

# Noah Obeys God

Genesis 6:5-22

Lesson Objective: Obedience - When everyone around us is doing wrong, we can stand out from the crowd and be different.

Key thought: "...I am sorry that I have made them." God was so grieved and hurt that mankind had made decisions that led them to their own destruction and that would eventually lead us to the cross of Christ.

Introduction:

- A. Family tree (1 Chronicles 1:1-4)
  - 1. 10 generations-that's how long it took for the world to be filled with violence to the extent that God was sorry he created man (Gen. 6:5-6).
    - a. "sorry" does not mean that God made a mistake, rather God was heartbroken (grieved) that man's decisions had filled the earth with violence.
    - b. Lamech, Noah's father had hoped that one day Noah "...will give us rest for our work and from the toil of our hands arising from the ground which the Lord has cursed." (5:29)
  - 2. Godly family (Genesis 4:26): Enoch was Methuselah's father, Methuselah was Lamech's father and Lamech was Noah's father. At the very least we can see that Enoch, the man who walked with God was righteous because he did not die but was taken up to heaven (Gen. 5:24).
  - 3. Therefore, Noah had a godly heritage and strong influence to remain faithful to God.
- B. Noah was able to remain righteous in the midst of rebellion, wickedness and violence (Genesis 6:8-9).
- C. Romans 15:4: There is so much to glean from Genesis 6-9, a lot more than assurance and hope, a lot more than two by two, and much, much more than a rainbow, this account also serves as a post flood and pre-fire warning for all of mankind.

Outline:

- I. The state of Noah's world
  - A. 6:5- "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."
    - 1. Genesis 1:4, 9, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31 – at creation God called everything He created GOOD, at Genesis 6:5-6 His creation became so wicked that God was grieved to the point that the only way to rescue the remnant was to destroy the world.
    - 2. 6:5 should be read in light of 8:21

6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

8:21 The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.

B. The world around Noah

1. Wicked- "how *great* man's wickedness," "every inclination," and "only evil all the time."<sup>1</sup>
  - a. "on earth" God's response to the wickedness and violence necessitated a purging of the earth.
  - b. Cf. "Then God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them (*along with etr*) with the earth.'" (6:13)
2. Every intent of the thought of his heart was evil continually – How terrible it must have been to have lived on earth during that time.
  - a. Could not trust anyone.
  - b. Robberies were rampant.
  - c. Treacheries.
  - d. *Etc.*
3. Earth was corrupt and filled with violence (11-13).
  - a. Man's decisions corrupted the earth, and both humankind and creation would be destroyed.
    1. It should be noted that when Adam and Eve sinned, God cursed both man and the earth (because of man's decision to sin).
    2. During Noah's time, again God would destroy both humankind and creation. "The destiny of the creation itself is tied up with the destiny of humanity. This should lead us to appreciate the significant place we have been given in God's purpose and the responsibility we have toward the rest of creation to live in conformity with God's will. If the creation's destiny is tied up with the destiny of humanity, we are responsible for what we do in and with creation."<sup>2</sup> Cf. The earth had already been destroyed in God's sight. All flesh had destroyed life on the earth. So God determines to

<sup>1</sup> Mathews, K. A. (1996). [Genesis 1-11:26](#) (Vol. 1A, p. 340). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Kissling, P. J. (2004–). [Genesis](#) (pp. 283–284). Joplin, MO: College Press Pub. Co.

carry out the destruction which all flesh had generated<sup>3</sup> (cf. Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 8:20-24)

4. Saturated with sin and rebellion.
- C. The shedding of blood has a price to pay (6:13)
  1. Abel's blood cried out from the ground (Genesis 4:10)
  2. Sodom and Gomorrah, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave." (Genesis 18:20)
  3. "The earth had already been destroyed in God's sight. All flesh had destroyed life on the earth. So God determines to carry out the destruction which all flesh had generated"<sup>4</sup>
- II. **THEME:** Noah stood out (Genesis 6:9; 6:14; 7:1, 6:18) ("Noah's righteousness came because he clung tenaciously to God."<sup>5</sup>)
  - A. Of all mankind only Noah stood out in the crowd and was different.
    1. Genesis 6:9; "Noah was a **righteous** man, **blameless** in his time; Noah **walked with God.**"
      - a. Righteous/Just
        1. Compared to the world around him, Noah was a righteous man.
        2. "Noah is the only person in Genesis described as blameless or perfect. Abraham is told to be perfect and walk before [God] (17:1) but he is never said to have achieved it." Noah is not only described by the narrator as a "righteous" man; God himself describes him so in 7:1.<sup>6</sup>
      - b. Blameless
        1. In his time Noah was blameless. He was not guilty of the sin, wickedness and violence around him.
        2. KJV says that Noah was perfect. This must be understood that Noah was doing what he could to be obedient and faithful to God and His word. Remember that Noah had great teachers and leaders in his family: Enoch, Methuselah and Lamech.
        3. "This approval of Noah is not saying that he is sinless but that he does not behave as the wicked of his day."<sup>7</sup>
      - c. Walked with God
        1. Enoch walked with God and was translated/taken up with God (5:22, 24)

<sup>3</sup> Roop, E. F. (1987). [Genesis](#) (p. 69). Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press.

<sup>4</sup> Roop, E. F. (1987). [Genesis](#) (p. 69). Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press.

<sup>5</sup> Girdwood, J., & Verkruyse, P. (1997). [Hebrews](#) (Heb 11:7). Joplin, MO: College Press.

<sup>6</sup> Kissling, P. J. (2004–). [Genesis](#) (p. 281). Joplin, MO: College Press Pub. Co.

<sup>7</sup> Mathews, K. A. (1996). [Genesis 1-11:26](#) (Vol. 1A, p. 358). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

2. Noah was found to be righteous and blameless because he walked with God-in other words, he obeyed God and did what was right in the eyes of God.
2. Genesis 6:14; "Make for **yourself**..."-NASB, ESV, NIV- "Make **thee**..." KJV
    - a. What can be understood of the usage of the word "yourself" is interesting. Noah was to make for himself an ark that would take Noah, his family and the animals to safety. But for what purpose? It would be for re-creation purposes in the grand scheme of things, yet for Noah's purpose, it would be as a reward for his faithfulness.
    - b. As an added reward, Noah's family would be spared the destruction. They would be beneficiaries of Noah's faith.
  3. Genesis 7:1; "...for you *alone* I have seen *to be* righteous..." NASB "...for I have seen that you are righteous..." ESV "...I have found you righteous in this generation..."NIV "for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation." "I have found that you are the only one in all the world who does what is right." Good News Translation
    - a. Yet another text that emphasizes Noah's character and uprightness in his generation. God does not recognize the righteousness of Shem, Ham or Mrs. Noah, but only Noah's.
    - b. 1 John 1:6-7
  4. "But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark" (Genesis 6:18)
    - a. This is the first time the word covenant is used in the Bible.
    - b. Because of Noah's faith and character God chose him to be the line through whom God would re-create and repopulate the world. God made a pact with Noah by giving him a way of escape.
- B. Noah's story serves as an exhortation to righteousness and enduring faith in the face of degenerate times.<sup>8</sup>**
- III. Noah obeyed God (Genesis 6:14-16, 18-22; Hebrews 11:7)
    - A. God commanded the construction of the ark with specifics in material, measurement, door, window and cargo. (see handout)
    - B. Noah obeyed to the letter.
      1. The Bible is silent on his surroundings during the construction.
      2. One can only imagine the ridicule, the attempts at sabotage, etc.
  - IV. Applications:
    - A. Do not be conformed to the world, but be conformed to God (Romans 12:2/Romans 8:29)
    - B. There is no way to escape the world, there is no way to hide from the world, therefore we need to be good salt-shakers and lights (Matthew 5:13-16)

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<sup>8</sup> Mathews, K. A. (1996). [Genesis 1-11:26](#) (Vol. 1A, p. 357). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

- C. The flood serves as a warning that God does have patience (longsuffering) and that His patience will wear thin. We are living in the post-flood and pre-fire stage (1 Peter 4:3-5; 1 Peter 3:20)
- D. Christians are called to be different and come out from among the world and live by a higher standard (2 Cor. 6:17)
- E. Our goal should be to walk with God, be blameless and righteous.
- F. We are living in a time when mankind is becoming more and more like Noah's day, and in spite of what happened around him and maybe even in his own family he was a righteous man. We can accomplish the same thing today. With God all things are possible.

Conclusion:

- A. "...by faith Noah did three things: (1) he built an ark; (2) he condemned the world; and (3) he became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith."<sup>9</sup>
- B. Noah is called "a preacher of righteousness" in 2 Peter 2:5, which must indicate some kind of open stand and clear message against the evil of his day.<sup>10</sup>
- C. Noah had the right relationship with God.
- D. When he entered the ark he probably did not know where he would land, how long he would be in the ark (over a year), and that he would receive the same marching orders Adam and Eve received, "be fruitful and multiply." But more importantly, Noah probably did not know that he was playing a major role in the re-creation process that would lead up to the cross of Christ.
- E. Noah did not possess a portion of miraculous favor or righteousness.
  - 1. He was part of a world that had succumbed to sin and was fallen.
  - 2. He, by faith in God trusted in His Creator (Hebrews 11:7).
  - 3. Noah was right with God, right with others, and had a reverent and worshipful relationship with God (Genesis 4:26; Matthew 27:37-39).
  - 4. Noah was saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8), yet even Calvinists agree that if Noah had not built the ark, or had he built it and refused to enter in it, he would have perished along with the ungodly.
- F. There is only one way that we can walk with God and that is through Jesus the Christ, through obedience of the Gospel. Plan of Salvation.
  - 1. Hear the Gospel-(Romans 10:17; Mark 16:15; Acts 8:35, 38; 2 Thessalonians 2:14)
  - 2. Believe in Jesus as the Son of God-(Mark 16:16; John 8:24; Acts 2:14-36, 37)
  - 3. Repent of sins-(Acts 17:30)
  - 4. Confess faith in Christ-(Romans 10:9-10)
  - 5. Be baptized-(Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 9:1-6; Acts 22:16)
  - 6. Remain faithful-(Revelation 2:10)

<sup>9</sup> Girdwood, J., & Verkruyse, P. (1997). [\*Hebrews\*](#) (Heb 11:7). Joplin, MO: College Press.

<sup>10</sup> Girdwood, J., & Verkruyse, P. (1997). [\*Hebrews\*](#) (Heb 11:7). Joplin, MO: College Press.