

The Flood

GENESIS 6–8

FIRST DAY: Introduction

After getting grimy and dirty, there is nothing as refreshing as a good shower! Water is the ultimate solvent for cleansing mud, stains, and debris. It breaks down the stubborn grip of odors and filth and rinses them away.

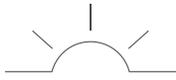
Ten thousand years ago the earth needed a good shower. Mankind had corrupted the earth to the point that life would be impossible to sustain. Unless the earth received a good cleansing, all nature and mankind would die beneath their spiritual and physical wreckage. As God looked down upon the earth, He searched for anyone He could salvage. Of all mankind, only Noah and his family responded to God's Word. This is how Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:8).

Noah, who had never known rain, obeyed God's specific instructions and built a huge barge called an ark. It took one hundred years to build, and during that time Noah preached to those who scoffed and ridiculed at the notion of divine judgment (2 Peter 2:5). When the ark was finished, God divinely guided animals of every species into the ark. Then God shut the door.

For forty straight days, rain fell from heaven, lifting the heavy barge, covering the mountains, and bringing a thorough cleansing to the whole earth. Jesus referenced Noah when He spoke about the conditions of the earth before His return: *And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all* (Luke 17:26–27).

Certainly we are seeing many resemblances to Noah's time proliferating around us. There are those who scoff at the idea of impending judgment. However, those who listen and believe God's Word prepare themselves by receiving and appropriating the salvation offered through Jesus Christ. Even as Noah was saved from the judgment that fell upon the earth, so we are saved by grace from the impending, righteous judgment of God against sin.

Ask God to help you to receive, believe, and obey His Word.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Sons of God—This term has never been fully understood. Some say the *sons of God* refers to fallen angels. Others regard these as superior human beings or aristocrats. The third opinion holds that these men were of Seth's lineage (implying that even the godly lineage had become corrupted by men—taking whatever they desired without regard to God or others).

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 6:1–8

1. It had been about 1,600 years since man was expelled from the Garden. Then as *men began to multiply on the face of the earth*, sin and corruption began to multiply as well. From Genesis 6:1–4 note and comment on this ungodly progression:
 - a. Unrighteous unions (verse 2)
 - b. Unusual offspring (verse 4)
 - c. Unfortunate consequences (verse 3)

2. Genesis 6:5–7 reveals that the spiritual condition of mankind had deteriorated significantly by this time. Use these verses to note and comment on:
 - a. Man's condition (verse 5)
 - b. God's response (verse 6)
 - c. God's remedy (verse 7)

- (1) What do you find most striking about this scene?
- (2) The judgment God decreed at this time foreshadows a greater future judgment. Read Matthew 24:36–39 and share your thoughts.
3. What was the only hope in the midst of these dismal conditions? Genesis 6:8
- a. Connect this with Romans 5:20b. What parallels do you see between Noah’s time and the present conditions in our world?
- b. Why is God’s *grace* essential for our time?

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 6:9–22

1. Use Genesis 6:9–10 to describe Noah.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Grace—The Hebrew word *chen* means favor or acceptance; good will.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Genesis 6:9 is the first time the word *righteous* is used in the Bible.

2. Use Genesis 6:11–12 to contrast Noah with the condition of the *earth*.
 - a. How do these conditions highlight the uniqueness of Noah?
 - b. According to 2 Peter 2:5, Noah was also a *preacher of righteousness* in his generation. Considering the social climate, why is this remarkable?
 - c. Link this with the following Scriptures and share a few ways we can follow Noah's example:
 - (1) Ephesians 5:6–11



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Noah wasn't a minor character in the story of redemption; he's mentioned fifty times in eleven different books of the Bible.⁸

—Pastor Warren Wiersbe

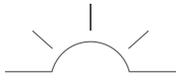
(2) Philippians 2:15

(3) 1 Peter 2:9–12

3. In Genesis 6:13 God declared to Noah that He would *destroy* all life on earth because of man's profound depravity. However, God had a plan by which He would preserve Noah and his family. Use Genesis 6:13–21 to fill in the chart:

<i>God's Plan</i>	Verses 13, 17
<i>God's Instruction</i>	Verses 14–16
<i>God's Covenant</i>	Verse 18
<i>God's Passengers</i>	Verses 19–20
<i>Noah's Provision</i>	Verse 21
<i>Noah's Response</i>	Verse 22

- a. Observe Noah's response to God's Word in Genesis 6:22. Link this with Hebrews 11:7 to remark on the significance of his response.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The *ark* was about 450 feet long by 75 feet wide by 45 feet high, or close to 1.5 million cubic feet. This could hold about 1,300 standard shipping containers, providing space for about 125,000 animals. Shaped like a barge, the *ark* was exceedingly stable—designed for capacity and floating, not speed and navigation.

b. Bible commentator Matthew Poole pointed out, *The work of building the ark was laborious, costly, tedious, dangerous, and seemingly foolish and ridiculous, especially when things continued in the same posture and safety for ... years.*⁹ How does this amplify:

(1) Noah's obedience

(2) Noah's faith

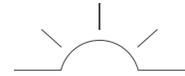
4. Although God would judge the wickedness of mankind, He gave opportunity for repentance. Use 1 Peter 3:20 and 2 Peter 3:9 to comment on the *longsuffering* nature of God.

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 7

1. From Genesis 7:1 comment on God's invitation to Noah.

2. The Lord told Noah to take *seven each of every clean animal and two each of unclean* animals (Genesis 7:2–3). Seven days later, what would God do? Genesis 7:4

3. Genesis 7:5–24 records the preparation of the *ark* and the coming of the *flood*. Read this account, noting any observations or insights concerning:
 - a. Noah
 - b. The flood
 - c. The results of the flood
 - d. God
4. Although God’s judgment was thorough and cataclysmic, Noah and his family were preserved. Link this with 2 Peter 2:5, 9. How does this minister to you?
5. Share a time or way you have experienced God’s:
 - a. Deliverance
 - b. Preservation



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Noah was doing just as God had commanded. There seemed to be no problem gathering the animals—God took care of the details of that job while Noah was doing his part, building the ark. Often we do just the opposite of Noah. We worry about details in our lives over which we have no control, while neglecting specific areas that are under our control [like attitudes, relationships, responsibilities]. Try to be more like Noah, concentrating on those things God has given you to do, and leaving the rest to Him.¹⁰

—Genesis 7:16
Life Application Bible

FIFTH DAY: Read Genesis 8

1. Use Genesis 8:1 to describe God's disposition and activity.
 - a. Link this with the following Scriptures and share your heart:
 - (1) Psalm 145:9

 - (2) Isaiah 49:15–16
2. According to Genesis 8:1b, *God made a wind to pass over the earth*. What happened as a result? Genesis 8:2–5
3. Read Genesis 8:6–14 to summarize how Noah monitored the receding of the floodwaters.
4. In Genesis 8:15–19 God told Noah that it was time for him and *all flesh* that was with him to come out of the ark, *so that they may abound on the earth*. Why do you think it was significant that Noah waited until God commanded him to leave the ark?

5. What was the first thing Noah did upon leaving the ark?
Genesis 8:20

a. What does this suggest to you about Noah?

6. When the LORD *smelled* the offering on the altar, what did He say *in His heart* that He then communicated to Noah?
Genesis 8:21–22

a. Link this with Isaiah 54:9–10. How does this speak to you about:

(1) God's promises

(2) God's mercy

(3) God's preservation

(4) God's peace



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Before the flood, the earth was a uniform temperature. After the flood, there would be seasons and yearly changes in the temperature. Mankind would have to adjust to a whole new way of life.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From your study this week in Genesis 6–8, share your greatest takeaway concerning:
 - a. Sin
 - b. Judgment
 - c. Righteousness
 - d. Grace
 - e. Faith
 - f. Obedience
 - g. The Flood

2. Share any insights you garnered from your lesson this week concerning Our Great Creator.