

Lessons From The Flood

Heb. 11:7

I. INTRODUCTION:

1. **3** The people and events in the Old Testament are extremely important for us to study.

Rom. 15:4: *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. (1 Cor. 10:5-12).*

2. Today we are going to be talking about lessons we can learn from Noah's flood.
3. Many people today view the flood as being a mere myth (e.g., "localized flood")—but it wasn't to Jesus; He used it to illustrate His second coming (Matt. 24:36-39).
4. The flood was tragic, but even more tragic was the spiritual condition of the earth's inhabitants.
5. We live in a time when the world seems just as wicked as in the days of Noah.
6. There are many important lessons we can learn from the flood, let's review just a few of them.

II. DISCUSSION:

1. **4 God Hates Sin:** Gen. 6:5-7: *"...the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart."*

A. We need to always realize that sin is something that God never treats lightly:

Rom. 8:5-8: *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

- (1) Only eight souls were saved out of all humanity (**1 Pet. 3:21:** *"...once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water."*) The rescue of such a small number illustrates just how much God hates sin, that's why Jesus says:

Matt. 7:13-14: *"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."*

- (2) The lesson from such passages is crystal clear: The majority will find themselves lost on the Judgment Day because they are traveling on the broad road that leads to destruction. Whereas the redeemed are few because they have chosen the narrow path of righteousness which is ignored by the masses (Just as in the days of Noah!).

- (3) The narrow way to everlasting life is not even found by many who claim to be Christians:

Matt. 7:21: *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."*

- (4) The path of salvation has always been a narrow road traveled by but a few!

- (a) In the case of Sodom and Gomorrah, only Lot and his two daughters were saved from among all the inhabitants.

- (b) When Moses led the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage there were 603,550 fighting aged men, but only 2 (3 ten thousandths of one percent; Joshua and Caleb) finally made it to the Promised Land—the rest died in the wilderness (even Moses and Aaron!).

- B. One of our problems today, as it was in the days of Noah, is that people don't take sin seriously:

- (1) e.g., Bill Clinton: “depends on what “is,” is.
- (2) Gay “Christians” who claim Jesus condones homosexuality (some even claim Jesus was a homosexual!). There are even “gay Christian” dating web sites!
- (3) Such thinking by Christians can lead to what Paul warns about in **1 Tim. 4:1-2**: “*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,*”
- (4) We must exercise extreme care and let God’s word reside in our hearts so our conscience might be soft, pliable, and open to correction and admonition. Let us **not** make the same mistakes as did those of long ago. Let us be constantly aware of God’s repugnance toward sin and steer our lives away from even the appearance of evil (**1 Thess. 5:22**: “*Abstain from all appearance of evil.*”; **Rom. 12:9**: “*Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*”)

2. 5 God Is Longsuffering: 2 Peter 3:9

- A. All through history, God has given man a chance after chance to repent. He gave the ancient world in Noah’s day 120 years to repent (**2 Pet. 3:9**: God “...*is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*”). He sent the prophets to Israel and Judah.
- B. No one will be able to blame God for their lost condition in the Judgment Day.
Ezek. 33:11, “*Say to them: {As} I` live,’ says the Lord God, `I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’*”
Matt. 23:37, “*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under {her} wings, but you were not willing!*”
- C. All through history, God has given man a chance after chance, again and again. In 2 Pet. 3:9-12 the apostle tells us of the longsuffering of God, but also offers us a warning not to procrastinate even in the face of that longsuffering (Read **2 Pet. 3:9-12**).

3. 6 God’s Patience Can Be Exhausted

- A. Most think they can just continue in sin with impunity...not so! **Rom. 6:1-2a**: “*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid!*”
 - (1) Our sins do not go unnoticed. Moses warned the children of Israel to prepare themselves to rely on the Lord to utterly subdue the promised land, but if they failed to rely on him:
Num. 32:23: “*But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.*” (Deut. 28-30)
 - (2) If we continue in sin, God’s patience with us will ultimately “run out.”
 - ✓ Antediluvian world (Gen. 6-9).
 - ✓ Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18): they were “*exceedingly wicked*,” not even 10 righteous men could be found! God consumed them with fire and brimstone.
 - ✓ The Jews (more in just a moment).
 - (3) From a simply logical standpoint sin is stupid! It provides only “*passing pleasures*” (Heb. 11:25), and dealing with its consequences and guilt makes life miserable. Consider Moses’ warning to the children of Israel:
Deut. 30:17-19: “*But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, 18 “I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. 19 “I*

call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

B. God's patience surely ran out on the Jews, His chosen people!

- (1) In the days of the Judges (sin→oppression).
- (2) Israel's rebellion resulted in Assyrian destruction and captivity in 721 B.C.
- (3) Judah's rebellion resulted in Babylonian exile in 606, 597, and 586 B.C.
- (4) Ultimately God's patience ran out on His people F-O-R-E-V-E-R! **Matt. 23:31-39; 24 Matt. 27:25:** *"His blood be on us and on our children."*

C. God's patience ran out on other nations too!

- (1) Even though God spared the great city of Nineveh due to the preaching of Jonah, 100 years later the city was destroyed because of its ungodliness.
- (2) In the book of Isaiah God pronounces judgments on all the ancient nations: Assyria, Babylon, Philistia, Moab, Syria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Edom, Arabia, Tyre, Israel, Judah, Jerusalem (**Dan. 2:21a:** *"And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings;"*; **Psa. 75:6-7:** *"For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. 7 But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another."*; **Dan. 4:17b:** *"That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men."*).

D. Why does man think he can hide his sin from God? We cannot even hide our sins from other people, much less from God!

Heb. 4:11-13: *Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

Prov. 29:1: *"He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy..."*

4. 7 No Second Chance

A. This happened to the people of Noah's day. Note how it is described:

Gen. 7:17-24: *Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. 20 The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. 23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. 24 And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.*

B. How many of us know how long our opportunity will continue? We don't!

Rom. 13:11: *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. (cf. Jas. 4:14)*

C. Let us learn the right lesson from the parable of the foolish rich man in Luke 12:16-21. Our last chance can come suddenly and without warning. Don't be caught unprepared when that time comes (2 Cor. 6:2:** *"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."*).**

D. What could be more important than making oneself ready for heaven?

Matt. 16:26: *“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

- (1) Let us remember the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31, esp. v. 26: *“And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.”*
- (2) One day no one will have any more time or opportunities (**Heb. 9:27**--*And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,*)—don’t let that day catch us unprepared! Matt. 25:1-13 (One cannot borrow preparation!)
- (3) Sometimes our opportunities may even run out before we die! Remember Esau! **Heb. 12:17:** *For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.*

5. 8 The Severity of God (Gen. 6:7; Rom. 11:22)

A. It is true that God is a God of love, a God of mercy, and God of kindness. But the righteousness of God also requires Him to exercise His wrath against sin (**Rom. 3:25-26:** *“whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”*; **Heb. 10:29:** *“Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?”*).

B. Some say it was cruel for God to destroy the antediluvian people or Sodom and Gomorrah, after all, in the case of S & G, they were just living an alternate lifestyle. Actually, it was the people who were cruel because they turned their backs on their Creator and Sustainer through sin. Everyone who turns his back on God through sin and does not repent will pay a huge price.

2 Thess. 1:7-9: *when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,*

C. We must always realize that God never acts unbecomingly or unfairly—even if we don’t always understand His ways or not (Isa. 55:8-9).

D. From this passage, it is obvious that God doesn’t need us to tell Him what to do, nor can we fool God.

Rom. 11:33-34: *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 “For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?”*

1 Cor. 1:20: *Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?*

Gal. 6:7-8: *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

E. Part of our faith in God is trusting in His fairness.

Deut. 32:4: *“He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.”*

- F. Let's listen to the words of Abraham as he speaks about God. The Bible tells us that Abraham was a "friend of God." Doesn't that indicate that he must have known the Lord pretty well?
- Gen. 18:25:** *"Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"*
- G. This was stated in part of the prayer that Abraham was making for the righteous who dwelt in Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham knew that God would be just in His dealings with them.
- H. But, God is more than just and fair, He is also merciful and longsuffering. To the wicked people of Noah's day, God gave a chance to change their ways—but they would not.
- (1) 120 years. This was the period that God showed His mercy (Gen. 6:3). It was also the time in which Noah worked on the construction of the ark.
- (2) During this time, not only did Noah work on the ark, but he also strove to turn sinners from the error of their way--**1 Peter 3:19-20.** Noah was *"a preacher of righteousness."* Just the sight of Noah working on the ark for 120 years should have been a lesson in itself.
- I. Someday the longsuffering of God will be exhausted and the "severity of God" will burst forth on an unrepentant world! "Shock and Awe!" **Rev. 20:14:** *"...anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."*

6. 9 God's Promises Are Sure

2 Pet. 3:5-6: *For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.*

Gen. 8:21-22: *And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. 22 "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."*

Gen. 9:11-13: *"Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 12 And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: 13 I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth."*

- A. It is impossible for God to lie (**Heb. 6:18:** *"...it is impossible for God to lie..."*; **Num. 23:19:** *"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"*)
- B. Therefore, we can absolutely trust His word (**Prov. 19:21:** *"There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel — that will stand."*; **Matt. 24:35:** *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."*; e.g., Mk. 16:16).
- (1) People are quick to "trust" in what God says concerning eternal life (I've never been to a funeral where the deceased was not in "a better place"!)
- (2) But most reject what He has to say about eternal damnation (Matt. 25:46: *"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."* Note: same word used for everlasting punishment as for eternal life.)
- C. God fulfilled His promises to Noah and will fulfill His promises to mankind (2 Pet. 3:1-10).

7. 10 Noah Did Something

- A. Noah knew the world was coming to an end and did something about it.
- Gen. 7:5:** *And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him.*

Heb. 11:7: *By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*

B. Likewise, in view of judgment and the destruction of the world, God tells us to do something!

2 Pet. 3:11-12: *Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?*

Heb. 2:1-3: *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,*

C. We must do something for ourselves, and we also must warn others (Acts 17:30-31; Ezek. 33:1-9).

D. Noah did his job (**2 Pet. 2:5:** "...a preacher of righteousness"), and so must we (**Jer. 20:9:** "Then I said, 'I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name.' But His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not."). Notice Paul's attitude in 2 Cor. 5:10-11:

1 Cor. 5:10-11: *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;*

III. // CONCLUSION: You see there are many important lessons we can learn from the flood:

1. God hates sin,
2. God is longsuffering,
3. God's patience can be exhausted,
4. No second chance,
5. The severity of God,
6. God's promises are sure
7. Noah did something,

Invitation