

The Bible From 20,000 Feet

Part 2: Genesis 6-11

Tuesday Night Bible Study, May 27, 2008

--PART 2 OUTLINE:

NOAH: A TYPE OF CHRIST

THE ARK: A TYPE OF SALVATION

THE MEANING OF THE RAINBOW AND GOD'S COVENANT TO PRESERVE THE WORLD

REPOPULATION OF THE EARTH AFTER THE FLOOD

--NOAH: A TYPE OF CHRIST

--Genesis 6:5-8: "Then 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. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.**"

--the state of mankind's heart after the flood was the same as before the flood, so it's reasonable to conclude that the world after the flood was just as evil as before the flood.

--Jeremiah 17:9 describes the natural state of our heart (and our flesh after our heart is transformed by the Holy Spirit) - "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

--one purpose of the flood was to make clear the fate of all mankind without God's plan of salvation... without His plan of salvation Noah would not have "found grace in the eyes of the LORD" (v.8) and the entire human race would have become extinct!

--God's covenant of salvation established through Noah...

--Genesis 6:17-18: "And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 **But I will establish My covenant** (declaration in Genesis 3:15) **with you**; and you shall go into the ark — you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you."

--in Genesis 3:15 God declared that "the seed of the Woman" would defeat Satan. (the phrase "seed of the woman" is a prophecy about the Virgin birth of Christ as normal custom was to refer to descendants as seed of the man)

--Noah was a type of Christ...

--the fall of the entire human race was dependent on one person, and during the flood we see the preservation of the entire human race dependent on one person... and this foreshadowed the provision of salvation for the entire human race being dependent on one person.

--the preservation of the entire human race depended on one man building an ark! (if it wasn't Noah then God could have raised up someone else)

--Romans ch. 5 talks about the parallel between the fall of all mankind depending on the act of one person and the provision of salvation for all mankind being dependent on the act of one person.

--Romans 5:18-19: "Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 **For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.**"

--another layer of symbolism in Noah is that without living a righteous life he would not have been

chosen to serve as a link in God's plan of salvation.

--Genesis 7:1-2: "Then the LORD said to Noah,"Come into the ark, you and all your household, **because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.**"

--by living a perfectly righteous life Christ was able to bear our sins and bring salvation to the world.

--of course, Noah was only human and therefore an infinite gap existed between the righteousness of him and Christ, but Noah's life was righteous compared to the rest of the world.

--in Genesis ch.9 we see an example of Noah's imperfections when he gets drunk.

--the key to living a righteous life (for both Noah and everyone else) is faith... when we live in intimate relationship with God through faith our lives will reflect that relationship.

--Genesis 6:9-10: "Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and **he walked with God.**" (NIV)

--an example of Noah's faith was the time he spent building the ark while the world no doubt mocked him.

--THE ARK: A TYPE OF SALVATION

--Genesis 7:6-10: "Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. **7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.** 8 Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, 9 male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth. 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month — on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. 12 And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights." (NIV)

--a common misconception is that the flood was simply the result of 40 days of rain... but 4000 years of rain wouldn't be enough to cover all land with water.

--the flood was the result of "floodgates of the heavens" and "springs of the great deep burst forth" ... reservoirs of water beneath the earth's surface and above the atmosphere (possibly a canopy of ice that melted)

--through Christ we are protected from the wrath of God against all sin...

--1 Thess 1:10 states that Jesus "delivers us from the wrath to come."

--"the wrath to come" probably refers to the Great Tribulation and the lake of fire in eternity.

--THE MEANING OF THE RAINBOW AND GOD'S COVENANT TO PRESERVE THE WORLD

--after the flood one could easily think that if God destroyed all life on the earth with the flood once then he could do it again because mankind is just as evil after as he was before.

--as we read in Jeremiah 17:9 the natural state of mankind's heart is "desperately wicked".

--Genesis 8:21-22: "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.'"

--the promise is not to destroy all life on the earth as he did during the flood "while the earth remains."

--there will be great destruction during the Great Tribulation, as we read in Revelation, but many people will survive.

--the next time everything on the surface of the earth is destroyed will be at the end of time when God completely destroys the earth and makes a new earth. (2 Peter 3:10-13)

--the rainbow is a sign of this covenant.

--Genesis 9:12-16: "And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: 13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life." (NIV)

--through this covenant God is effectively opening and preserving a window of opportunity for everyone to be born who is ordained to be born and have an opportunity for salvation.

--Acts 17:23-27: "Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: 24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us..."

--God's act of preservation after the Tower of Babel...

--Genesis 11:1 states that "the whole earth had one language and one speech" which enabled mankind to better collaborate and coordinate technological advancement (which resulted in the construction of the Tower of Babel)

--by confusing the languages and scattering the population around the globe God broke the lines of communication and in effect slowed the advancement of technology.

--if God didn't confuse the languages and divide the population in this matter then the automobile might have been invented by the time of Christ and who knows where the world would be today!

--the confusing of languages was an act of preservation as the accelerated technological advancement would have probably resulted in the human race prematurely self-destructing before the end of the timeframe of God's plan of salvation.

--REPOPULATION OF THE EARTH AFTER THE FLOOD

--Genesis ch. 10 contains a selective genealogy that lists 70 descendant of Noah representing all nations that first emerged after Noah.

--Genesis ch. 11 contains a selective genealogy that traces the Messianic line from Noah to Abraham, providing one more segment in Christ's genealogy found in Luke 3.

--partial overlap with genealogy in ch. 10 but continues after Peleg where ch. 10 ends.

--Noah - Shem – Arphaxad – Shelah – Eber – Peleg – Reu – Serug – Nahor – Terah - Abram

--selective genealogies...

--it was customary for ancient genealogies to be selective in the names they included.

--there are a couple indications in the ch. 11 genealogy that it is selective...

--Cainan is listed between Arphaxad and Salah in Luke whereas Cainan is missing in the original Hebrew Old Testament. Cainan was added in the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament)

--this could be seen as an error, but in light of ancient customs Cainan was probably an ancestor of Christ but simply not included in the original Hebrew genealogy.

--if the genealogy was not selective the ages listed in ch. 11 wouldn't line up and all of Abraham's ancestors would have been alive when he was born.