

Genesis 7

The Flood:

How God Deals With the 'Problem of Evil'

"**You have heard** that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder;' and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' **But I say** to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment;" (Mt. 5:21-22)

The Problem of Evil:

The **world's** question: How could a good God allow evil 'out there'?

The **Bible's** question: How could a good God show mercy to the evil in all of us?

God's Response to the Problem of Evil:

Destroy all flesh with a flood (Gen. 6:17) → _____

Save Noah's family with an ark (Gen. 6:18) → _____

Purpose:

God gives us three assertions about His judgment that must **inform** our understanding of (and response to) the 'problem of evil' in this present evil age.

1. The Judgment of God _____ [v.1-5]

- Connection: righteousness & obedience (Gen. 6:9, 22, 7:1, 7:5)
- Principled patience in judgment (Gen. 7:4)

2. The Judgment of God _____ [v.6-16]

“For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away” (Mt. 24:38-39)

- The ark: God’s provision of rescue
- Noah: “a herald of righteousness” (2 Pt. 2:5)

3. The Judgment of God _____ [v.17-24]

- The Author of life is right to do as He pleases with His creation.
- The justice of God is no respecter of persons.

Praxis

1. Why is it significant that Genesis isn’t concerned with justifying God’s judgment, but instead is concerned with justifying God’s mercy? How might this help us in considering/ engaging the ‘problem of evil’?
2. What are some helpful ways to address sincere appeals to the ‘problem of evil’?
3. How is an awareness of God’s remarkable patience towards you informing your attitude toward others? Or is it?
4. What effect does a consideration of the vivid picture of judgment and rescue in Genesis 7 have on you?
5. How are you cultivating and enjoying the privilege of walking with God?
6. How do you plan to tell others in your life about the future judgment and present rescue in Christ alone?