

THE GLORY OF GOD

Week 6 - WHY Such a Catastrophic Flood??? OR WHY It Is CRUCIAL To Study The Glory of God!

October 15, 2024

Have you been asked, “Why would God do such a thing...wipe out the world with such a catastrophic flood?” We could respond with, “Why did God rescue eight people and many animals from that flood?” In our study of “the glory of God,” haven’t we seen WHO God is and haven’t we grasped God’s great love for His creation? Why do some rail against God instead of marveling at God and standing in awe of God? Our study of “the glory of God” is essential as a basic foundation in the Word of God in comprehending Who God is.

There are many, including Evangelical believers, who do not take the record of the global flood in Genesis seriously. They attribute the account to a moral lesson without regarding the narrative as actual fact/as truth! They are spiritualizing the text. They are giving their opinion. When we understand the Bible literally, we don’t need to come up with our ideas! Ask the Holy Spirit for His understanding. Support your explanation of the text with Scripture.

We NEED to read the “worldwide flood” account in Genesis 6 against the BACKDROP of unimaginable sin, a fallen world, the promise of the “Seed of the woman” Who will be born and destroy the adversary, and the two groups of people in the world– the wicked and the righteous – seen through Cain and Abel. We need to read and understand the BACKSTORY in Gen. 1 through Gen. 5.

When we read the genealogy of Adam in Genesis 5, we read the gospel message through the names from Adam (man) to Noah (rest/comfort). This is what the names in Adam’s lineage mean: “Man is appointed mortal sorrow. The blessed God shall come down teaching. His death shall bring the despairing rest.”

And in that message of the gospel, we do read that man is frail and mortal...but that God will provide rest/comfort. How? Through the Seed of the woman about which we read in Gen. 3:15. But not all will respond to that rest and comfort...that provision of redemption from God.

Do we realize that in Gen. 2 we read that on the 7th day following creation, God rested!

We see Satan in action in our reading of Genesis 6...

Gen. 6:1-4 - Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose/some translations state: *any of them they chose* (And, in response to these actions by the sons of God, God said...) ³ ...’My Spirit (the Holy Spirit) shall not strive (not contend with; not plead with) with man forever, for he (man) is indeed flesh yet his days (man’s days) shall be one hundred and twenty years.

Gen. 6:3 is speaking of the Holy Spirit regenerating sinful man. God is NOT speaking here of man’s length of days equating to 120 years. Yet, I quite frequently hear that MANY believe this is the meaning of 120 days. This is not man’s lifespan; man lived longer. BUT –

even if it was man's lifespan following the flood – Abraham lived to 175 years; Isaac lived to 180 years.

More importantly, what is the CONTEXT of the passage where we read of the 120 years? We read of the Holy Spirit pleading with man to turn to God...to turn away from their wickedness.

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The 120 years appears to be the time that God is giving man, from this announcement, in Gen. 6:3, to respond to His Spirit and to turn from wickedness.

To better grasp that the 120 years don't equate to man's lifespan...

Gen. 5:32 - *And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.* At that time – Noah is recorded at being 380 years more than 120 years.

Gen. 7:6 - *Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.*

My Spirit will not always strive with man forever - God would not allow the human race to stay in this rebellious place forever. This means there is a point of no return in our rejection of God. God will not woo us forever; there is a point where He will say "no more."

As we come to Gen. 6:4, more information needs to be filled in.

Gen. 6:4- *4 There were giants (Nephilim; fallen; mighty ones) on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men (gibborim in the Hebrew) who were of old, men of renown (high exposure). In the Hebrew language, these "sons of God" were "bene elohim." This term is usually applied to angels (see Job 1:6; Job 2:1; Job 38:7). Genesis seems to be stating that, somehow, there was a physical union between angels and human women!*

Fallen angels, in order to procreate physically, possessed human male bodies. Consider the demonic activity in Jesus' day! Demons possessed human hosts!

The unnatural offspring of this union were the "Nephilim" (Gen. 6:4). The word Nephilim is directly transliterated from the Hebrew. The ancient root of the word implies a "fall." In some versions of the Bible it is translated as "giants." Scripture describes the Nephilim as "the heroes of old, men of renown."

Some theologians believe that God could simply not allow this corrupt offspring (between angels and humans) to exist on the earth, and that was part of the reason for the flood. But, these theologians do not go further with the explanation. And we need to do so. The "WHY" needs to be answered...to understand the "BIG PICTURE"!

Gen. 6:5-7 - *Then* (with that unnatural union) *the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* (NO aspect of man's nature has NOT been corrupted by sin!)

⁶ And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved (*atsah* – pained; hurt) in His heart. God's sorrow at man's condition and the grief in His heart is striking! God's sorrow and His grief are how the unfolding of God's plan affects Him. God is not unfeeling in the face of human sin. Knowing God's heart should spur us on to desire to please Him (II Cor. 5:9). ⁷ So the LORD said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry (grieved) that I have made them.' AND, so often we stop after v. 7 and wonder WHY God said these words, and don't return to the Scripture that speaks of Who God is. AND – we don't move forward in Genesis 6. What does v. 8 tell us....

Gen. 6:8 - *But Noah found* (acquired; was granted) *grace in the eyes of the Lord!!!* This might be the most amazing part of the flood account!

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Have you ever wondered why God flooded the entire earth...BUT RESCUED eight people and many animals? BECAUSE God's plan is always Plan A – which cannot be thwarted. Plan A includes giving man dominion over the earth (Gen. 1:26, 28) – not yet occurred; Plan A includes the supernatural birth of the one Who will redeem, and the death of the Redeemer (heel bruised) at Jesus' first coming; the restoration of the earth and the fulfillment of prophecies God promised to Abraham to be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom; to the new heavens and the new earth. God promised to save a remnant. "Just a remnant?"...some ask.

Do we understand that the level of sin and corruption among the human population was staggering? People thought about doing **only evil continually** (Gen. 6:5-7).

Do you think the adversary, Satan, was a bit miffed after being told by God of his, Satan's, destruction – his doom? Bruised head!! I hold the view that the intermarriage that caused the catastrophic global flood is between fallen angels and human women.

Have you read the NT passages that speak to the flood?

II Pet. 2:4-5 – speaks of fallen angels in Noah's day – *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment: and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly.* These angels – the ones who are noted as having sinned - are connected to the flood. These angels are now in chains. We need to realize that there are fallen angels who are not in chains – they are demons.

Jude vv. 6-7 – *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain but left their own abode (taking on human flesh; going after human flesh), He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; ... having given themselves over to sexual immorality*

and gone after strange flesh (the angels went after human women) are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

If Gen. 6:1-4 is not speaking about intermarriage between fallen angels and humans, how are we to understand II Pet. 2:4-5 and Jude vv. 6-7?

WHY is this important for us to understand? Satan attempted to POLLUTE the human bloodline. We are reading about Satan's effort to pollute the world to prevent the coming of the "Seed of the woman." The attempt on Satan's part was to cancel out the prophecy of Gen. 3:15.

If Satan was successful in tainting humanity – changing the DNA of humans, what of the birth of Jesus?

Gen. 6:4 – the Hebrew word for "giants" is *Nephilim*. (The Septuagint - the translation of the Hebrew OT into Greek) translates "giant" as "gigantes." "Gigantes," in the Latin, are known as Titans – half man/half god. The race was so polluted that God found it necessary to start again with Noah and his sons, and to imprison the demons that did this so they could never do this again.

How can we comprehend God's glory at this time?

While the flood was indeed intended for the destruction of "the world of the ungodly" (II Pet. 2:4), the ark was designed to save Noah and his family and to ensure the fulfillment of God's purpose for the creation, and God's promise of salvation – FOR HIS GLORY!

Noah's ark is a type of Jesus HOW?

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Gen. 6:14 – the ark was made watertight with pitch inside and out. WHY mention this? The judgment of the flood waters did not touch the eight persons nor the animals in the ark.

"Pitch" in the Hebrew is *kaphar* which means to cover/purge/make atonement/make reconciliation (between parties [Biblically - between God and man]). God's plan is to reconcile man with Himself. Redemption! *Kaphar* is used 70 times in the Bible to mean atonement as it relates to blood sacrifice. In Gen. 6 it means price of a life/ransom! The pitch inside and outside served as the ransom – the payment provided to save Noah and his family! The pitch looks forward to/speaks to the ransom price Jesus paid in His redemption for us!

Gen. 6:16 – *you shall...set the door of the ark in its side* There was only one way to enter the vessel of deliverance. The ark furnished one door. John 10:9 - *I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved....*

Gen. 7:16 - *So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in (to deliver up)*

Gen. 7:17-19 - *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.*

Gen. 8:1-4 - *Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. ² The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. ³ And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. ⁴ Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.*

The ark is a type of Jesus. Jesus is represented by the ark; His work is represented by the ark. The ark rested on a specific date.

John 17:4-5 - *I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

The flood waters receded and Noah's ark touched down on the mountains. The ark rested on the mountains of Ararat on the 17th day of the 7th month. SO?? The 7th month at that time in the history of the world, was considered a month in the civil calendar...not the religious calendar of the Jewish people. NOTE: I Pet. 3:20-22 connects Noah's ark with Jesus' resurrection!

In Exodus 12 God changed the calendar for the Jewish people. They had been following a civil calendar which was for mankind.

In Exodus 12, God gave the Jewish people a religious calendar based on their Feasts. We are reading the civil calendar in Gen. 8:4 – the 17th day of the 7th month. When God changed the calendar in Ex. 12...that 17th day of the SEVENTH month on the civil calendar became the 17th day of the FIRST month, Nisan, on the religious calendar. SO??

If you have a MacArthur Study Bible you'll find a chart re: the civil calendar and the religious calendar on pg. 273 on which you'll see that the 7th month on the civil calendar became the 1st month on the religious/sacred calendar.

What happened during the month of Nisan during Jesus' last days on earth? On the 17th day of the 1st month Jesus ROSE FROM THE DEAD – HE RESURRECTED – Jesus rested from His work!!!! The ark that rescued Noah and his family – along with animals from God's

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creation – rested on Mount Ararat on the day that looked forward to the resurrection of the “Seed of the Woman” – when Jesus rested from His work! Gen. 8:4 looks forward to the resurrection of the “Seed of the woman”!!!

Turn to Genesis 10 where we read of Noah's descendants through his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The descendants: 70 nations!

In Deut. 32:8-9 – we read of God setting the boundaries of the 70 nations according to the number of the children of Israel. HOW? The # of the children of Israel in Egypt at the outset: 70 (Gen. 46:27b). God ordained a plan whereby the nations (70) and Israel would be connected (Gen. 12:3 – all the families of the earth will be blessed through the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Gen. 18:18 – instrument of blessing for the world).

In Genesis 11 we read the first attempt at GLOBALISM – ONE WORLD!!

Genesis 11:1-9 - Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. ² And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar (Babylon), and they dwelt there.

³ Then they said to one another, ‘Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.’ They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. ⁴ And they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.’ (God had told man to be fruitful and multiple; fill the earth and subdue it [Gen. 1:28]; but they wanted no part of that. They wanted to build up to the heavens and make a name for themselves) ⁵ But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower (the top of which is in the heavens!! God has a sense of humor!) which the sons of men had built. ⁶ And the Lord said, ‘Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. ⁷ Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.’ ⁸ So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name is called Babel (confusion), because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Something different is happening....

Gen. 11:26 – Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

Gen. 11:27-32 – This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot. ²⁸ And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹ Then Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah. ³⁰ But Sarai was barren; she had no child.

³¹ And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram’s wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there. ³² So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.

QUESTIONS: What was new to you? Impact on you? Do you understand more clearly the reason for the flood? How is the glory of God throughout Gen. 6-11 more GLORIOUS?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK: Reread Week 6 w/ Bible references. Continue writing in journal. Share these chapters (at least one!!) with someone. Read Week 7 when you receive it.

