

## When the Time is Right, God answers – Genesis 6-9 & Galatians 4:4

On our sign outside, we have the phrase “God is never late”

- Galatians 4:4 – God set up the entire world for Jesus
- Genesis 3 – we found the first promise of Jesus in the Old Testament. You will strike His heel, but He will crush your head. We talked about God keeping His promises through the cross.

Today I want to turn to another familiar passage: Genesis 6-9, the story of the Noah and the flood.

When the time was right, God sent Jesus to redeem the world. PRAY

Some think I am weird or maybe even better eccentric.

I love animals, and especially dogs

My dogs’ names: Phileo, Charis, and Zao

If you don’t know me, you might miss what in the world is going on here.

The dogs’ names’ meanings:

- Phileo – Greek for BROTHERLY LOVE
- Charis – Greek for GRACE
- Zao – Greek for ALIVE

There are times in the OT where the same thing can happen: you might miss what is going on here.

Turn with me to Genesis 6:5-7 - READ

God wipes out people. He is fed up. What is going on here?

Some look at this story and say:

- How can God be all powerful, if He basically admits making a mistake?
- How can God be righteous and just, when He commits genocide on a mass scale?
- How can God be merciful when He just killed millions?
- How can God be faithful when He wiped out entire cultures and people groups?
- How can God be personal and One who seeks people out when He didn’t want people around?

What is going on here? In fact, this story of Noah, which is so familiar to many here in the church is one of the reasons people reject the Old Testament as the word of God. Today, I want you to see that I believe this story to be the inspired Word of God because it can teach us so much about Jesus, our Lord. Though it does not mention His name, Jesus is there in the story of Noah.

The story is so foreign to modern day readers, and yet almost every culture has an ancient flood story of some kind in their history.

- The Babylonians had the story of a guy named Utnapishtim
- The ancient Greeks and Romans had stories of people named Deucalion and Pyrrha
- The Aborigines in the Australia even have a story of a giant frog named Tidilick who created the Outback desert because he drank up all the water. His friends, the kangaroos, however, grew thirsty and one decided to ticked Tidilick. Thus they had a flood.
- Irish legend tell of a Queen Cesair and her court who sailed for 7 years to avoid drowning a terrible flood when the ocean drowned the entire island of Ireland.
- Even the Native Americans have legends of floods that sound similar to Noah's story. Some Spanish priests feared the devil had planted such stories in the Native American's minds to confuse them.

We have Noah, and if you aren't careful, you might miss something.

First, I want you to notice the name of Noah and its meaning. Noah was called Noah by his pappy, because Noah means comfort. When Noah's father was naming him, he knew that Noah was going to bring Comfort to the entire world. The world was full of pain and Noah was going to bring the comfort. You might miss it, but Noah's name means comfort, because I believe that Noah is an Old Testament picture of Jesus.

I want you to see that Noah is a picture of Jesus. I want you to see that just as Jesus fulfilled Genesis 3:15 (which we talked about last week), Jesus fulfilled the flood story. Jesus dealt with human sin, violence, and corruption in an entirely different way than sending a flood. He redeemed this story by showing us who God truly is. God is not an angry God. Just as Noah's name implies', God is a God of comfort to those who seek Him.

God gave us the story of Noah so that even in the book of Genesis we could see Jesus. Let's look at some lessons about Jesus that we can learn from Noah.

## 1. Jesus is faithful

a. Noah is faithful through:

### i. his God-given mission

1. Many, many cultures around the world have a story of an ancient flood in their history and religion.
2. One of the striking features of the biblical account, however, is the emphasis placed on the faith of Noah, the story's chief human actor.

a. Genesis 6:8 & 9 - READ

b. Noah was righteous, blameless, and “walked with God.” The phrase “walked with God” is only used one other time in the entire Bible for a guy named Enoch.

3. God gave Noah a mission and Noah was the kind of guy who completed it, no matter the cost. He was faithful.
4. Noah had to be an expert engineer, an expert construction worker, an expert veterinarian and zoologist, an expert accountant, and an expert family counselor. He was way out of his league: there was no cranes, no modern day construction tools, no cheap paper to keep track of things, no list of animals and how to solve their ailments, no modern tools of medicine.
5. Yet, he was faithful, despite his lack of qualifications. God saw one thing in Noah – that Noah was faithful to God. That was enough.

ii. Noah is also faithful through: **Loneliness and Ridicule**

1. What happens when God tells you to do something in the midst of corrupt people? Two things: you get lonely and you get made fun of.
2. The ark that Noah built was not your average-sized boat. The dimensions mentioned in 6:15-16 make it one and a half times the length of a football field, and four stories high. It was larger than some of the ships that sail the oceans today. It was built exactly the way God told Noah to build it.
3. The ark was not also boat shaped – it was not streamlined and curved. It was box shaped. The word “ark” instead of the word boat is used because in Hebrew this means “box” or “chest”. God wanted Noah and his family to build a huge box.
4. Noah was a risk taker in following God’s instructions. He was a man who waged his reputation, his wealth, and all that he had on an idea – an idea that said, “it is healthier to listen to what God says than to listen to what the world around me is saying.” Noah’s character was strong enough to endure ridicule, tongue-clucking, name-calling, and derision. He had a high tolerance for public embarrassment.

iii. Noah was faithful to his mission, and through the loneliness and ridicule. Noah was also faithful through the **Doubts**

1. Noah was persistent despite the doubts. Mrs. Noah had to have called him stubborn. Imagine how much work it took to build a huge ark without power tools or a lumber mill or a Home Depot around? Noah was 600 years young! How many years, how

much effort, how much wealth, did it take to build that thing in his back yard? Noah didn't give up. He stuck to it. He never quit.

2. Genesis 6:22 - *Noah did everything just as God commanded him.*

b. Like I said, Noah is the picture of Jesus. You see, Jesus is faithful through the very things that Noah was:

- i. His God-given mission – There were times when the people around Jesus thought that Jesus came to destroy them.
  - 1. Mark 1:24 - “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”
  - 2. Jesus then does something beautiful – He was stern with the man who claimed this. He then cast out the demon that was terrorizing him and saved the man's very soul.
  - 3. That is what Jesus came to do and Jesus was faithful to this mission, despite the temptations, despite what the world thought of Him.
  - 4. Revelation 19:11 - *I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True.*

- ii. Loneliness and Ridicule

- 1. Jesus in the garden – sweating drops of blood

- iii. Doubt:

- 1. Jesus' prayer in the Garden: let this cup pass.
- 2. Through the trials and the pain of the cross, it clicked. The doubt was erased. Jesus' prayer on the Cross: it is finished.

c. God wants us to trust in Jesus' faithfulness and be faithful ourselves:

- i. You have to get to the point that no matter what you are saying, you can pray Psalm 119:71. Listen to this prayer: Psalm 119:71 (NLT) – *The suffering you sent was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your principles.*
- ii. God is not going to give you more than you can handle:
  - 1. Psalm 103:14 (NLT) – *For he understands how weak we are; he knows we are only dust.*

2. 1 Corinthians 10:13b – *God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

From the story of Noah and the flood, we get a picture of Jesus. I want you to know that: # 1 – Jesus is faithful and...

## 2. Jesus purifies us:

- a. Talking to the older generation – the world is getting worse
- b. During the time of Noah it was worse. Genesis 6:11 - READ
  - i. The world was full of corruption and violence. The ingredients were not nice and tasty and filling. What made up that generation, their ingredients was corruption and violence.
  - ii. God said, “OK, you want to fill the filled with world with something else: water
- c. What happened to all these people? Did God forsake them?
- d. I want you to see that God dealt with these people and never forsook them. In fact, the Bible tells us that someone gave these people a chance. Who? It was Jesus! Jesus came and when He did, Jesus fulfilled the flood! At the cross and in His death, Jesus dealt with these people who lived thousands of years before him. How?
- e. Let us turn to a controversial passage - 1 Peter 3:18-22 – READ
- f. Today, Jesus deals with us. Instead of sending a flood, He sends us Baptism. He allows our sins to be washed away in the waters, just as sin was washed away in the flood:
- g. Acts 2:38 – *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*
- h. Baptism is our redemption in Jesus: Our sins are washed, and we are filled, not with water, but with the very Spirit of Christ. Baptism saves you by the resurrection of Jesus.

- i. Noah and the flood story is our precursor to baptism. The flood in Genesis is the story of what happens to each of us: we are full of sin, Christ comes and wipes the sin clean and then fills us with his Spirit.

If you don't look, you'll miss the whole story of Christ in Genesis. Just like Noah, Christ is faithful, Jesus purifies, us, and finally...

### 3. Jesus sustains us

- a. The thing about Noah is that he had a lot to go through – Noah's storm:

- i. I had always thought that Noah only spent 40 days and 40 nights in the ark, but it was much longer. Genesis tells us that there were: 40 days of rain, 150 days of the flood, 3 months of the waters receding, then 40 days of waiting, 14 days of sending out the birds, and even more time waiting on the waters to dry up.
- ii. In fact, Genesis 7:11 vs. Genesis 8:14 tells us that Noah spent over a year in this ark! Noah needed God in all of this!
- iii. CHALLENGE: I want you to go home this week and read Genesis 6-8. When you do, I want you to watch for the hand of God. There are two passages that show me that God was highly involved in sustaining Noah:
  - 1. Genesis 7:16b – ... *Then the Lord shut him in.*
  - 2. Genesis 8:1 – *God remembered Noah...*
    - a. It wasn't like God forgot and then said, "oh yeah, Noah." This verse means that God paid special attention to Noah's situation. If God remembered Noah, He will remember you too!
- iv. I want you to understand that God sustained Noah and then God was so good that He gave Noah a promise at the end of His ordeal. READ Genesis 8:20-22.
- v. God promises that He will never again curse everything and destroy everything! He says that I am going to deal with man's sins in a different way. Do you know how He now deals with man's sins?
- vi. That's right! Jesus. The Bible promises that if you turn to Jesus, He will bring showers of refreshing:

1. Acts 3:19 (The Message) - *Now it's time to change your ways! Turn to face God so he can wipe away your sins, pour out showers of blessing to refresh you!*
2. Acts 3:19 (KJV) - *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord!*

I want you to know that when you turn to Jesus, He will bring showers of refreshing. He will sustain you through the storms and floods of life: Example: Sarah being sick. God taught me to say, "He gives and takes away. Blessed be His name!"

One last thought: there is a major difference, however, between Jesus and Noah. Noah goes on to sin! Noah spent over a year in cramped and dirty quarters with his wife and family, not to speak of a boat load of animals. The first thing that Noah says when he got off the ark was, "I need a drink."

Read for yourself Genesis 9:21. I love the Bible's honesty here – Noah goes on to sin by getting drunk. Here was the faithful patriarch getting drunk! Some have suggested that the change in atmosphere meant that the amount that it would take to get Noah drunk had dramatically changed. Now, because of the flood, it was easier to get drunk. The grape juice would ferment faster into wine. We can come up with excuses for poor old Noah, but the fact remains: Noah sinned and caused his family to sin. He got drunk and naked and his family saw his shame. This is where the picture of Jesus ends with Noah.

Jesus goes on to be perfect – Hebrews 4:15 (NLT) - *This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, **yet he did not sin.***

Just like Noah, Jesus is faithful, Jesus purifies, us, and Jesus sustains us!

Some look at the story of Noah and the flood and find a God who is basically a genocidal maniac. I hope today, you can really look through the story and see Jesus. Galatians 4:4 – *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son.*

Jesus came to fulfill the flood. Jesus came to fulfill the storm. I don't know what storm you are going through, but God wants you to hear the story of Noah. He wants you to look and see Jesus. He wants you to keep your eyes on Jesus. Hebrews 12:2 (The Message) - *Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God.*