

Judgment and Deliverance: Noah and The Flood

Genesis 6.9-8.22

Genesis 6.9 begins a new *tôledôt* in Genesis – it tells all about Noah and his family. It begins with the story of the flood, but it's not just a story of a boat and a lot of water. Here we learn about a sovereign God who judges sin, and remembers the righteous.

The Righteous and the Wicked: Noah Stands Alone (6.9-22)

- Those who 'walk with God' stand out from the crowd
- Following God's Word 'to the letter'

God Judges Sin and Saves a Remnant (7.1-24)

- God delivers the righteous from judgment
- Complete destruction: What God says, He will do!

A New Beginning: The Saved Worship with Gratitude (8.1-22)

- The God who 'remembers': His promises are *sure*.
- Worshipping God and looking to the future

Morals of the Story*Our God is a sovereign God**Our God 'washes away' sin**Our God makes all things new*

1. One reason many people miss the lessons of the flood is that it is so well-known. We recall the events, and move on. But the story is pregnant with truth about God. What aspects of God's character do you see in the story – in God's instruction to Noah and Noah's obedience; in God's judgment on sin and the world in which they did their wickedness; and on God's deliverance of Noah and his family?
2. What stands out to you about God's instructions to Noah on how to build the ark, and what to do once it was built? What stands out to you in Noah's response to God (6.22; 7.5)? Any lessons here for how *we* treat God's Word?
3. What is the implicit message that God was giving Noah when He instructed him to bring additional 'clean' animals into the ark (7.2), and to take 'male and female'? What 'end' does God see from the beginning (8.17, 20; cf. 9.1)? What does this tell us about God?
4. Who closed the door of the ark (7.16)? Why is this significant? What does it show about God's determination to save those who receive His grace, and judge those who reject it? The hundred years Noah spent building the ark (5.32; 7.6) and preaching to others (see 2 Peter 2.5), any thought of coming judgment would have seemed unbelievable and crazy. How is this like our world today, and how people view the idea of God's coming judgment (see Matt. 24.28-29; 2 Peter 3.3-7)?
5. What is Noah's first act after leaving the ark? In response, the Lord *said in His heart* (8.21 – literal translation) that He would not destroy the earth and its inhabitants in this way again (9.11, 15). Contrast this with before the flood, when God's *heart* was grieved (6.6) because of the sin on the earth. What sacrifices can we bring to God today that please Him (see Romans 12.1-2; Hebrews 13.15-16)?