

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE 10.16.22

Prepare For Rain | Genesis 6

from the series, Worldview Matters: Studies in Genesis 1-11

The flood is an extraordinary event, a cataclysmic, catastrophic flood that destroyed the earth. Why should we believe in the flood? Jesus believed in the flood. He references both the flood and Noah. He says he will come back at a time that will be like the time of Noah (Luke 17). If Jesus believed in the flood, we can believe in the flood.

This was a tragic event, but God saves Noah and his family, the line of Seth, that will eventually terminate in Jesus.

MAIN IDEA: Sin has its consequences.

The wages of sin is death—that means natural mortality but also eternal spiritual consequences. Experientially, we know our sins can leave scars.

1. Depravity Displayed (v. 1-8)

As the population grew, so did the wickedness of the world. Daughters are born, not just sons, and so the capacity for reproducing life continues. A long-debated verse of the Bible describes the sons of God intermarrying with the daughters of men. Who are the sons of God? Four answers have been posited, listed here from least to most likely: a) powerful human men, who have attained high office (Psalm 82:1, 6-7); b) the male descendants of Seth (who are intermarrying with the daughters of Cain's line) c) believers, people who believe in God and worship him; d) demon-possessed men marrying unbelieving human women (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7, Daniel 3:25) We see that 2 Peter 2:4-5 connects angels to Genesis 6 (cf. 1 Peter 3:18; Jude 6). Nephilim may refer to "giants" or "fallen ones" but the clearest reading is that this is a historical footnote of powerful men who were on earth at this time.

There is evidence that this is a world gone mad, a world that merited a flood. There is gross, rampant spiritual immorality that is demonic. But the world is given a window of warning. Like Jonah and Ninevites, God will allow a time of teaching before exacting judgement. For 120 years, while building the ark, Noah preaches that God will send a world-wide flood.

Does the Lord "regret" his creation? He does not regret as a man regrets, he is not grieved by his own works, but by what man has done to himself. He did not make a mistake or change his mind, but his heart is broken by the works of man.

2. Destruction Determined (v. 9-13)

The world has become utterly corrupt (connect with verse 5); God says he has “determined to make an end of all flesh.” Given enough time, man will run to violence and lawlessness. His end is destruction.

3. Deliverance Designed (v. 14-22)

God’s method of deliverance here is a boat. He tells Noah to build it and gives him the design. This is a massive boat to contain all of creation in one box. Noah was an obedient man, and he and his family are delivered.

How do we teach and preach Christ from Genesis 6? Jesus is the greater Noah.

There are a number of images used throughout the Bible, one of which is water. In some cases, water brings life and is associated with renewal (John 3, Titus 3:4-5), but it is not typically a good thing. Often, it signifies judgement. In baptism, we use water to represent death, a burial.

The ark is a type of Christ. We are to flee the wrathful waters of the judgement of God by running to the ark (1 Peter 3:20-21).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What evidence of depravity is displayed in Genesis 6? How is Noah contrasted with the rest of humanity?

2. How do we understand God’s regret over creation and his determination to destroy it? How is God’s regret different from man’s regret?

3. What are examples from the Bible where water is associated with judgement? How do we see Jesus as the deliverer from that watery wrath?



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