

JUDGMENT

GENESIS 6:13-22; 7:20-24

(Prepared by Gene Thompson using LifeWay's ETB materials.)

1. What are some of the worst effects of sin that you personally have seen or heard about in our world today? (All kinds of family problems; atrocities of the Hamas attack on Israel; human trafficking; explosion of pornography; abortion/the murder of babies; violence uncontrolled in many streets; etc.)

I saw a news headline just today where a 10-year-old was arrested for shooting/killing another 10-year-old. Sadly, there are too many examples to name.

This is how the world has become because of man's sin. This is nothing new; it is how the world was in our passage for today, Genesis 6, where God sees mankind's sin and judges it.

2. What are the first couple of things people typically think of when they hear "Noah's ark"? (Big boat; lots of animals; water/rain; etc.)

Most people do not view the narrative surrounding Noah's ark as through the lens of judgment and grace. We see the account open as God's response, in judgment, to the wicked condition of mankind, but even that is an illustration of His faithfulness.

3. What should be our response to God's commitment to judge sin? (Confession and repentance.)

Today, we will begin a three-session examination of the story of Noah. Its today's session, we will learn that God's judgment will come for all sin!

JUDGMENT ANNOUNCED! Read Genesis 6:13-17

1. What is the result of "sin"? (Death! It was true in the Garden of Eden, and it is just as true today!) Although it isn't in our focal passage, **read Genesis 6:5**. This verse describes how bad man had become: notice the cascading use of words to describe how bad we'd become: every intent; of thoughts of our heart; was only evil; continually!

So, the Lord decided to blot out man from the earth. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

2. What does God decide He is going to do? (Bring about a great flood over the entire earth and kill everything that has the breath of life in it except for Noah and his family.)

In Exodus 34:6-7 God proclaims His innate nature to Moses. He says He is: "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness and truth; who keeps loving kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished..." This tells us that God's love, mercy, and grace are predominant.

3. Which of God's promises will He keep? (ALL! Including His promise to punish the guilty!)
4. What are the dangers of ignoring sin in our lives? (God will hold us accountable and we will experience His judgment or consequences, it's just a matter of time.)
5. How big was Noah's ark? (450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high.)

God gave Noah specific instructions for building the ark. It was shaped more like a barge than a modern ship, and as far as we know it had no rudder except God. The space in the ark was 1.4 million cubic feet and was capable of carrying 20,000 tons of cargo. Its ratio of length to width (6 to 1) is the most stable known and is used for the design of modern tankers and freight-hauling ships today. Scientists estimate the total number of animal species at over a million. The species that would have needed the ark for survival number about 35,000. These would fill the space of approximately half of the ark's carrying capacity.

6. When has God led you to do something that didn't make sense?
7. How do you think Noah felt when God told him to build the ark? (He was certainly made fun of and ridiculed.)

Remember it had never rained. Dew watered the plants and there were streams and rivers for humans and animals to drink from.

Once the ark was built, God instructed Noah to take his family and all the animals inside. Then, they had to wait.

RESCUE PROMISED! Read Genesis 6:18-22

1. How are obedience and God's offer to rescue related? (Noah was obedient to God and found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Only by being obedient through faith can we be rescued by the Lord.)
2. How good are you at keeping promises?
3. Why is it important to be known as a promise keeper? (We must be true to keep our promises. We are to seek to be like Jesus and He keeps all His promises. We are His representatives.)

After declaring His plans to destroy the wicked, God established a "covenant" with Noah, the one righteous man who walked with Him. (Righteousness is used in two ways in Scripture. One is spiritually the other is morally. None of us are spiritually righteous but we can be morally righteous)

A covenant is a legal and relational bond between two parties. The agreement defines the responsibilities required by both parties. God's covenant with Noah, though, placed all the responsibilities on Him, much like the covenant He would later make with Abraham.

Through this covenant God promised to save Noah and his family from the flood so he could restart life on earth. Faithful obedience to God is the sign of authentic faith in God.

4. Where does God want you to step out in faith?
5. How does God's promise to Noah encourage you to respond in obedience to Him?

After Noah's family and all the animals were on the ark, the rain began, and the flood covered the earth.

JUDGMENT EXECUTED! Read Genesis 7:20-24

We should find urgency in the promise of God's judgment.

— **Give a brief overview of Genesis 6:22-7:20.**

As in a lot of places in Scripture, there are some who doubt, or scoff at the Bible's story of the flood, acting as if it must be a myth; that it could never have really happened. But there are several good reasons for us to believe that it did:

- God says it did! Hebrews says it is impossible for God to lie. If His word says He flooded the world, then we can and should believe He did!
- There is archeological evidence for a flood.

ABC News reported on their website on Dec. 12, 2010, that Richard Ballard, one of the world's most acclaimed underwater archeologists, found proof of the Biblical flood. "According to a controversial theory proposed by two Columbia University scientists, there really was one in the Black Sea region. They believe that the now salty Black Sea was once an isolated freshwater lake surrounded by farmland, until it was flooded by an enormous wall of water from the rising Mediterranean Sea. The force of the water was two hundred times that of Niagara Falls, sweeping away everything in its path. Fascinated by the idea, Ballard and his team decided to investigate. "We went in there to look for the flood," he said. "Not just a slow moving, advancing rise of sea level, but a really big flood that then stayed..."

Four hundred feet below the surface, they unearthed an ancient shoreline, proof to Ballard that a catastrophic event did happen in the Black Sea. By carbon dating shells found along the shoreline, Ballard said he believes they have established a timeline for that catastrophic event, which he estimates happened around 5,000 BC.

(There are other examples, but we haven't the time.)

1. What purpose did the Ark serve? (There are actually two: It shows us how God preserved mankind and eventually bring a Messiah/Savior for us. Secondly, the Ark also foreshadows the salvation of the cross.)

2. How do we see the Gospel in the Ark? (We see that man has sinned against God, bringing His just judgment upon us, but God showed grace and provided an “ark” of safety.)
3. What was Noah doing those 120 years while he was building the Ark? (2 Peter 2:5 says that Noah was a “preacher of righteousness.” So, he was trying to get others to go with him.)
4. What are some examples of God’s grace in your life?
5. How do those times encourage you to trust Him more? (He is always faithful right by my side.)

CHALLENGE!

1. How do you see God’s mercy and grace in this passage?
2. How should knowing that sin results in death create urgency in what we do? (We should be sharing the gospel to all who will listen. Our time is short!)
3. How can we celebrate God’s offer of salvation? (By sharing the gospel as often as possible.)
4. What difficult thing is God asking you to do?
5. Will you respond like Noah?