis chapter seven. As you open there, I want to read to you the theme of what I'm going to speak about this morning. Especially in view of the nature of the flood. This is probably the last thing some of you would think that I would speak about. But I'm talking about grace. And some of you never think of the flood as an evidence of grace, but I want to tell you this morning, when we get done, whenever you think of Noah, the ark, the flood, the animals, and all that, I want you to think of one word. And think of the grace of our God.

Listen to what the songwriter wrote many years ago. "Marvelous grace of our loving God. Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt." I'm reading hymn 201 for those of you that like to know where I am. "Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured. There where the blood of the lamb was spilt. Marvelous grace. Infinite grace. Grace that will pardon and cleanse within. Marvelous grace. Infinite grace. Grace that is greater than all our sin."

The grace of God is most evident against the backdrop of perhaps, and not even perhaps, undoubtedly, the greatest disaster that this planet has ever experienced. It says in the scriptures that the longest week probably that ever existed started in Genesis seven in verse 10. I want you to look at verse 10 because it says, "And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood began upon the earth." After seven days, after what?

Well, look at verse one of chapter seven. "And 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." And they went into the ark. And I want to tell you it must have been a long seven days. I've thought about this all week long, what it must have been like, because Noah had been building that building - that's what people thought it was, a building - it was 450 feet long and 75 feet deep and almost five stories high; a wooden building, flat bottom, sitting there in his pasture.

Now old Noah was about 500 years old, 480 to be exact, when he started building this, and people always thought he was a little strange anyway before they knew he was strange. I mean when this old man wasn't dragging boards up, building this building, he was preaching to them. And when he preached to them, and it says in the book of Peter that he was a preacher of righteousness, he was standing out like a bright light in the black darkness. And he was lighting up their lives and telling them that they were living unrighteously and that the God who created all things was going to send a cataclysmic judgment on the planet and kill everybody that hadn't come for shelter into his ark.

Now I'm sure that the crowds grew as the building grew, because for 120 years he built that thing. And his children helped him build this, his three sons. And I think that probably there was quite a gang that would come with their lawn chairs. In fact, I've

seen them this week 'cause I've thought about this. Mr. and Mrs. Scoffer would pull up their chairs on their lawn, because they abutted Noah's property, and out in the pasture behind was that great big thing he was building, and they'd pop those armchairs and they'd sit there and they would laugh at him and say, "Oh, Noah, what are you going to do with this building?" And they carried on for 120 years.

But then something happened because verse one says that the Lord said come in. And all over the planet God had been preparing two by two for the animals to converge on this spot. And some of them probably had to come a long ways. And so God had started them a long time before.

We were at Porter yesterday and watched the frog race. And I don't mean to say anything about the dear folks at Porter, but those were not frogs. Those were toads. They were not frogs. But it's okay if they thought they were frogs. It's all right. I mean, you know. But they didn't go very fast. Those toads kind of waddle. And those turtles, they had a turtle race and the turtles waddled. And I thought how long it would take for all those animals to come.

And as I was talking with Bonnie, I thought that they came quietly. But Bonnie had more insight than I did, she said, "No, they came excitedly." Can you imagine those animals making noises and excitedly, briskly trotting along 'cause God had told the animals, "I'm going to destroy the earth. And you all, if you come, you'll be saved."

And those animals came from everywhere. And can you imagine the river of animals coming across from every part of this globe, converging on Noah's pasture? And can you imagine the people that lived along the pathway where this river of orderly animals came? And they were all just paired up and there were seven pairs of clean animals and just two pairs of the unclean animals as they came and went right up that ramp into that building. And I'm sure that the crowd grew when that happened. And if you, this really happened. Have you thought very much about the flood? Have you thought about, out of every corner of the earth they saw a phenomenon that they could not dispel? That animals all the sudden began to orderly march toward this building, and people started looking and saying what is crazy Noah doing now? You know? Starting an indoor zoo? Maybe it was the first zoo ever. But they all started coming. And then they all got up that ramp.

And then it says, look at this, in verse 16 at the end, and the Lord shut the door of the ark. There was only one door into that ark. They didn't know it was an ark. They just knew it was a big building, 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, 45 feet high. And they knew it was big.

And they knew that streaming in from all over came these animals. And they watched them go right through the gate of Noah's garden. Sometimes the elephants, they just barely made it, and some of those little, tiny shrews and stuff just were right there going along, and they just went right up that ramp. And then last, but not least, Noah and his family, his wife, his three sons, each of their wives, came walking in. And the people,

“Hey, what are you doing in there with those animals?” And they were carrying on, laughing and scoffing and mocking them. And I’m sure that Noah took the last minute at that moment to stand on the gang lane??? To look out at them and to say, I warned you that the God who created this planet is going to kill everything that has life’s breath, if you don’t come into this ark. And he stood there for a moment. He went inside. And then I’m sure that there was a murmur in the crowd, because all of a sudden that doorway, that gangway, all by itself, by the hand of God, slammed shut. And you couldn’t even see a door anymore. God just sealed that thing in. And so they all sat in their lawn chairs the rest of the day, and that happened at the beginning of the week, and it says in verse 10, after seven days. And it must have been one of the longest seven days in history, because with that loud thud, when the massive entrance of the ark slammed shut, with no other means to exit, other than jumping off from the 45 feet high deck, it was going to be an interesting time inside with all those animals.

And day one probably passed with the crowds yelling and jeering and calling out for the flood that he promised to happen to happen. And day two went by and pretty soon you could smell animal smells coming out of that ark. And they all got their lawn chairs and sat there and watched. And probably people, that along the roads had been following this incredible river of animals walking quickly and orderly toward the ark, two by two, and crossing Noah’s field up the ramp, they started showing up and they sat down. And they watched. And they started looking at the building that Noah had built for 120 years. But day three must have really been hard. ‘Cause nothing happened. Talk about a test. Can you imagine Noah in there? Honey, is this the right day? I mean the flood, I mean. It’s just us and the animals and all the people out there. And I mean, I told Bonnie, What if someone would have started a fire outside the boat made of wood, covered with pitch? I mean, it would have burned up. But Bonnie says, oh, God would have taken care of that, too. And I believe it, too. But it was starting to get a little warm inside the ark. The animals seemed to be quieting down, though. Must be that God let them have a little kind of, you know, hibernation or something, because I can’t imagine all of them being too active in there. Day four through six passed with the constant heckling drifting up the walls to the family quarters atop the ark. But then on day seven, by the way, the bible even tells us, day seven was November 17th on our calendar, a loud thud was heard on the roof of the ark. And then another. As massive drops of rain for the first time in the history of this planet, water starting falling out of the sky. I can imagine Mr. and Mrs. Scoffer who lived next door to Noah with all the other crowd were sitting in their lawn chairs, they were still, kind of had a hangover from last night’s revelry, because the world was very wicked at that time. And they were sitting there bleary-eyed, and that first drop slapped Mr. Scoffer on the head and he looked up and he thought, “What was that?” About three more big drops hitting his wife that woke her up, knocked her right out of her chair, and pretty soon the people started realizing something was happening. Massive splats of water.

As they looked at the farm that was now a construction site, as they looked at that massive 450 feet long building, 75 feet deep and five stories high in the middle of his pasture, they said, why old, crazy Noah isn’t dragging wood anymore. The scaffolding is there but the door is shut. And they started talking to themselves. He had always

said that water was going to fall out of the sky and cover 'em all up. He claimed that some deity somewhere was offended by our demon worship and the drunkenness and the murder, and people started talking about that and splat, splat, splat went those massive drops of water. In fact most of the hundreds of milling townspeople were still red-eyed. It had been exactly seven days since Noah and all his family went up the ramp into their wooden building. Some say that the ramp had lifted up by itself and sealed the entrance to this building. But all the people out there knew was that the building had no visible entrance left. And all realized, as the sky darkened and as the temple of whatever that was falling out of the sky increased, that something was happening. All of them were starting to get their mocking banter going when those missiles started arriving from the sky.

It was fun at first. The water was cool. It drenched them, got their seats wet. But the more it fell, the more uncomfortable it got to even stand there. So they started retreated from old Noah's yard where they'd set up their mocking gallery. They walked past the scaffolding with the water raining down on them like a thick curtain. They could hardly see to walk, and almost at the same instant, the first blinding white stroke of lightning they'd never seen before, crashed. And with ashen faces, as the reverberating sound of the thunder that they had never experienced before, shook them, they began to say to one another, is this the flood that old Noah was talking about so long? The deafening booms and the blinding flashes filled their steps with terror as they all decided not to go home but to run toward the huge building that Noah had built. Climbing up the scaffolding, pounding frantically on the place where the door used to be, they only felt their blows absorbed by the thick, hand-sawed gopher wood now daubed with oozing black pitch. As they looked on their hands, covered with that black, they realized that there was no way in. In alternating blackness and blinding flashes and booming explosions, they crawled home.

Soon the ground began to be covered with water and all their deepest fears were confirmed. The flood had arrived. And they were wrong. Crazy, old Noah knew what he was talking about. And then the most disastrous event that has ever happened on earth began.

There had been killer quakes over the centuries recorded in history that killed thousands. There'd been plagues, like the Black Death in the Middle Ages in Europe that killed millions. But never before had God killed every human being on this planet, except for one family.

You say, what does that have to do with God's grace? Well, look back at chapter six in verse eight. In the study of scriptures, it's always important to look at the first occurrence of words and of ideas and of concepts. The first occurrence of salvation is in Genesis three. We've already studied that. It's called the protoevangelium. The first time salvation is mentioned. And in Genesis three, God promises that a redeemer is coming who's going to crush Satan, and he will be miraculously conceived from a woman alone. The seed of a woman with no man involved. A virgin birth. That's the first occurrence of the gospel. And do you know the first occurrence of the foundation of

the gospel is in chapter six in verse eight? And the first time God uses the massive word grace is in chapter six verse eight.

You know what the flood is all about? The flood is all about that God looked down on sinful, fallen creatures he had created, and he looked at them, with only evil continually in their hearts, and he looked down and he found one family. And it says this, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." God mercifully chose him as a portrait of grace. You know what the flood's all about? It's a flood of grace. Because God's holiness and God's character demands He judge sin. But you add another facet of His character, another attribute of God is not only is He just, and not only does He have wrath, but He also has mercy. And that mercy is expressed in His grace. And so when God is about to utterly destroy his creation, he said, but I'm going to exhibit my mercy and grace and I'm going to pour it out on that one ...

Now, do you think that Noah was some lily-white saint? I mean, did he walk around with a halo? No, he was a drunken man that took his clothes off and lay in his tent, and his son was far viler than that and had a wicked mind. Now that's the kind of man he was. But did you know that's what all of us are apart from God's grace? And we need God's grace to cleanse and forgive us. So don't ever think that Noah was some, you know, super saint from out of this planet. He was a normal human being that had chose in his heart to be righteous and follow God, even though he failed.

Well, what happened on the ground on the day of the flood, November 17th, about 1650 years after the creation, was beyond description. It wasn't only rain that fell. The fountains of the deep, it says in chapter seven that the fountains of the deep, verse 11, were broken up.

You know that's the geological description of volcanic activity. I want to read to you from the Insights of the National Geographic and tell you what happened when one volcano erupted. And I want you to know that the Bible says that the fountains of the deep broke up all over this planet. What I'm going to read to you must have occurred, multiplied hundreds of times around this globe, all instantaneously as God just cut loose and let it go and destroyed this planet. But listen when one volcano, in 1883, the month of August, out in the Netherlands East Indies, that's Indonesia, when that exploded. This is what the eyewitnesses said that the earth did when a mountain exploded about 113 years ago. "This mountain burst with a roar that was heard more than 2,000 miles away." People 2,000 miles away heard that mountain explode. The resultant aerial vibrations circled the globe several times. Volcanic dust blocked out the sun for a radius of 100 miles. Some of that dust eventually sifted to the earth 1,000 miles from Kracatoa (that's the name of the mountain). The rest ejected with a force that drove it into the stratosphere dispersed over the entire planet causing spectacular sunsets through the closing months of 1883. Finally came the culminating horror tidal waves. Over 100 feet high with a velocity in excess of 50 mph they ravaged the nearby coast of Java and Sumatra. In places they raged inland for one-half mile, 30 feet high. They swept away entire towns and villages. Over 300 villages disappeared from the face of

the earth. This disaster crushed the life out of over 36,000 people in August of 1883 when one mountain exploded on this planet.

Multiply these paroxysms with hundreds or thousands of other volcanoes erupting and a mental picture of the early phase of the flood year will begin to emerge. Because it says in Genesis 7:11 on that same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up.

And look at verse 23, and it says so he destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground, both man and cattle, creeping things and birds of the air, they were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. God judged a world and every living thing on that world perished except those that were with Noah in the ark.

For just a moment I want you to think about the scoffing of our modern days. The apostle Paul asked, hasn't God made foolish the wisdom of this world, 1 Corinthians 1:20. Foolishness in the biblical sense of the term is a willful refusal to accept God's explanation of reality. Have you ever thought about that? Those people that brought their lawn chairs and sat there and made a sport, mocking and scoffing at Noah, and by the way they had mocked and scoffed at his grandfather and his great-grandfather. Did you know Enoch had come as a preacher and a prophet and had preached all over about the Lord, who was coming with 10,000 saints, it says in Jude 14 and 15, and they didn't accept that. Methuselah had come and his name meant, "When he dies, it comes." And he was a longest-living man on this planet. And his long life showed how long God's grace and mercy and patience with the planet would be. Almost a 1,000 years God gave the planet to heed and they didn't. What's amazing is that our world is so willing to receive mere human explanations to our world. The concept of uniformitarianism in geology today is a very dangerous view.

Let me just list for you some of the foolishness of our world. Can the global science system absorb the discovery that the earth's magnetic field, which by the way, this week they discovered that the core of our earth is spinning faster than the earth is and all of a sudden they're saying, wow, this is an intricately designed magnetic field builder perhaps that the core is going faster than the earth, and about a quarter of a turn faster, and it's amazing. But can science absorb the discovery that earth's magnetic fields began less than 15,000 years ago because of the present rate of dissipation? Can the modern science community say that the lack of helium in the atmosphere should be much greater because of the rapid accretion through the radioactive decay? In other words, if everything's been going on for billions of years, there should be an awful lot more helium up there than there is. So what do they say? Well, it's just going out into space. Oh. That's a good explanation, you know, for why there isn't more helium. Or, how come there is a lack of meteorite dust on this planet and the moon? But just this planet? You say, how do you know there's a lack? Because every meteorite that comes from outer space is 2.5 % nickel. I don't mean nickels. I mean the element nickel. Did you know the crust of our planet has .008% nickel, so every time a meteorite falls they can tell if they analyze it that it's not from this planet. So they have tested all over the world looking for meteorite dust. There's only enough meteorite dust on this

planet for it to be a maximum of 900,000 years old. So what do they say? Well, they just say there haven't been meteorites in the past. Because the earth has to be billions of years old. Can the scientific community explain the fact that the oil reserves are of recent origin because of the impossibility of long maintenance of high fluid pressures under observed permeability's of the reservoir formations? Can they absorb that? Oil had to form over 25 million years ago according to their plan. But it couldn't have. Or the necessity of a sudden and recent formation of all the earth's vast coal deposits. I talked about those last week. Or the rapid formation excavation of the Grand Canyon. Why did it have to be rapid and recent? Because when they get to the bottom layer, a mile deep, if you look in what's called the Cambrian layer, you'll find spores of pine trees. Now what are they doing down there long before pine trees were supposed to have evolved? Because they didn't evolve. And there was a flood and that mile of sediment laid down quickly, and while it was still moist, a mighty river of all the water from the flood that was on the coastal plain making a huge lake all of a sudden found a weak spot and started rushing down. And thousands and thousands of cubic miles of water rushed down and dug a one mile deep, 25,000 mile wide canyon that we call the Grand Canyon, which is probably the greatest singular picture of the flood that you could see what was going on this planet. Or how about the present as we talked about last week of human footprints in the same layers of rock of mighty reptilian monster.

But let's go back to Genesis chapter six. And what I want to show you this morning is a portrait of grace, not have a science lesson. I know some of you just, you get your clicker and you change channels when I talk about science, and so I'm not going to talk about it anymore. I'm going to talk about Genesis chapter six starting in verses 13 and 14, because I want to show you something and I just introduced this last Sunday night. But I want you, if you are of the clan and tribe of bible markers, to get out your marker because I want to show you what this event portrays about the grace of God and especially about the salvation that God offers the world today, because God says there are going to be two great bookends or two great dividers of history. The first one is when God stopped all of human history with the flood. The second one is when He stops all of human history in the tribulation time. Those are the two markers God has put down. And if you learn about the flood, you will know a lot more about how the world is going to end because the first time He flooded it with water. The last time He's going to flood it with fire. And it would be very important to listen so you're not caught on your lawn chair when the door slams shut. Because there's no way to get in once the door slams shut.

Genesis chapter six in verse 13, "True salvation is divine." That's the first point. You might want to write that down. True salvation, salvation that God provides, is a divine salvation. It's not something humans can cook up. It's not something that you can do enough. In fact, I meet people all the time and so do you that are hoping they can do enough stuff to make God happy. I'll tell you a little secret. You don't even need to go on an expedition to Nepal and Tibet or talk to some Dalai Lama. I'll tell you a secret this morning. No one can do enough good to please God. No one. No one. I can't. You can't. None of us by our own righteousness can please God.

I remember when the police chief of Los Angeles was preaching one time in another church that we were ministering at, and I remember when he leaned over the pulpit, and this was such a good illustration I'm going to copy it this morning. He says, "You know what? All of our goodness," he says, "is kind of like a little fizzle." And he says, "Here's God up here," and he says, "you know, here's Billy Graham." Can't quite make it. "And here's someone that you really admire, some old saint or your parents. And look, they can't make it." And then I remember this is what he said, "And here's Pastor Barnett." And I was the bad part of the illustration.

But see, none of us can make it to God. None of us. He is eternally holy and separate and no matter how much good we do, it's like trying to jump to Hawaii from Los Angeles. And you can get the most Olympic athlete of all, and they can run for 50 miles and take a leap off from any one of those beaches on the coast of southern Cal and they will just get 35 or 40 feet out into the water if they're good. And they'll never make it to Hawaii. And God's holiness infinitely separates Him from humanity. And none of us by our good works can propel ourselves close enough to get Him because salvation is divine.

Look what it says in verse 13. "And God said to Noah, the end of all flesh has come before me for the earth is filled with violence through them. And behold I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark and cover it inside and outside with pitch."

You know what? God divinely made a way of salvation. The scriptures put it this way: John 15:16, you might want to jot that reference down, Christ said you haven't chosen me. I have chosen you. Salvation is divine. Listen to Ephesians 1:4. It says, "As He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." It's God's idea. It's His plan. It's divine. He initiated it. Revelation 13:8 says all who dwell on the earth will worship Satan, those whose names have not been written in the book of life of the lamb. But here's what I want you to hear, listen to this. Revelation 13:8. The lamb, that's Jesus, slain from the foundation of the world. Salvation is a divine plan. Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan. Oh, the grace that brought it down to man. Oh, the wondrous gulf that God did span, at Calvary. What did He do? God got a plan. And it's portrayed in the ark. And it's portrayed with Noah that God says I'm going to save you. And I've got this plan and if you follow my plan, you will escape the wrath.

Secondly, look at verse 14. True salvation not only is divine but also verse 14 of chapter six of Genesis, true salvation deals with sin. You say, what do you mean? Well, the first occurrence of the word atonement is in verse 14, only atonement means to cover over. And so look what it says in verse 14 of Genesis six. Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. You know what gopher wood is? I know what gopher wood is. I had a little fire going in the fireplace and I had to keep going for wood all winter long because it burned so fast. That's gopher wood. It just burns fast. But, sorry that was just to wake some of you up. You needed that. Okay. And make rooms in the ark and listen; cover it inside and outside with pitch. Cover it. Kaphar -- Atonement. Now you say,

what do you mean? Well, the only way I can talk about this is the New Testament says that Noah and the ark is a portrait of salvation. And you know what? Salvation is all about that we get inside and outside atoned for our sins. God takes away all external condemnation and God takes away all internal guilt. And he atones for our sins. And so the scriptures tell us that true salvation will always deal with sin. The word for pitch in 6:14 is the same word for atonement used later in the Old Testament. And this is what the New Testament says about our Savior. Matthew 1:21. She, Mary, the virgin, will bring forth a son and you shall call his name Jesus. Why? Why call him Jesus? For He will save His people from their sins. If you've never been saved from sin, you've never been saved from hell. True salvation deals with sin. The scriptures go on to say this. John 1:29. The next day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and he turned and pointed to him and said, "Behold, the lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world." True salvation deals with sin. If you have never dealt with your sin, then you are not saved. My sin on the bliss of this glorious thought, my sin, not in part but the whole, was nailed to the cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, oh my soul! If your sins have never been dealt with, if your sins have never been taken, if my sins were never taken by Jesus Christ and nailed to the cross, then I have no hope of life eternal. True salvation deals with sin. 1 John 3:9,10 says "For whoever's been born of God does not sin for his seed remains in him. He cannot sin because he's been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest. Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God nor is he who does not love his brother."

Do you know what the Bible says? Contrary to current theological notions, the Bible says that saving faith is life-changing faith. And if my life and if your life has never turned from the habitual practice of sin, then it's never turned in faith to Christ.

You say, does that mean we're eradicated? There's a whole denomination that teaches eradication. And I remember the keynote speaker at that conference once was down south and this man had the most beautiful white hair. And he had been eradicated. He said he had no sin nature left. And he used to carry around in his pocket a beautiful little mirror and comb set. And whenever he wasn't speaking about eradication, he'd be off backstage looking in his mirror and fixing his hair. And someone came out and said, "You're a little vain." And he got so angry with them, his face turned red and he yelled at them and they said, "A-ha. What happened to your eradication there, brother?" We're not eradicated. We're still sinners. The Bible does not say in 1 John 3:9,10 that we will never sin. It says that sin no longer dominates our life that Christ has set us free. The shackles are off. Now we might voluntarily give in to sin. And we might learn to give in to sin by habit. And we might be grieved by sin. The spirit of God might be quenched in our life. But there's still a struggle against sin. We're not dominated by sin anymore. The evidence of life eternal is that the back of sin has been broken in our lives. True salvation deals with sin.

Thirdly, true salvation is personal. Look at chapter seven in verse one. This is very interesting. Then the Lord said to Noah, come in to the ark, you and all your family. Did you know no matter what God had done with the ark being built, with the animal stream

going by, with Noah and his wife walking up if Shem, or Ham, or Japheth or their wives would have said, well I'm not sure I want to go in that thing. Might be crowded in there, might be smelly. You know, I might not like the other people in there, you know? Whatever. They wouldn't have been saved. Salvation is personal. They had to go into the ark made of wood. And I'll tell you a little secret. Salvation is personal. There's no group salvation. You, individually, must come into Christ or you don't have salvation. Mom can't get you to heaven. Neither can Dad. Neither can your children or your husband or your wife or this church or any of its leaders. It is a personal reception.

You know what Jesus compared salvation to? Eating. I can remember many times driving along, you know, and I'm starving to death. And I hear those bags of stuff crinkling in the back seat and I hear all those little sounds, you know. You know those children can eat all they want. It doesn't do me any good. I mean, I'm happy they're eating but I'm still starving. Did you know unless you personally partake, you know what Jesus said? He said salvation is like drinking water. You can be in a swimming pool with people just quaffing all their sodas around you and you can die of thirst if you don't ever let any in.

If you have never received Christ, this is what the Bible says. Philippians 2:7,8. He made himself of no reputation. He took upon himself the form of a servant and he came in the likeness of man. Found in the likeness of men, he humbled himself and became obedient to death even the death of the cross. Why? Because he came down to bring salvation to us. And he offers it to us. And this morning Christ offers each of us, if we haven't yet received his gift, with nail-pierced hands; he offers us a free gift. It's extended to us. Whosoever will let him come. Let him drink of the water of life freely, but it must be personally received. This is life eternal, John 17:3, that they may know you.

The word "know" is the most intimate expression. It's the word for a husband and a wife when they intimately know one another. They experience the greatest degree of experiencing one another. And you know what the Bible says salvation is? That very same word. Coming into an intimate relationship with God when He comes to dwell within us. Now that doesn't mean you recognize God, you go to church at Easter or you heard a lot about Him or know lots of facts. You personally experience Him. You know Christ spent the majority of his ministry shaking up religious people and saying, you're very religious, you give lots of stuff to the temple, and you're very fastidious in your observance, but you've never experienced me. And therefore, you don't have eternal life.

Another verse, Acts 3:16; his name through faith in His name has made this man strong. You see that man in Acts 3:16, that was lame and sitting in the gate, he had heard all the bustle about the gospel and everything else. He'd never experienced personally, firsthand, the good news of Christ. And when he looked at those apostles, and when they spoke to him and he had faith, he personally experienced the power of God. Now God healed him, but he also personally received the free gift of eternal life and believed, through faith, in His name.

It says in Acts 26:18 that Jesus Christ is the one who opens our eyes, He turns us from darkness to light, he sets us free from the power of Satan. We personally receive forgiveness of sins, and we have an inheritance among those who are sanctified. Has that ever happened to you? Have your eyes ever been opened spiritually or do you still have this book and you say, man I don't understand that thing. Been reading it for years and I still don't understand it. Well, maybe you'd better go to the heavenly eye doctor and ask Him to open your eyes. That's the first thing that happens when we get saved. We're no longer loving the darkness, we love the light. We're set free from the shackles of sin. We know our sins are forgiven. That's what salvation's all about.

So, 1) True salvation is divine, Genesis 6:13,14. 2) True salvation deals with sin. 3) True salvation is personal. It's an intimate, personal relationship with Christ. 4) God saves by invitation.

Look at verse two. You shall take with you seven of everyone. What are they taking them for? Because He says come. It's a personal invitation. God extends to every one of us, to Noah and his family and to all those that were coming into the ark, and a personal invitation. Listen to how Jesus put it. This is how personal the invitation is. John 6:37. Jesus said, all the Father gives to me will come to me. That's the joy of the ministry. For each of us, not just me. For you. You can go out into the world and you can just tell people Jesus said whoever will, let him come, and those whom the father has given to Christ as a love gift will respond and come. And I tell you what, there's nothing greater than to see someone coming out of their darkness and into the light, coming to Jesus. John 6:37 continues, and no one who comes to me will I cast out. John 6:44, no one can come to me, Jesus said, unless the Father who sent me draws him. You say, are you sure about that? Yes. Because he ties together the resurrection with salvation. He says those that God draws out of the graveyard of sin to salvation, God will someday raise them from the dead that they might come into the joys of eternal life in heaven. And they will get their resurrection body. See, the people that fight against God's initiation of salvation forget that they're fighting also against the proof of the resurrection. Because the same God that takes us dead in our trespasses and sin will take our moldering bodies and clothe them with immortality and celestial life. So salvation is by invitation. God invited Noah and his family into the ark and if you will come to Christ, it's at God's invitation.

Number five. True salvation is exclusive. Look at verse 13 of chapter seven. And the same day, 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. Did you know there was only one door into that building? Can you imagine Shem or Ham or Japheth saying, well, I don't want to go in that door? I'm going to try and climb up the outside, you know? Give me a ladder. No, God said come on in the ark. I made one door and I want you to come through that door. Come on. Just where the animals went. Just come up here, you know? Salvation is exclusive. There is only one way of salvation. There is only one ark. There weren't many arks out there. They weren't sprinkled all

over. You know, all arks lead to, you know, out of the flood. No. Just one ark. There's one door in that ark. Salvation is exclusive.

Listen to what the scriptures say. Jesus said, John 14:6, I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life. Nobody comes to the Father but through me. That's exclusive. Listen to what the apostles said. Acts 4:12, Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we may be saved. Salvation is exclusive.

Don't think that the Moslems are talking to the same God you are, that the Buddhists are talking to the same God you are, that the Hindus are talking to the same God, that the cults are talking to the same God, that those who are practicing a works religion are talking to the same God. They are not. They're talking to a God of their own making. There's only salvation in Christ.

Last thing before we go. Verse 16, true salvation is divine. True salvation deals with sin. True salvation is personally received. God saves by invitation. True salvation is exclusive. God saves eternally. Whew. This is a good one. Look at verse 16. So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded. And the Lord shut them in. When you and I come into the ark of salvation, when we come to Christ, God shuts the door. You know what Jesus said, he says, all the father gives to me will come to me and no one can pluck them out of my hand. He said, you don't have to worry you're holding on tight enough.

I mean, it's neat when children grow up enough. I remember when there's a period of time when you're raising your little ones that you hold them and they just hold on tight. I mean, they think they're holding themselves to you. And they don't realize that the strong, loving arms of their parents are around them. But you know what happens? They grow to rest in that security. You know that's what happens with a lot of people. They think that they're holding on to God, you know, and they're hoping that they hold on tight enough so they don't lose it before the end, you know? And they're just really thinking about that. But finally, they come to the point where they rest in the arms of the almighty. And they realize that salvation is eternally secure.

What do the scriptures say? Verse 24 and 25 of Jude. Now to Him who is able to keep you from falling, who is able to present you faultless before His presence with exceeding joy to the only wise God to whom be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and evermore. Who is doing the holding? God is. Who is doing the securing? The Lord, Jesus Christ. Hebrews seven says this. But He, that's Christ, because He continues forever has an unchangeable priesthood, therefore also He is able to save those to the uttermost who come to God through Him since He ever lives to make intercession for them.

Are you resting in the one that saves you to the uttermost? Have you responded to His invitation yet? Have you dealt with or allowed Him to deal with your sin? Have you personally received salvation? Do you know that your eyes have been opened? Do

you know that your whole lifestyle has been turned from darkness to light? Do you know that your sins are forgiven? Do you know that the spirit of God has come in to change you from the inside out? Do you know that you have an inheritance and that you're going to live forever, that you're eternally secure? Truly the flood is a flood of grace.

As we close, I'm going to pray. Then we're going to sing hymn number 201 and then we'll go on with our special right hand of fellowship. But let's just bow before we sing that hymn of God's grace. Let's just rejoice in the flood of grace of God. Bow with me. Oh, Father, thank you for a personal salvation. Thank you for a divinely, beautifully planned way of us being made right with you, whom we have offended by our sin. Thank you for your grace shown in your personal invitation. Thank you for the incredible security that we have in your marvelous plan. Thank you for your grace. And I pray that if any have not yet experienced the grace of God that leads to salvation, that they will today. And if any believer has kind of gotten out of touch with the marvelous grace that forgives and forgives and forgives, and cleanses and cleanses and cleanses, that they would experience that marvelous, infinite, matchless grace today for Christ's sake. Amen.