

Some Lessons From The Flood

Intro: The flood during the time of Noah was a cataclysmic even that affected the entire world. Its effects are seen even on the physical world today especially in the geological realm. Those effects along with the Biblical record shows the Noahic flood was a global flood. The only thing that compares to it is the end of the physical world by fire (2 Pet. 3:4-10 “⁴ And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation. ⁵ For 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: ⁶ Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: ⁷ But 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. ⁸ But, 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. 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.”) While there are physical effects that resulted from the flood, there are spiritual lessons we all need to learn from it.

I. GOD HATES SIN

A. God created man.

1. He created man without sin.
2. Adam and Eve sinned; Gen. 3:6 “⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

B. Sin multiplied.

1. Murder and polygamy in Gen. 4.
2. Gen. 6:1-2 “¹ And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, ² That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they *were* fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.”
3. Gen. 6:5, 11-12 “⁵ And 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.... ¹¹ The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.”

C. Sin brought death.

1. Adam and Eve
 - a. Gen. 2:17 “¹⁷ But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”
 - b. Gen. 3:23-24 “²³ Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. ²⁴ So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”
 - c. Sin brought death upon all; Rom. 5:12 “¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”
2. Flood
 - a. It repented God that He made man (regret).
 - b. Gen. 6:6-7 “⁶ And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. ⁷ And 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.”
 - c. If God were indifferent to sin, the flood would never have taken place.

D. God is not indifferent to the sins of our world.

II. GOD'S LONGSUFFERING COMES TO AN END

A. Longsuffering is one of God's attributes.

1. Exo. 34:6 "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,"
2. Num. 14:18 "18 The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation*."

B. God's longsuffering is seen in the flood.

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. 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."

C. God's longsuffering does come to an end.

1. God was patient with those of Noah's day for 120 years, but the flood came.
2. God was longsuffering with the Amorites.
 - a. Gen. 15:16 "16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full."
 - b. 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."
3. God's longsuffering will again end one day.
 - a. The sins of man will again be full.
 - 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."
 - c. We will then stand before Christ in judgment; 2 Cor. 5:10 "10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad."

III. GOD REQUIRES OBEDIENCE

A. Noah was obedient.

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."
 - a. *Just* is "righteous or innocent."
 - (1) All God's commands are righteousness; Psa. 119:172 "172 My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments *are* righteousness."
 - (2) Thus, Noah was doing all God's commands.
 - b. *Perfect* is "complete, entire, whole, blameless, without fault."
2. Gen. 6:22 "22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he."
3. His surviving the flood was based upon his obedience.

B. God expects obedience today.

1. He has always expected a faith that leads to complete obedience; Heb. 11.
2. 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;"

3. An obedience to the Gospel:
 - a. Rom. 6:17-18 ¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”
 - b. And failure leads to punishment; 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;”

IV. GOD REWARDS OBEDIENCE

A. God rewarded Noah's obedience.

1. Gen. 6:22 ²² Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”
2. 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.”
3. Noah was saved; 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. God rewards our obedience.

1. Jesus saves the obedient; Heb. 5:9 ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”
2. Our souls are purified by obedience; 1 Pet. 1:22-23 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: ²³ Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
3. 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.”

Conclusion: We can learn important lessons from Noah and the flood. Noah was saved as a result of God's grace and his obedient faith. When we have an obedient faith today, we will be saved by God's grace just as was Noah.