

A NEW BEGINNING

Genesis 6-9

What's the impact of Seth's life on his kids? What happened to Seth's sons?

Gen. 4: Seth's born; people begin "*to call themselves*" by Yahweh's Name.

Gen. 4 and 5 point to two distinct lines—**two kinds of people:**

Cultural elite—known for *their* great accomplishments (without God!)

Ch. 4 —People out to make *a name for themselves!*

God's people—call selves *by God's name*—identify with God **Ch. 5**

Between chapter 5 and 6 something happens. **6:5-7**

The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.⁶ The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.⁷ So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals ... for I am grieved that I have made them."

What happened to the godly descendants?

They're gone! There's no longer a distinction between godly and ungodly!

EVERY INTENT OF ALL PEOPLE IS ONLY EVIL ALL THE TIME!

Does that sound familiar? Could be a description of modern society!

Gallup's assertion: Never have more people claimed to be religious.

Never has it made so little difference!

Modern society *has lost the distinction*. God's people look like everybody else!

When God's people lose their edge, judgment is *never* far behind

"If God doesn't judge our country, He'll have to apologize to Sodom!"

Let me assure you, God *WON'T* have to apologize!

But if God *does* judge our country,

it won't be because pagans have acted like pagans!

It will be because God's people have stopped acting like God's people!

God's seeking faithful people, who take a stand for godly living.

By Noah's time there are none! —They're all gone!

EVERY INTENT OF THE HEART OF ALL PEOPLE

IS ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY!

EXCEPT FOR ONE [Noah]!

ONLY ONE ON THE PLANET WANTS TO LIVE FOR GOD!

He goes against the crowd; he stands alone.

Everyone is separated from God.

All are doing whatever feels good—no one cares about pleasing God.

EXCEPT FOR ONE—One person catches God's attention!

NOAH finds grace in God's sight, because he wants to please God.

5 *God "saw how great man's wickedness . . . had become"*

"every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time!"

13 *"So God said to Noah, 'I'm going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I'm going to destroy them and the earth.'"*

God will destroy everything and start over—a **new beginning**

NOAH'S CHARACTER 6:9, 22; 7:1

Flood story provides a model of life that finds grace in God's sight

- **especially in pagan culture**—picture of trust and obedience to God
- when everyone else is living for self.

FOUR INDICATORS tell us about Noah's character.

1. Noah's known for righteousness 6:9a; 7:1

6:9a *"Noah was a **righteous** man ..."*

7:1 *"The LORD said to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you **righteous** in this generation.'"*

First biblical reference to a "righteous" person.

Noah doesn't corrupt God's way as everyone else does => **6:12**

"God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways."

Everyone else is looking out for #1

- living for self
- mistreating neighbors and employees

Noah's different—He stands out —He's **RIGHTEOUS**

2. Noah's known for blamelessness 6:9b

*"Noah was a righteous man, **blameless** among the people of his time..."*

Lit., refers to a "finished product"

Person of integrity—sound, wholesome, unimpaired, innocent

Requirements for a sacrifice => unblemished! No faults!

Blameless person—wholehearted commitment to do God's will.

3. Noah's known for walk with God 6:9c "... he walked with God."

Like great grandfather Enoch, Noah walks with God (deliberate parallel)

Everyone concerned about self; Noah concerned about walk with God.

4. Noah's known for his faith Heb. 11:7

"By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith."

Because Noah trusts God, he builds an ark

Def. of faith—*"the conviction of things not seen"*

They've never seen anything like this—but God says it;

Noah spends years building ark because God told him to.

Why would anyone build a big boat? They'd never seen a flood!
 From perspective of what you see, it doesn't make sense.

Noah trusts God; does what He says.

Because Noah trusts God, he condemns the world

His obedience makes statement about trust in God,
 that separates him from the rest, and affirms their condemnation.

Because Noah trusts God, he becomes heir of righteousness

Noah trusts God when no one else does; He's declared righteous.

Noah's a frustrated preacher.

2 Pet. 2:5 tells us he preached righteousness

He preaches for 120 years. No one outside family responds.

By modern standards he's a failure.

Church leadership would've been asking what's wrong!

He preaches for 120 years and convinces *NO ONE!*

Only Noah's family believes him and follows his example.

Who has a better chance to observe if what he says rings true in his life?

Noah models godliness; *his kids catch it!*

NOAH'S UNIQUENESS 6:5-8

"The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time."⁶ The LORD was grieved he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain....

⁸ ***But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. ...***

Noah is totally alone!

No one stands with Noah—except family; *they* believe witness and go along.

Do you know the feeling of being all alone?

Standing for godliness in world that couldn't care less about God;
 that thinks we're just "right-wing" fanatics!

- Only one cares about ungodliness in our society, and in our schools?
- Only one cares what kids read, watch on television, or in cyberspace?
- Only one dares to call *practicing* immorality "sin"?
- Only one dares consider it wrong
 to use abortion to escape consequences of sin?

Do you know what it's like to be the *ONLY one* who stands for right?

DO WE stand for what's right and pleasing to God?

Or, do we capitulate—cave in—to look like everyone else?

Noah's deliverance demonstrates:

People who are faithful to God ultimately triumph!

NOAH'S DELIVERANCE 6:17-18; 7:13, 16-24; 8:1-5, 15-17

Noah believes God and obeys God's instructions.

Noah's delivered because of his faith in God and His Word.

6:17-18 *I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.*

7:13 *On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark.*

7:16-24 *The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in. ¹⁷ For 40 days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹ They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ²⁰ The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet. ²¹ Every living thing that moved on the earth perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. ²³ ...Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. 24 The waters flooded the earth for 150 fifty days.*

8:1-5 *But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. 3 The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the 150 days the water had gone down, ⁴ and on the 17th day of the 7th month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵ The waters continued to recede until the 10th month, and on the 1st day of the 10th month the tops of the mountains became visible.*

8:15-17 *Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷ Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it."*

Noah's delivered because of his faith in God and His Word.

2 Pet 3 warns us, before it happens, **this story will be important to people who don't want anything to do with God in their life.**

People are deliberately ignorant of creation and flood, because they don't want to deal with coming judgment.

The implications are too great! They don't want to face it!

People come up with all kinds of reasons to deny creation and the flood.

They produce "scientific" data to refute it.

We prefer to accept the testimony, affirmed by God's Word and His Spirit.

Scripture affirms: universal flood occurred about 4500 yrs ago.

Evidence it was universal: [a partial list!]

Depth of flood: Covered all the mountains

Ararat—where it landed is 17th highest mt.

Duration: Flood conditions rising for 5 months; took 7 months to dry out.

All humanity and all creatures died.

World population would have been at least 3 billion.

Peter affirms that the flood was worldwide.

Mount St. Helens in past 30 years has added evidence for young earth.

Demonstrated that formations scientists used to believe took millions of years to form, could be formed in a few years—perhaps by a flood.

Extra-biblical evidence for the flood:

Ancient flood stories from that time are **found around the world:**

Gilgamesh Epic; Sumerian and Babylonian history;

13 in Asia; 4 in Europe; 9 in Australia and Polynesia; 37 in Americas

Critical scholars argue the Bible stole story from pagan myths.

Maybe they tell same story, because ancestors agree it happened!

Pagan versions include:

Flood willed by God (gods)

Hero instructed to build ark

Animals taken into ark

Flood is universal—all people killed

Ark lands on a mountain.

Offering offered to god(s) and accepted by him (them).

Numerous differences from pagan versions:

Cause: sin vs. overpopulation (or too much noise!)

Shape of ship (Gilgamesh describes a cube!)

Time to build is much less.

1999 Washington Post report:

Scientists discovered coastline 550 ft. below surface of Black Sea.

They believe provides evidence of a sudden, catastrophic flood about 7,500 years ago.

They propose it could be source of biblical story of Noah.

They explain it differently; but believe it *could* explain biblical account.

This week USA Today: Geneticists presented study affirming that European and American men are genetically linked to farmers who migrated from the Fertile Crescent about 10,000 years ago.

I wouldn't bet my life savings on these theories.

Such studies include presuppositions we wouldn't agree with;

But it's interesting how close their data comes to the biblical record.

Everything previous to these dates points to isolated hunter/gatherers spread around the world.

Scripture affirms: nations develop from Noah's descendants
–spreading out from Turkey and the Fertile Crescent.

Note taken in Gen. 10 of distribution around world; no explanation given.

Event which causes them to spread around the world occurs later.

NOAH'S HERITAGE 9:1, 7-17 Noah leaves a heritage.

When Noah is blessed, others are blessed with him 9:1

“Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.’”

9:7-16 *As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.”⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you ... ¹¹ ... Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”*

Noah's faithfulness results in blessing for *HIS FAMILY!*

LESSONS FOR US TO LEARN FROM NOAH'S LIFE:

Noah's example teaches importance of trusting God—and obeying Him—even when whole world opposes God's truth.