

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 6:17-22**

**“11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 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. 14 "Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. 15 And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 16 You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks. 17 And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark--you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 19 And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. 20 Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. 21 And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them." 22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.”**

## **''God's Covenant with Noah''**

**Well with all the debates and controversies swirling around Hollywood's new "Bible" movie, it is very refreshing to be working our way through the actual text of what God has revealed about this part of the history of the world.**

- **And, as we stressed last week, it is very important to remember that we are learning about REAL history here in the early chapters of Genesis!**

**The Bible is not written as a ship building manual, nor a geology textbook nor a biology manual...**

- **But we do know that where the Bible speaks on any such subjects, it is not only true but also helpful in any of those fields of study!**

**We saw that last week with shipbuilding, we will see a bit of it this week in the field of biology and next week we will see how what God revealed here thousands of years ago is now informing some of the latest geological discoveries as well. BUT, we must keep at the center of our thinking the fact that God is revealing His story of creation and our salvation:**

- **So God Himself & His plan of redemption must remain as our major concerns and focus.**

**We certainly see this right here in the midst of the dramatic news about the sinfulness of man and the coming destruction of all things living as Jehovah God makes a covenant with Noah! Just as God promised Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, that their salvation would come when the seed of the woman came to crush the head of the seed of the serpent, we now have God reminding Noah of this covenant and renewing it by telling him that he and his family would be saved...**

- **The line that would lead to the Savior Jesus would be preserved!**

**And as we consider this covenant made with Noah we see that it also includes the animals...**

**18 "But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark--you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.**

**19 And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.”**

**We have spent a good deal of time speaking of the covenant of salvation here in our study of Genesis so this morning I want to focus on the inclusion of the animals:**

- **Both how they were saved and the resulting implications for how God uses us in His grand plans!**

**Many have pointed to the similarities and contrasts with this account and the earlier chapters of Genesis:**

- **God saw the world at the end of Day Six and declared it to be very good.**
- **God now looks at the world and sees the utter sinfulness of man: All is very bad!**

**God created the animals and man in His own image who was to take dominion over His good creation.**

**Now the animals will face destruction along with man as God cleanses the earth because of his failure to properly carry out that dominion mandate.**

- **As we pointed out last week, this account in the Book of Beginnings stands as a strong rebuke to those who would worship ‘mother earth.’**

**Man was created to worship God and enjoy Him forever as good stewards of the earth. Man’s failure brings judgment not only on himself but also on all that he was responsible for on the earth. These early chapters of Genesis clearly teach us what ‘salvation’ by man looks like without God: Sin and death!**

**We will see at the other end of the great flood another covenant with Noah and all creation....**

**A covenant that continues to our day, because God was going to bring a better way of salvation:**

- **The New Adam who would bring forth a new heavens & a new earth!**

**And this new salvation is not some other worldly spiritual salvation, it still includes ALL of man and ALL of creation...**

**Listen to what the Apostle Paul says in Romans chapter 8:**

**“16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”**

- **So what we have here in Genesis six is God giving us a small foretaste of what is to come!**

**This morning I want to consider how God preserved the animals and the lessons we can learn about how and why God uses us today! We find God’s command about the animals in verse 19: “And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.”**

**Well the male and female part is the simplest to understand because that way we know they will be able to fulfil the command to be fruitful and multiply again after the flood!**

The great controversies swirl around...

- How many animals Noah would have on the Ark;
- How he would get them on the Ark;
- And how he would care for them in the year that they were on the Ark!

IF we actually pay attention to the text we are given enough information to answer all three of these questions! In verses 20 & 21 we read,

“Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. 21 And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.”

So Noah is commanded to have food enough on the Ark to feed his family and the animals.

*[discuss size and hibernation]*

We should also notice at the end of verse 20 we are told that: ‘every kind will come to you.’

Noah did not have to go out and find every kind of animal alive at that time on the earth and bring them back!

- God Himself would bring them to the Ark.

This leaves us with the question of how many animals and birds Noah had to take in the Ark! In our world today we have approximately a million to a million and a half species of animals and birds depending on who is counting them!

So the first question we must ask is whether what we call a species is the same as what the Bible calls a ‘kind.’ I would argue that it is not...

- Rather what Genesis calls a kind would be referred to today as a family.

It is interesting that much of our biological classification system follows what the Bible reveals, though the pressure from evolutionary thinking would have us think otherwise.

The two great kingdoms are plants and animals, just as we saw at creation! The animal Kingdom is divided in Phyla where they divide out fish, birds, land animals and creeping things, again much as we see in Genesis.

Next you have classes and orders where you divide vertebrates from non-vertebrates, warm blooded from cold blooded and other major features. Then we come to families, or what Genesis would call kinds: The ones we would be most familiar with are dogs or horses, bears and lions, eagles and finches or frogs and lizards.

Depending on who is counting you have between seven hundred to a thousand families or kinds which is a number that could easily have been accommodated on the Ark and cared for by eight people.

Now I don’t want to turn this into a biology lesson, but I would like to speculate just a bit about the fact that we Christians might be the real evolutionists!

Let me explain what I mean because I have pondered this for some time and it came out in a big way at the Ham-Nye debate when the science guy tried to argue that you could not get all the species on the Ark and if you only took the families or kinds you could not account for the diversity of life today!

So if Noah only saved a thousand kinds of animals, could we account for the over one million species we see today. The Science guy said NO because that would mean producing a new species at least every day! Of course to do that he took the million species and divided by 4,500 years and even used some higher numbers as well.

- But you see the science guy must not be very good at math because he missed the principle of doubling or compound interest.

If you take a number like 1,000 and double it ten times you have over a million, so each new species could come every 450 years not every day!

- We know from modern breeding & observations in nature, like Darwin's finches' that such changes do take place.

So if we argue that all the diversity that we see in the animal kingdom came from a thousand basic kinds over the past 4,500 years, that should make us the real evolutionists! [with a Biblical understanding of that term! This is why we can, and must always put the challenge to our modern materialists that they have not produced a single bit of evidence for a kind of animal to become another kind of animal, while agreeing that we can have great diversity among the kinds!

So God is going to bring the various kinds of animals and birds and creeping things to the Ark; there is room on the Ark for all of them; and Noah is instructed to bring the food they will need!

Then we read in verse 22 "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did."

### Righteous Noah was obedient Noah!

If you remember way back in the third chapter of Genesis we talked about God revealing His plan of redemption and there we speculated a bit about how God could have done things differently and still be just and holy: He could have destroyed Adam and Eve and started over, or He could have saved them both then and there.

But this was not God's plan and we as His creatures are not to question his actions any more than the clay has a right to demand a certain action from the potter who molds it as he pleases. The same types of speculations could be made here about the decision God has made to destroy all flesh save Noah and those with him on the Ark. When we get to the end of the flood account and the New Covenant with Noah and creation we will see how God will now restrain the sin of man until the coming of the Messiah and we must trust that God has given us this early history as a lesson about the sinfulness of sin!

- But now the world does need judgment and God is going to use Noah as His means of saving his family and the animals.

We need to remember that God had created all the kinds of birds and animals and creeping things in just two days during the creation.

It would have been NO problem for Him to do so again after the flood. It would have been no problem for God to protect Noah and his family from the flood by providing a shelter or a ship... Again He formed the whole earth in a day! God had His reasons for carrying out this judgment the way that He did and it should be pretty obvious that He was going to use Noah as the means to carry out His plan...

- Noah would build the Ark while warning of the coming destruction!
- And Noah would care for his family and the animals.

These were VERY practical means that God used to carry out His plans... Good works that Noah was created in Christ Jesus to walk in, because remember that the writer of Hebrews said that Noah did them by faith!

- His example is how we should view the many commands in the Scriptures that call us to obedience!

We are to be those living sacrifices which is our reasonable service with thankful hearts!

- God did not just start over or recreate all the animals, he used one of his faithful servants as a means to carry out His plans!

**We see this in the very creation itself when we consider the sun, moon and stars... Placed in the heavens to keep track of the times and seasons! God could have continued to do that as He did on the first three days! This concept has immense implications for all of our lives...**

**Think of our vocations where we are carrying out various tasks to make money and provide for our families & make things or do things for others? Does God really need us to do those things in order to take care of us? He made the entire universe in six days, so providing a loaf of bread and some eggs in the morning for your family would not be much of a challenge for Him! Now the Bible is clear that He cares for our every need and yet He uses us as the means of producing the very things that will care for us.**

- **Much as Noah built the Ark in which God delivered them!**

**Or consider parenting: God showed with Adam and Eve that He is perfectly capable of creating a full grown mature person! He could have avoided all those feedings, diapers, cuts & bruises, dirty dishes and all those 'why' questions by just providing fully grown covenant children! But we give birth to babies, & God has given us the responsibility to raise our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord and given us the instructions needed to do so just as he gave Noah the instruction for the Ark.**

- **WE are the means God has chosen to disciple the children He has blessed us with!**

**Even something as 'spiritual' as my standing before you preaching or you having the opportunity to witness to someone about the Gospel, is God using us as His means... Yes, God could have chosen to personally appear to each & every one of the elect as He did with Saul on the road to Damascus, but instead He uses us as the means, the beautiful feet as Paul says in Romans ten, to deliver His Good News!**

**There may be some of you who think that all this is well and good for those who have walked in faith, but it cannot be true of your life because you have made too many mistakes or have even worked against the will of God! Well, the Scriptures declare that you have been and can be the means that God uses to accomplish His purposes. Have any of your actions been worse than the treatment that Joseph's brothers gave him by selling him into slavery?**

- **And yet in the end Joseph pointed out that even what they INTENDED for evil at the time was used by God for His good purposes of saving His chosen people!**

**Have any of you reached the level of sin committed by King David with his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah? Not only did God use David's sin to provide Psalm 51 which has comforted countless millions of sinning Saints down through the years... But listen to what is available to any sinner who comes honestly confessing their sin as King David did before His covenant God...**

**Psalm 51: "12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You. 14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.**

**16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-- These, O God, You will not despise.**

**18 Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering;**

**Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar."**

- **Or as the Apostle Paul puts it, we should be those living sacrifices!**
- **The means by which Jesus carries out His purposes!**