

Lessons From The Flood

Intro: During the days of Noah, God brought a great flood upon the whole world (not a localized flood as some have claimed). Moses records this event by writing, Gen. 7:19-20 ¹⁹And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that *were* under the whole heaven, were covered. ²⁰Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.” This was of such a cataclysmic proportions that only the end of the physical universe by faith is worthy of comparison (2 Pet. 3:5-10 ⁵For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: ⁶Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: ⁷But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ⁸But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” Even today the flood’s effects are seen in such things as the topsy-turvy fossil strata the strange angles of layered stone often seen in exposed mountain sides, and the like. However, we need to see some of the more important effects of the global flood in the lessons it provides concerning the nature of God.

I. GOD DESPISES SIN

A. Wickedness was great in Noah’s day.

1. Gen. 6:5 ⁵And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. ... ¹¹The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.”
2. It was so great, that God regretted having created man; Gen. 6:6 ⁶And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.”
3. Because of sin, God determined to destroy man; Gen. 6:7 ⁷And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.”

B. God’s nature demands His hatred for sin.

1. God is light.
 - a. 1 John 1:5 ⁵This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
 - b. Jam. 1:17 ¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
2. God cannot tolerate sin
 - a. Hab. 1:13 ¹³*Thou art* of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, *and* holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth *the man that is* more righteous than he?”
 - b. 1 Pet. 3:12 ¹²For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil.”

C. Because of sin:

1. God cast Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden.
2. Brought the flood upon the world.
3. God was always punishing man because of it.
4. God will not tolerate the sin and wickedness of our day.

5. God has prepared a place of torment for it:
 - a. Mat. 25:41, 46 ⁴¹ Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: ⁴³ I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. ⁴⁴ Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? ⁴⁵ Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me. ⁴⁶ And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”
 - b. Rev 14:10 ¹⁰ The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:”
 - c. Rev. 21:8 ⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

II. GOD’S LONGSUFFERING IS LIMITED

A. God is longsuffering.

1. Gen. 6:3 ³ And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.”
2. Exo. 34:6-7 ⁶ And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, **longsuffering**, and abundant in goodness and truth, ⁷ Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.”
3. There are numerous examples of His longsuffering throughout the Scriptures.
 - a. 1 Pet. 3:20 ²⁰ Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”
 - b. The Amorites; Gen. 15:16 ¹⁶ But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet full.”
 - c. The Israelites.
 - d. Man today; 2 Pet. 3:9 ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

B. God is also just or righteous.

1. Psa. 145:17 ¹⁷ The LORD *is* righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.”
2. 1 John 3:7 ⁷ Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”
3. Thus, God must punish the wicked.
 - a. Rom. 3:5-6 ⁵ But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? *Is* God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) ⁶ God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?”
 - b. 2 The. 1:6-9 ⁶ Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; ⁷ And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

C. God's longsuffering will end.

1. If God had continued tolerating the people of Noah's day, His longsuffering would have been a vice and not a virtue.
2. The flood came.
3. The days of Joshua the iniquity of the Amorites was full; Jos. 3:10 ¹⁰ And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God *is* among you, and *that* he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites."
4. God destroyed the Israelite nation.
 - a. With Nebuchadnezzar and Babylonian armies in 586 BC.
 - b. In AD 70:
 - (1) Mat. 23:38 ³⁸ Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."
 - (2) Mat. 24:1-2 ¹ And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to shew him the buildings of the temple. ² And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."
5. The present world (men today)
 - a. Mat. 24:37-39 ³⁷ But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, ³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."
 - b. 2 Pet. 3:9-10 ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

III. GOD REQUIRES OBEDIENCE**A. Noah**

1. Gen. 6:8-9 ⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. ⁹ These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* Noah walked with God."
2. Gen. 6:22 ²² Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he."
3. His obedience was key in saving himself, his family, and mankind.

B. God has always demanded a faithful response from man.

1. God expected Adam and Eve to obey His commands.
2. God expected Israel to obey His commands to them; Deu. 4:2 ² Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."
3. God expected Joshua to obey His commands; Jos. 1:7 ⁷ Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it *to* the right hand or *to* the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest."
4. God expects man today to obey His commands.
 - a. Mat. 7:21, 24-25 ²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. ²⁴ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which

built his house upon a rock: ²⁵ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”

- b. Heb. 5:8-9 “⁸ Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”
- c. 2 The. 1:7-9 “⁷ And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
- d. Heb. 11
 - (1) God demands faith that prompts obedience.
 - (2) Abel: Heb. 11:4 “⁴ By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”
 - (3) Noah: Heb. 11:7 “⁷ By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”
 - (4) Abraham:
 - (a) Heb. 11:8 “⁸ By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”
 - (b) Heb. 11:17 “¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*,”
 - (5) Moses:
 - (a) Heb. 11:28 “²⁸ Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.”
 - (b) Heb. 11:29 “²⁹ By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry *land*: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.”
 - (6) Israel: Heb. 11:30 “³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.”
 - (7) Rahab: Heb. 11:31 “³¹ By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.”

C. Sin is disobedience

1. It is a transgression of God’s law; 1 John 3:4 “⁴ Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”
2. Basic meaning of *sin*:
 - a. Missing the mark.
 - b. It is missing the mark God has set in His Word.

IV. GOD REWARDS OBEDIENCE

A. As previously noted, God requires obedience.

B. When man obeys, God rewards him.

1. God invited Noah into the ark:
 - a. Gen. 7:1 “¹ And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.”
 - b. God saved them; 1 Pet. 3:20 “²⁰ Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”

2. Abraham:
 - a. Rom. 4:3 ⁴³ For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”
 - b. Heb. 11:10, 13-16 ¹⁰ For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ¹¹ Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, *so many* as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. ¹⁵ And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”
3. When Israel followed God’s instructions, He gave them the land.
 - a. Jericho; Jos. 6
 - b. Ai; Jos. 7
 - c. Jos. 23:5 ⁴⁵ And the LORD your God, he shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land, as the LORD your God hath promised unto you.”
 - d. Jos. 23:8-9 ⁴⁸ But cleave unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day. ⁹ For the LORD hath driven out from before you great nations and strong: but *as for* you, no man hath been able to stand before you unto this day.”
 - e. Jos. 24:8 ⁴⁸ And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, which dwelt on the other side Jordan; and they fought with you: and I gave them into your hand, that ye might possess their land; and I destroyed them from before you.”
 - f. Jos. 24:13 ¹³ And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat.”

C. When man today obeys God.

1. God will remit his sins.
 - a. 1 Pet. 1:22 ²² Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently:”
 - b. Acts 2:40-41, 47 ⁴⁰ And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. ⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls....⁴⁷ Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
 - c. We enter the kingdom: John 3:3, 5 ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
 - d. He can be a new creature becoming a child of God.
 - (1) 2 Cor. 5:17 ¹⁷ Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
 - (2) Gal. 3:26-27 ²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
2. God will grant him eternal salvation.
 - a. Mat. 7:21 ²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”
 - b. Heb. 5:8-9 ⁸ Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”

- c. 1 Pet. 1:2-4, 9 “²Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. ³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: ⁷That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: ⁸Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: ⁹Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.”

Conclusion: God’s delight in Noah’s obedience is typical of His delight in every person who has an obedient heart. His deepest grief is our sin, and His greatest joy is our obedience. Have you obeyed?