

Beginnings: Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Eight: The Beginning of God Sheltering the Righteous – Genesis 7:1-8:22

Overview: Read Genesis chapters 7 and 8 carefully.

- 1) Who was on the Ark? Include references (verse numbers) with your answer. **Noah, Shem, Ham, Japheth, and each of their wives were on the Ark (7:7, 13 and 8:18).**
- 2) From 7:1 – 8:19:
 - a) List the significant events with verse numbers (the first two have been completed as examples).

<i>Genesis 7:4-10</i>	<i>Noah and his family entered the Ark.</i>
<i>Genesis 7:10-11</i>	<i>Rain began falling seven days later.</i>
<i>Genesis 7:12</i>	<i>Heavy rains fell for 40 days.</i>
<i>Genesis 7:24; 8:3</i>	<i>The flood waters continued, 150 days in all.</i>
<i>Genesis 8:4</i>	<i>The Ark rested on Mt. Ararat at the end of 150 days of flooding (as water very gradually receded).</i>
<i>Genesis 8:5</i>	<i>As the waters continued to recede, tops of mountains became visible (approximately 74 days after the Ark settled on Mt. Ararat).</i>
<i>Genesis 8:6-9</i>	<i>After 40 days, Moses sent out a raven, then a dove, but both returned.</i>
<i>Genesis 8:10</i>	<i>The dove was sent again seven days later. It returned with a leaf.</i>
<i>Genesis 8:12</i>	<i>The dove was sent a third time after another seven days. This time it did not return.</i>
<i>Genesis 8:13</i>	<i>Noah saw dry land.</i>
<i>Genesis 8:14-19</i>	<i>Just over one year after entering the ark, the land was completely dry, and Noah came out.</i>
 - b) Give Noah's exact age when he entered the Ark (compare 7:7 with 7:11) and when he came out (8:13-15). How long was Noah's family on the Ark? **According to verses 7 and 11, Noah entered the Ark and seven days later, on the 17th day of the 2nd month of his 600th year, the floodwaters began. Thus, he must have entered the Ark on the 10th day of the 2nd month of his 600th year. Noah came out of the Ark on the 27th day of the 2nd month of his 601st year of life. Therefore, Noah and his family were on the Ark for one year and seventeen days.**
- 3) What other significant events in Scripture involve God bringing His people through water (physically and symbolically)? See Exodus 14:21-31, Joshua 3:9-17, and 1 Peter 3:20-21. **God led Israel out of Egypt by way of the Red Sea (The Exodus) and into the Promised Land by way of the Jordan River. The ordinance of baptism (a symbol of our salvation) speaks of death to sin (immersion in the water) and rebirth to new life (resurrection out of the water).**
- 4) According to Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, and Hebrews 11:7, why did God save Noah? On what basis does He still save people today? **He saved Noah and He saves us because He is a merciful God. He saves us by grace, through faith (Noah proved his faith by obediently building the Ark).**

From Genesis 7:1-16:

- 5) Reread Genesis 7:5. Consider what was at risk had Noah not obeyed God explicitly. Record your thoughts. **The integrity of the Ark to hold up in such a storm, God's mercy on Noah in rescuing him from the coming wrath, Noah's reputation as a righteous person, and the spiritual symbolism of the Ark as a vehicle of salvation from God's wrath (foreshadowing the work of Christ).**
- 6) What promise did God give in Genesis 6:20 that He kept in 7:9 and 15? **The animals came to Noah.**
- 7) a) Who took the final step to ensure Noah, his family, and the animals were all safely inside (include the verse number)? **God shut the Ark (7:16).**
 b) Who has initiated the first and last steps to ensure believers in Christ arrive safely inside heaven's gates? See John 19:30, Romans 5:8, and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. **Jesus has.**

c) Read Philippians 1:6 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24. Name one area of your life that you will begin trusting God to sanctify (make holy or Christ-like). **Personal sharing**

From Genesis 7:17-8:14:

- 8) Nothing is said in Scripture about what life was like on the Ark during the year of the Flood. Using your imagination and your own experience with human nature, list some of the things you think *could have* taken place on the Ark. **Answers may include: terrible suffering and anguish as Noah and his family heard the cries of people outside the Ark begging for help, squabbling and impatience due to lack of privacy and limited choices on the Ark, good conversations about God, creative means of entertainment (perhaps involving the animals), the assignment of chores (cleaning animal waste, feeding them, cooking for one another), etc.**
- 9) How does God intend the Flood to serve as a reminder throughout history that He is the Judge of the Earth? See Matthew 24:36-42; 2 Peter 2:5-9; and 2 Peter 3:3-9. **The Flood speaks of God's power over His creation, His inability to tolerate sin, and the serious measures He will take to ensure that a holy remnant will continue to represent Him on earth. Final judgment will come upon the earth suddenly and unexpectedly, just as the Flood did on the ancient world. Therefore, the Flood should motivate believers to warn the ungodly and anticipate Christ's return. The Flood is also a reminder that God is able to deliver the righteous and will hold the unrighteous for judgment. This is important in light of our tendency to think God lets people "get away" with sin. The truth is that God is being patient, not wanting any to perish. Nevertheless, as the Flood reminds us, God *has* and *will* eventually bring judgment!**
- 10) The wrath of God is not a popular topic today, but it is a very scriptural doctrine (teaching). What is the difference between the future judgment of God upon the righteous (Matthew 16:27, Romans 14:10-12, 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10, 1 Peter 1:17) and His future judgment on the unrighteous (Matthew 25:30, 41-46; John 12:48; 2 Peter 3:7; Revelation 20:15)? See also Matthew 24:45-51. Specifically, how will your expectation of God's judgment motivate and influence you with regard to any difficult decisions you face or actions you must soon take? **The basis of God's judgment of the righteous will be our faith in Christ, as proven by our deeds. We must answer to our loving Father for our stewardship of the gifts and truth He has entrusted to us. The purpose of this evaluative judgment is to determine our heavenly reward (rather than our salvation). The basis of God's judgment of the unrighteous will be their rejection of Christ, as revealed by their deeds. This judgment will be punitive. The unrighteous face eternal separation from God. Personal sharing**

From Genesis 8:15-22:

- 11) Although righteous by faith and blameless among his peers, Noah was still a sinful man born with a sinful nature. Noah received God's grace. What do you learn about grace from each of the following passages?
- Exodus 34:5-7 Grace is part of God's character and name.**
 - Isaiah 30:18 The Lord longs to be gracious to us.**
 - John 1:16 All of our blessings come by His grace.**
 - Romans 3:24 Believers are justified (have been legally "covered") by God's grace.**
 - Romans 6:14 Believers are no longer slaves to sin because they are under God's grace.**
 - Romans 11:5 Believers have been chosen by grace.**
 - 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 God initiates the salvation of believers by grace.**
 - 2 Corinthians 8:9 Grace was costly to Christ.**
 - 2 Corinthians 12:9 God's grace is enough to help us through all things.**
 - Ephesians 1:7-8 God lavishes His grace on us.**
 - Ephesians 2:6-7 Extending grace to us in this age will bring God glory in the age to come (in which we will apparently reflect back on His kindness and riches to us with awe and thanksgiving).**
 - Ephesians 2:8-9 We are saved by grace.**
 - Hebrews 2:9 Grace was costly to Christ.**

- n) *James 4:6* God gives grace to the humble.
- o) *2 Peter 3:18* We should be growing in grace.

- 12) Which verses from Question 11 give you a new appreciation for God's grace? Why is this especially meaningful to you at this time in your life? **Personal sharing (encourage application to present situations)**
- 13) "Common grace" refers to the benefits of God's goodness enjoyed by every living being (His gifts of life, air to breathe, sunlight, rain, some measure of health, etc.). How aware are you of the grace God extends to you on a regular basis, both common and uncommon? How could you develop a greater awareness of His grace? **An awareness of God's grace is developed in us as we grow in understanding the gravity of our sin, spend more time in God's word and in prayer, and practice the spiritual discipline of giving thanks.**
Personal sharing

From Genesis 8:15-22:

- 14) According to Genesis 8:15-22, how did Noah respond to God's grace? **Noah built an altar (first mention in Scripture) and worshipped God by sacrificing "clean" animals on it.**
- 15) List some ways recipients of God's grace can worship God acceptably today. Which will you choose to begin incorporating into your life this week? Find help from Psalm 135:1, 136:1; Matthew 22:36-39, 28:19-20; Romans 12:1-2, 15:13; 2 Corinthians 4:15; Ephesians 5:8-10, 5:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Hebrews 13:15; and James 1:22-25. **Praise and thanksgiving (Psalm passages), loving God and others (Matthew 22), keeping the great commission by telling others about God's grace (Matthew 28), offering ourselves as a living sacrifice (Romans 12), being hope-filled (Romans 15), giving thanksgiving and glory to God (2 Corinthians 4), finding out what pleases the Lord and doing it (Ephesians 5:8-10), singing, making music, giving thanks (Ephesians 5:19-20), being joyful, prayerful, and thankful (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18), offering a sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13:15), and living a life of obedience (James 1:22-25).**
Personal sharing