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Genesis 5-9

"Lessons from the Flood"

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Genesis chapter five is about the genealogical record of Seth. For the most part, his descendants are not counted among the most memorable characters in the Old Testament. However, one of his descendants is known around the world, even to this day... Noah!

The account of Noah, the Ark and the worldwide Flood is familiar to millions of people. Some dismiss the account as a fable or ancient folklore, while others believe it to be an actual historical event recorded in the Bible. There are sources outside the Bible that give historical and geological evidence of a global flood, one of which is the discovery of approximately 15,000 clay tablets in the ruins of Ebla.¹ One of these tablets, from before the time of Abraham (meaning that it's more than 4,000 years old), tells the story of a worldwide flood.²

It's also interesting to note that it's been determined that there more than 200 ancient cultures that have documented a story about a flood like the one described in the Bible. According to the Institute for Creation Research: 95% speak of a global flood, some of the findings include; 88% speak of a favored family; 73% indicate animals were saved; 70% speak of a boat that saved the family; 66% indicate the flood was due to the wickedness of man; 66% indicate people were forewarned of the flood; and 57% indicate survivors landed on a mountain.³

The Bible tells us that this was not a local flood, but a worldwide flood. In **Genesis 7:20** says, *"The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than*

¹ Ebla was an ancient city-state located north of Damascus, Syria.

² An article was written for the October 18, 1976 edition of *Time Magazine*.
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,946725,00.html>

³ <http://www.icr.org/article/570/270/>

twenty feet.” As a matter of fact, a lot of marine fossil evidence has been found at high elevation on Mt. Everest, the Himalayans, the Alps, the Rockies, the Appalachians, the Andes, and most of the world’s other mountains. In the “That’s Incredible” category, fossils have been found on Mt. Everest at 29,000 feet above sea level! ⁴

The Bible tells us that the Ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat, ⁵ which span modern-day Turkey and Armenia. The Armenian people call these mountains Nakhitchevan, which means, *first landing or the place of descent*. The ancient name was Naxuana, which means, *town of Noah*. One other interesting fact about Ararat is that the Bible tells us that only eight people were saved in the Ark and, interestingly enough, the region is called Terephaminin, which translates, *region of the eight!*

In this message, Pastor Gary will use an outline that will help us understand four important things about the Flood: the reason for it, the rescue from it, the result of it, and the reminder about it.

The Reason For The Flood

1. In **Genesis 6:5**, the word wickedness ⁶ connotes a fierceness or wildness that was completely out of control.
2. In **Genesis 6:11-12**, the word corruption ⁷ means, ruined, spoiled or decayed.
3. In **Genesis 6:11-12**, the word violence ⁸ means, to treat with cruelty.
4. To put it all together, man’s sinful condition had become so wicked, so out of control, so vile and immoral, so godless, deplorable and depraved, that God basically said, “I’m not going to put up with this any longer!” (**Genesis 6:3**)
5. God is long-suffering and is patient because he doesn’t want any to perish, and even though he is abounding in love and slow to anger, he has a “tipping point”!
6. People need to understand the simple truth that they will not be able to defy God forever and get away with it.
7. There are two timelines that are important to understand:
 - a. 1,600 years of human history is recorded in Genesis chapter five.

⁴ <http://www.icr.org/articles/view/520/270/>

⁵ The word, Ararat, translated, means *holy ground*.

⁶ The Hebrew word is *ra’*.

⁷ The Hebrew word is *shachath*.

⁸ The Hebrew word is *chamas*.

- i. The increase of wickedness had been going on for centuries before God made the decision to “pull the plug,” and he did it to give the human race another chance.
 - ii. Things had gotten so out of control, corrupt and wicked, that the human race was in jeopardy of becoming hopelessly lost, so God started over with a righteous family.
- b. God warned people for 120 years of a coming judgment for sin.
 - i. [Genesis 6:3](#) is not a statement of longevity; it’s a warning of how long it would be until the Flood.
 - ii. [2 Peter 2:5](#) tells us Noah was a “*preacher of righteousness.*”
 - iii. Not only was Noah preaching the truth, he was busy building a humongous boat in his backyard!
 - iv. Judgment is coming because God had come to the end of his patience with man’s wickedness.
 - v. With things so messed up, it’s mind-boggling to know that the first time the word grace is used in the Bible is in this account!
 - 1. [Genesis 6:8](#) - “*And Noah found favor in the eyes of God.*”
 - a. In Hebrew, the word favor means grace, and the KJV translates it this way.
 - vi. [Genesis 6:9](#) says of Noah that he was a “*righteous man, blameless among the people of his time and he walked with God.*”
 - 1. You could ask two questions about Noah, God and grace: Did Noah walk with God and that’s why he received God’s grace or did he get God’s grace and that’s why he walked with God?
 - 2. Grace flows both ways: we get it even though we don’t deserve it, but we experience more of it when we walk with God.
 - a. [John 1:16](#) - “*From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.*” (NIV)
 - b. [John 1:16](#) - “*For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.*” (NAS)
 - c. In a manner of speaking, God sprinkles us with his grace when we don’t deserve it, but if we really want to get drenched, we need to sit at his feet, walk with him and have fellowship with him.

The Rescue From The Flood

8. The Ark dimensions may seem to be long and narrow and unstable, however, God's design actually made for an excellent displacement ratio that could withstand turbulent waters.
 - a. "Both hydrodynamic calculations and laboratory wave-tank model testing have demonstrated that the ark was so dimensioned as to be exceedingly stable in violent waters of the Flood."⁹

9. Noah was instructed to waterproof the ark with "pitch" inside and out. (Genesis 6:14)
 - a. Pitch was a tar-like substance with an oil base that was prevalent in the Middle East.
 - b. The Hebrew word for "pitch" is *kaphar*, which means, *to make atonement*.
 - i. This word is used more than 70 times in the Old Testament, and it's always translated, *to make atonement*.
 - ii. In other words, the Ark was the vessel God used as the only means to preserve the lives of Noah and his family.
 - iii. In the same way Christ is our atoning sacrifice, and he is the only means by which we might be saved and our lives be preserved. (1 John 2:2)
 - iv. The Ark is a picture of Christ, who is our "saving vessel," sent by God to rescue us from sin and death.

10. Noah, his wife, his sons and their wives were the only survivors of the Flood.
 - a. 1 Peter 3:20 - *"God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved..."*

11. There are approximately 18,000 species of animals in the world today.
 - a. The average size of all species would be the size of sheep.
 - b. It's been calculated that 18,000 pairs or 36,000 animals could fit in one-third of the Ark, including dinosaurs!
 - c. Dr. Ken Ham's¹⁰ research indicates that the average size of a dinosaur was the size of a small horse.
 - i. The animals on the ark can be young and do not necessarily have to be full-grown.
 - ii. Speaking of dinosaurs, most were drowned in the Flood, and the rest became extinct because they could not adjust to the climate change.

⁹ *The Beginning of the World*, New Leaf Publishing Group, 1991, Dr. Henry Morris.

<http://www.christianbook.com/the-beginning-of-the-world/henry-morris/9780890511626/pd/0511624>

¹⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ken_Ham NOTE: The Wikipedia link is included because it seems reasonable to assume that Dr. Ham, or a designee, would monitor this information to ensure its accuracy.

- iii. A lot of fossil evidence shows that dinosaurs were entombed in gigantic mudslides.
 - 1. Thousands of dinosaurs have been discovered in “bone-beds” or huge graveyards where many were huddle together in low-lying areas where there was no higher elevation for them to escape to.¹¹
- d. What about human fossils?
 - i. Genesis 6:7 - *“So the Lord said, ‘I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth...’ ”*
 - ii. The Hebrew word for wipe is *machah*, which means, to erase.

The Results Of The Flood

- 12. Facts about the Flood:
 - a. It rained 40 days.
 - b. The flood lasted 150 days.
 - c. It took three months for the water to recede.
 - d. More than one year passed before Noah and his family were able to leave the Ark.
- 13. Other results of the Flood include:
 - a. Seasons, climate and topography ([Genesis 8:18-22](#))
 - b. Animal disposition ([Genesis 9:1-2](#))
 - c. Herbivore to carnivore! ([Genesis 9:3](#))

The Reminder About The Flood

- 14. When Christ returns for the church, the culture will be similar to the culture in Noah’s day.
 - a. In [Matthew 24:36-39](#), Jesus compared his Second Coming to the days before the flood.
 - i. “ *‘No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and*

¹¹ <http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2010/0623/Dinosaur-graveyard-unearthed-in-Canada-could-be-world-s-largest>

took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.' ”

- ii. Life when Christ returns will be “business as usual,” and will be centered on physical desire and personal satisfaction without regard for one’s spiritual condition.
- iii. People will be oblivious to the urgency of the hour and the day, not because they lack information, but because they will refuse to repent and turn to God, despite repeated warnings.

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Genesis 6:5-22](#); [7:6-10](#); [7:24-8:5](#) to provide an overview for this study.
3. Spend time talking about the reasons for the Flood.
 - a. Do you think most people believe God was patient or impatient with mankind before the Flood? (See #7a – 1,600 years of human history and #7b – 120 years of warning from Noah, a “*preacher of righteousness.*”
 - b. What are your thoughts about God’s patience today?
 - c. Does it seem to you that the culture in Noah’s day is not very different from our culture today?
 - d. Why do you think so many people today choose to disregard God’s grace and mercy?
 - e. When you consider that there were only eight survivors of the Flood, why do you think no one heeded Noah’s warning message over a span of 120 years?
4. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences walking with the Lord.
5. How do we experience God’s grace? Is it that we walk with the Lord and that’s why we receive his grace or is it that God extends his grace to us and we respond by walking with him?
6. Read and discuss #9 above regarding the Ark being a picture of Christ as our rescue vessel.
7. Review and discuss Pastor Gary’s comments about the Ark being large enough to house 18,000 pairs of animals, including dinosaurs. (See #11 above)

8. Read and discuss the results of the Flood in #13 above.
9. In what ways are people living a “business as usual” life?
10. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about times in their life when they were oblivious to the urgency of the day and the hour.
11. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: be thankful that God is still patient and, when people turn to God and away from sin, asking God’s forgiveness, he will have mercy and will forgive and bring him or her into a right relationship with him; resolve to not live a “business as usual” life, but a life that makes a difference in the world; seek the Lord to find out how he wants them to live a holy life, and be a witness like Noah.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).