

ONE ARK, ONE DOOR, ONE SAVIOR

Genesis 7 & 8

The story of Noah is relatively long (4 Chapters). Why did God give us this history? The flood narrative informs the reader of God's just judgment of the world.

When we come to believe in the God of the Bible, we embrace the One who controls the cosmos. Our God orchestrated a global flood in the world that He created by His Word.

There are echoes of a grand flood story in other ancient cultures. They are often corrupted by false theologies, but the core narrative of a cataclysmic water event is what we would expect.

There is wide consensus among non-Christians that large amounts of water created the current landscape - the Grand Canyon, glacial retreat, the remains of marine life in elevated places (i.e. Sedona, Arizona), or how fossils are preserved (sudden mud slides).

God's just judgment is necessary given His holiness

We can think of two ways of seeing the world.

The Non-Christian: Almost everyone deserves Heaven and only a few deserve Hell.

The Christian: Everyone deserves Hell and no one deserves Heaven.

- i) There's an asymmetry between these views. In the first, man judges man because there are some people we do not want in heaven. Where does the line get drawn?

In the second view, God alone stands as the judge (Romans 3.9-10, 23).

- ii) If we embrace the first, it is a system that encourages self-justification or, more plainly, pride.

If we embrace the second, it encourages humility.

These chapters show God de-created His world (Genesis 7.21-23). This is His prerogative.

God provides a rescue plan for all who believe

"By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith" (Hebrews 11.7).

“If God did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly...then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment” (2 Peter 2.5-9).

“For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24.37-39; Luke 17.26-27).

In what sense did Noah serve as a warning to the world? He was preaching God’s just judgment and God’s grace.

In the same way that those “with Noah” were saved (7.7, 15, 23; 8.1, 16, 18) so all those “with Christ” will be delivered (Colossians 3.1-4).

If Noah acted by faith before the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, how much more shall we act by faith having witnessed Christ’s work?

We are delivered for the purpose of re-creation (Genesis 9). The proper response to being rescued is worship (Genesis 8.20; Romans 12.1-2).

Key Idea: The Flood narrative points to Jesus as our rescuer from God’s judgment.

Application Questions:

Was Noah a successful preacher? Why or why not?

What does it tell us that God did not save Noah from the impact of the flood altogether but rather that he was “brought safely through water” (1 Peter 3.20)?

In what ways do Jesus and other New Testament authors interpret the Flood narrative? Why is this important for the Church today?