

Noah's Foolish Boat

March 13th, 2016 ~ Genesis 6

Series Introduction ~ "The Foolishness of Faith"

- ❖ **III: Co-worker** – No cable TV / Unicorn – “Buddy, you don't know the half of it.”
 - ✧ I've been swimming against culture since God saved me at age 19
 - ✧ We are a church full of unicorns
- ❖ We are quite unique on the Earth
 - ✧ **We believe** in the God Who revealed Himself in the Bible (*10 foolish things*)
 1. the Bible to be inspired, inerrant and infallible
 2. God created light on day 1 before He created the sun, moon and stars on day 3
 3. the days of creation were literal 24-hour days / starting about 6k years ago
 4. Adam & Eve existed and they walked with God in the Garden of Eden
 5. the serpent deceived them plunging mankind into destruction
 6. God confused peoples with languages at the Tower of Babel
 7. Jesus, the Son of God, came to Earth as promised and performed miracles
 8. He suffered, was crucified, died, entombed, and resurrected the 3rd day
 9. the Apostles founded the Christian Church performing many miracles
- ❖ We also believe God destroyed the world of Noah's day with a worldwide flood
- 10. We believe He preserved 8 people, and thousands of birds, animals, & creeping things
- ❖ Our beliefs about God & Bible, about the Earth & the universe make us fools to the world
 - ✧ But that's okay, because Paul said in **1 Corinthians**, “.. the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God” –and- “.. the foolishness of God is wiser than men.”
 - ✧ Let's look at just how foolish it was for Noah to build the ark

The World of Noah's Day is Not Our World

- ❖ Peter wrote this in **2 Peter 3.4-6**, citing scoffers, “*“Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”* For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.”
- ❖ The world that existed prior to Noah's flood perished / That world is no more . . .
 - ✧ The world we live in, is not the world Noah lived in / God destroyed Noah's world
 - ✧ God used water (a lot of it) to cleanse the Earth / He submerged the Earth in water
 - ❖ **III: Sink** ~ Just as we fill a sink and submerge everything in it to soak
 - ❖ God submerged the Earth and then gave it a good scrubbing (**Read Gen 7.11,20**)

Xition: “How was Noah's world different from our own?”

Noah's World Different from Ours (8)

1. Man & animals appeared to be herbivores (**Gen 1.29-30**)
 - ✧ After the flood God gave all animals to mankind to eat as well (**Gen 9.3**)
2. “.. God had not caused it to rain .. but a mist went up from the earth” (**Gen 2.5-6**)
 - ✧ Their climate was very different from ours
3. Serpent spoke to Eve (**Gen 3.1**)
 - ✧ This was not normal for them / They just didn't know it yet (*deceived*)
4. Cain not executed for murder / Judged but allowed to live (**Gen 4.11**)
 - ✧ God judged Cain and punished him – just not a death sentence (**Gen 9.6**)
 - ✧ Lamech brags of killing (**Gen 4.19**) / Lawlessness prevailed (**Gen 6.5, 11-13**)
5. Brothers are marrying their sisters / This is weird (**Gen 4.17**)
6. Men committing polygamy / “Lamech took for himself two wives” (**Gen 4.19**)
7. People lived a long, long time / Adam fathers Seth at 130 / Dies at 930 (**Gen 5.3,5**)
8. “Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” (**Gen 5.24**)

v1 ~ “Men Began to Multiply”

- ❖ “What might the world's population have been at the time of Noah's flood?”
 - ✧ Using 75 years as doubling period (*our own*) it would be just over 10M people
 - ◆ But this uses average ages of death ~ 70 years or so
 - ✧ But what of much longer life spans and much later procreating? (*e.g., Noah at 500*)
- ❖ Biblically, we see a narrow slice through time of the pre-flood genealogies
 - ✧ Through Adam and Seth to Noah's sons are 11 generations
 - ✧ Through Adam and Cain to Lamech's (the braggart) sons are 8 generations
 - ✧ Yet all patriarchs are said to have had “other sons and daughters”
- ❖ Josephus (1st century historian) said Adam and Eve had 56 children (*33 boys / 23 girls*)
 - ✧ He also said Lamech (*Cain's ggg-grandson*) had 77 children (*2 wives*)
- ❖ Calculating population based on information given (*Tom Pickett*)
 - ✧ Average pre-flood age of 900 years
 - ✧ Generation range 75 to 100 years (*16 to 22*)
 - ✧ Average number of children per couple 5 to 9 (*biggest assumption*)
 - ✧ The estimate is: 5 to 17 billion people (*We're around 7 billion*)
- ❖ But these population models don't factor in the rampant violence
 - ✧ Population was probably much reduced by this
 - ✧ Lamech was of the same generation as Enoch ~ born 1,000 years before flood

Xition: The next verse is very controversial . . .

v2 ~ “.. Sons of God Saw the Daughters of Men”

- ❖ Who were the “sons of God” and “daughters of men”?
 - ✧ There are two predominant views – both are popular
 1. “sons of God” are fallen angels
 2. “sons of God” are sons of Seth as opposed to Cain
 - ✧ Dr. Henry Morris popularized the “angel” view in his “**Genesis Flood**” commentary
 - ❖ Dr. Sarfati (*PHF guest speaker*) holds to that view
 - ✧ Sons of Seth view has been popular since early 1800s
- ❖ I’ll share two reasons why I hold to sons of Seth
 1. God is obviously upset by what the “sons of God” have done
 - ❖ Their actions are directly linked to judgment upon earth (**v3, v5**)
 - ❖ If angels were to blame, “**Why punish mankind with destruction?**”
 2. Giants appear to result from the union (then, “**and also afterward**”)
 - ❖ “*angels*” supporters do not address the afterward part
 - ❖ The implication is that the “*angel*” problem reoccurred
 - ❖ “**Why would giants have again appeared after the flood?**”

v3 ~ God Decrees End of Man

- ❖ “.. **yet, his days shall be 120 years**”
 - ✧ Again there are 2 views – both very popular
 1. First is that man’s lifespan will be reduced to no more than 120 years
 2. Second is that mankind has only 120 more years left on Earth
 - ✧ 120 years as a maximum age has a practical appeal
 - ❖ Of top 100 oldest people to have lived (recent times) only 1 over 120
 - Oldest living person in modern history ~ Jeanne Calment 122 ½ d.1997
 - ❖ One more at 119 / 3 more at 117 / 10 more at 116 / 24 at 115 / 61+ at 114
 - ✧ But that is entirely out of context / Also Isaac lived to 180 (11 gens later)
 - ❖ God intends to extinguish man
 - **III: (1998) Deep Impact** (Ellie / **Extinction Level Event**)

v5 ~ Wickedness of Man

- ❖ “.. **the wickedness of man was great .. every intent .. was only evil continually**”
 - ✧ Mankind became entirely corrupt / Long lives meant greater skill in evil
 - ✧ Gary North analysis of how much skill and knowledge is lost due to death
 - ❖ Young people mature into adulthood / productive for 30 years / decline
 - ❖ Imagine maturing into adulthood and remaining productive for 500 years

Xition: Yet at verse 8 we have a glorious “but” . . .

v8-9 ~ But Noah Found Grace

- ❖ “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord”
 - ✧ “just man”, “perfect in his generations”, “Noah walked with God”
 - ✧ Lamech was Noah’s father / Methuselah was his grandfather
 - ✧ Enoch was Noah’s great-grandfather / Noah carried on this tradition
 - ◇ Noah walked with God just as his great-grandfather had once done

v14 ~ Noah Told to Make an Ark

- ❖ Ark is 300 x 50 x 30 cubits / Cubit generally said to be 18” / Royal cubit 20.9”
- ❖ III: Ark in Kentucky ~ Being built iaw/royal cubit 510’ long x 85’ wide x 50’ tall
 - ✧ ~2.2M cubic feet of volume
 - ✧ Over 100k square feet of floor space
 - ✧ The ark experience is supposed to open this summer

A Flood Promised and Delivered

- ❖ We now come to the heart of today’s message / the great foolishness of Noah
- ❖ God promises a flood in v17 ~ “I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth”
- ❖ We must skip ahead to read of its fulfillment / 7 days to fill the ark
 - ✧ Read Gen 7.10-11 ~ “And it came to pass .. windows of heaven were opened”
 - ✧ Read Gen 7.19-20 ~ “And the waters prevailed .. mountains were covered”
 - ✧ Read Gen 7.21-23 ~ “And all flesh died .. in the ark remained alive”

(But 1st an Aside) ~ New Testament Commentary c/Christ and Noah

- ❖ Read 1 Peter 3.18-20 ~ “For Christ also suffered .. were saved through water”
- ❖ Peter explained baptism via this .. but we just need to understand his analogy
- ❖ Roman Catholics support the concept of purgatory through this verse
 - ✧ It seems Christ (after his time on earth) preaches to the condemned of Noah’s day
 - ◇ This sentence is bizarre / “What on earth does Peter mean?”
 - ◇ It’s important that we understand this
- ❖ To understand this clearly we must understand the time hops Peter implies
 - ✧ “Jesus, through the Spirit, preached through Noah, prior to the flood”
 - ◇ Jesus is not preaching to imprisoned people
 - ◇ Peter is referring back to a time – prior to their imprisonment
 - ◇ We’re talking decades of time during which “Noah walked with God”
- ❖ If you’re having trouble seeing this let me suggest adding a word for clarity
 - ✧ In v19 insert a now / “.. He went and preached to the spirits now in prison”

Xition: Now another New Testament text to get us back on the foolishness track . . .

New Testament Commentary c/Noah's Faith

- ❖ **Read Hebrews 11.7** ~ "By faith .. according to faith"
 - ✧ What is referred to by the phrase "things not yet seen"?
 - ✧ ****Pause**** / *Allow everyone to reflect on it* / **Reread** the verse
 - ◇ **This is the key to our entire message** / to this entire series
- ❖ This phrase reminds us of **Hebrews 11.1** "Now faith is .. things not seen"
- ❖ "What is it that Noah had never seen?"
- ❖ "What faith was required of him to spend decades building the ark?"
 - ✧ **Rain** .. Noah had never seen rain / He'd never seen a flood
 - ◇ He'd never seen anything as strong as the mists we had yesterday
 - ◇ Yet he was to believe the entire world would be inundated in water

- ❑ In the eyes of "the world that then was" Noah was foolish to build the ark
- ❑ In the eyes of "the world that now is" we are foolish to believe the ark was ever built
 1. Yes, in the eyes of the world we are fools . . .
 2. But in the eyes of God we are, like Noah, "heroes of the faith"
- ❑ Let us remember that "heroism is not a hallmark of the faint of heart"
 1. Heroism requires courage
 2. It requires fortitude
 3. It requires the foolishness of faith . . .

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

To God our Savior, who alone is wise,

Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

Amen *pause* Go in peace . . .