

# BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

## Learning from Those Who Walked Before Us

### WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM NOAH?

Gen. 6-8, Mt. 24:38-42, Heb. 11:7

INTRODUCTION: Last week Enoch; today we look at Noah.

The name Enoch appears in twelve verses of Scripture. Noah's name appears in 50 verses, but three of those references are to a girl who was named after him. Nevertheless, there is nearly four times as much biblical material about Noah than Enoch.

So, would you be understanding if it took me four times as long to lead us to understand what we can learn from Noah?

No, probably not. I will never forget the man in the first church I pastored who shook my hand on the way out of morning worship. With no smile on his face he said, "Preacher, you know we don't pay you by the hour."

So, knowing that the endurance of some of you is limited, I will do my best to harvest the most nutritious parts of the text as the source of our admonitions from the Lord today for the living of our lives.

We begin by reading selected verses from the four chapters of Genesis that tell us of Noah and the great flood.

We begin where we were last week with the spiritual condition of people in the early earth.

**Genesis 6** 1 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.

4 There were giants 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 who were of old, men of renown. 5 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

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

13 And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14 Make

yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.

17 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 with you; and you shall go into the ark--you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 19 And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every *sort* into the ark, to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female.

22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

**Genesis 7** 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. 12 And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth... and the mountains were covered. 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died.

**Genesis 8** 14 And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, 1 year, 10 days after the rain began, the earth was dried. 15 Then God spoke to Noah, saying, 16 "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

First I think we need to clearly

## SEE THE WORLD IN WHICH NOAH LIVED.

- **The pre-flood world was a tropical paradise physically.**
  - This was primarily true because of the waters above the firmament that God created.

Genesis 1:6–8 NKJV 6 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." 7 Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

- These waters above the heavens or above the atmosphere formed a clear canopy of water vapor, producing a greenhouse effect over all of the earth.

- That is why scientists have found the fossilized remains of a lush rainforest delta on Ellesmere Island, at the top of Canada in the Arctic Circle, next to northern Greenland.
- These waters above the atmosphere would have also filtered harmful radiation and provided increased atmospheric pressure, both of which would have increased the longevity of human life as Genesis records.
- And in confirmation of that connection, let me read you two sentences out of a report just released last month by Tel Aviv University in Israel.

A new study from Tel Aviv University (TAU) and the Shamir Medical Center in Israel indicates that hyperbaric oxygen treatments (HBOT) in healthy aging adults can stop the aging of blood cells and reverse the aging process. In the biological sense, the adults' blood cells actually grow younger as the treatments progress.

Folks, the telomeres at the ends of each chromosome, which grow shorter with age, actually lengthened up to 38% in a 90 day treatment with oxygen at increased atmospheric pressure.

I know some of you are wondering if we have sign ups at the Next Steps desk!

Sorry, you will have to call Shamir Medical Center in Tel Aviv.

- For the first 600 years, 365 day years, Noah lived in the wonderful world God created that ranged only from tropical to subtropical climate and teemed with plants, animals and human life.
- **But sadly, the pre-flood world was a demonically dominated, violent, dangerous, God-hating world spiritually.**
  - As I shared with you last week, from the time of Enoch to Noah, the earth grew worse and worse morally and spiritually.
  - This began with the fallen angels cohabitating with women and producing violent giants as the offspring of their union.
  - Now, the fallen angels, the demons, who did this, God incarcerated in chains in the depths of hell. But the children of these demons and their human wives remained on the earth, and violence reigned.
  - They continued to the point where every thought and motive of the people of the earth was only evil continually.

We also need to

## SEE THE JUDGMENT SENT BY HOLY GOD BY MEANS OF THE FLOOD.

- **God's judgment upon sin was worldwide and severe.**
  - This was no local flood being exaggerated by the author.
  - Jesus Himself spoke of Noah and the flood as a historical event.
  - Almost every ancient culture has some recollection of a worldwide flood in their literature.
  - And the flood was catastrophic. Do you know the word Jesus used when He spoke of the flood? Kataklysmos, the word from which we get Cataclysmic or Cataclysm.
  - The breaking up of the fountains of the deep means fissures opened on the floor of the existing seas, letting loose great reserves of underground water and producing earthquakes, volcanoes, and repeated tsunamis.
  - And have you heard that in expeditions in the last 5 years, scientists have discovered five layers of trees broken off at the stump, some nearly 2 feet in diameter, complete with their root systems still intertwined in a matt of fallen leaves and sediment in the middle of Antarctica? Five layers! Deposited in succession one on top of the other. And are they millions of years old? Hardly. They were able to extract some amino acid from the cells of the trees.
  - This happened some 4300 years ago! Sin was worldwide. God's judgment on sin was both worldwide and severe.
- And when the flood was over, **physically, the post-flood world was a thousand times worse than the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.**
  - Most of us still have a pretty good memory of what things looked like around here following Hurricane Michael. – I still think they should have picked a different name! Wasn't that horrible?
  - Now what I told you about what they found in Antarctica started like this with the trees broken, only the trees were even bigger and closer together.
  - Then the tsunami-like waves moved across the land and tore off the soil with the roots and the remaining portion of the trunks of the trees and carried them to this rocky area, now covered with ice, but not then, and dumped them.
  - And the roiling waters of the flood did this five different times during the year of the flood depositing the tree stumps with their roots and soil layer upon layer!

- Whole cities were laid waste!
- When Noah stepped out of the ark, all the buildings were gone. All the plants were gone. Only a few small green shoots starting to poke a first leaf out of the ground from roots left just below the surface or from seeds washed into the soil. All the animals were gone. Most of all, all the people were gone.
- The earth was barren and empty. Devastated by the righteous judgment of Holy God!
- Only Noah, his wife, his sons, their wives, and the animals God had sent him to preserve on the ark were left.

But it is important that we also **SEE THE MERCY SHOWN BY THE LORD.**

- **The severity of God's judgment upon sin was in itself an act of mercy.**
  - If God had left mankind in the condition they were in before the flood, it is likely that in a generation or two, there would not have been anyone who responded to the grace of God in faith.
  - Those who died in the flood were already lost spiritually. Their eternal destiny was fixed by their response to God. All of them had rejected Him. They would spend eternity apart from Him in hell whether they died in the flood or not.
  - But God's severe judgment upon all of mankind in the flood actually gave people born in future generations a chance, an opportunity to trust God rather than reject Him.
- **Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.**
  - Noah was the exception, and God knew his heart. The commentary of the Holy Spirit on Noah in the Book of Hebrews helps us here.

**Hebrews 11:7 NKJV** By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

- By faith, Noah believed God's warning.
  - By faith, Noah revered God – had godly fear.
  - By faith, Noah obeyed and built the ark. In 6:22 – Thus Noah did! According to all that God commanded him, so he did!
- **God warned of the coming judgment for 120 years!**

Genesis 6:3 NKJV And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

- The ark was a massive undertaking, especially for only four men with hand tools and domesticated animals.
- The building of the ark was a constant testimony not only to those living where they could see it happening, but to others who heard long distance the progress of the man building a huge boat on dry land.
- When people began to run for higher ground as the waters rose, there was no one who could say, "We didn't know." In the abundant mercy of God, who does not desire that any should perish but that all should come to repentance, He had given them warnings for 120 years.
- And in mercy, **God made abundant provision for Noah, his family, and the animals.**
  - The ark may not have been a luxury liner, but it was everything Noah, his family, and all the animals needed to ride out the cataclysmic storm that would rage about them.
  - Experiments show that the height to width to length ratio of the ark made it exceedingly stable even in the roughest of seas. It could be stood upon its stern at nearly 90 degrees, and still repositioned itself upright almost immediately.
  - It can be shown that two of every known species of animal, living and extinct, could fit in the space on the ark, with lots of extra room for species not yet discovered and for the humans who would care for them and the stores of food and water necessary for all.
  - If you have not made a visit to the full size replica of Noah's Ark in North KY. It will take you a day to tour all three decks, read the informative plaques at each exhibit and watch the many videos offering detail explanation. But you will come away understanding how one need not regard the ark as a myth or fairy tale. It is a wonderful experience. Take the kids and the grandkids! You will be glad you did.
- And in mercy, **God promised to never again destroy the world by flood.**
  - God made a covenant with Noah and mankind to never destroy the earth by flood again.
  - As a reminder of the covenant, God cause the rainbow to appear in the sky.
  - Why had it not appeared before? Because before the flood it never rained and there were no clouds in the atmosphere. As in a terrarium, the earth was

watered by a mist the rose from the ground and by rivers flowing from artesian springs.

And my friend, God had all of this carefully recoded in His Word so that we could **LEARN THE LESSONS TAUGHT THROUGH THE LIFE OF NOAH AND THE GREAT FLOOD.**

- **God is holy.**
  - He never excuses or overlooks sin.
- **Sin is serious.**
  - It is not just the violation of manmade conventions or preferences.
  - It is rebellion against the God who made us.
  - It separates us from God.
  - It condemns us to hell if not forgiven.
- **Grace is essential.**
  - We are all sinners. None is righteous, no not one.
  - Consequently, none of us deserve to be forgiven.
  - It is only by grace that comes to us through Jesus' death upon the cross that we can be forgiven and saved.
- **Faith is necessary.**
  - Grace demands a response.
  - Everyone is not saved just because God offers grace.
  - Jesus told Nicodemus

John 3:16–18 NKJV 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but **he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

- **The warning has been issued.**

Matthew 24:38–42 NKJV 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. 42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.