

LESSON FIVE

THE FLOOD

TEXT: Genesis Chapters 6, 7, 8 & 9.

A. THE CONDITION UPON THE EARTH BEFORE THE FLOOD:

There were approximately two thousand years between the expulsion from the Garden and the Flood. During this period of time conditions upon the earth continued to grow worse and wickedness continued to increase. The following Scriptures describe these conditions.

"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" (Genesis 6:5).

"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence" (Genesis 6:11).

"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 the ark" (Matthew 24:38).

These Scriptures give a description of complete corruption and great spiritual darkness. Men turned from God to their own ways. The thoughts of their hearts were continually filled with sin. The rejection of God produces godlessness. When God's Word is disregarded, spiritual chaos follows.

The descendants of Cain became exceeding wicked, and the descendants of Seth became apostate. There had been a line of demarcation showing sharp contrast between the descendants of Cain and Seth. They began to intermarry and intermingle (Genesis 6:2). The sin and corruption that resulted from this action merited judgment. The flood came as a result and took them all away (Matthew 24:39).

Jesus compared the conditions existing before His Second Advent to those at the time of Noah. As we study the conditions in the world today we can understand that judgment will come soon

B. THE PREACHER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS:

God always sees that there is a witness upon earth. After the translation of Enoch, He raised up Noah, a preacher of righteousness. When we consider the darkness of that hour, we can appreciate the character of Noah. Noah was described as follows:

1. He found grace in the eyes of God (verse 8). This meant that he had God's favor and blessing.
2. He was a just man and perfect and walked with God (verse 9). He had fellowship with God.
3. He was a man of godly fear and faith (Hebrews 11:7).
4. He was a man of obedience. He obeyed God in every detail.
5. He saved his family.

The practical proof of Noah's righteousness is that he did "*according unto all that the Lord commanded him*" (Genesis 7:6). Obedience is the best testimony to righteousness.

The message that Noah preached was a warning of coming judgment. The building of the ark was a message of salvation but when no one heeded the message it brought condemnation (Hebrews 11:7).

It is the same in this generation, the obedient lives of the saints and the message of the Coming of Jesus condemns the world which refuses to take heed.

C. THE ARK:

The ark was 300 cubits in length, 50 cubits in breadth, and 30 cubits in height. The cubit was about eighteen inches. Therefore the ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. The proportions agree with modern large vessels. It had neither mast, sail or rudder. It had three stories with one door on the side and one window on the top.

The three stories might point to the fact the Lord has provided redemption for the entire man, body, soul and spirit.

The ark had only one door. All had to enter through the same door and it was God who shut the door (Genesis 7:16). It is significant that in this verse that two titles of God are used, Elohim and Jehovah. It was Elohim (God of Judgment) who commanded Noah. It was Jehovah (God of Salvation) who closed the door. The one door is a type of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "*I am the door*" (John 10:9).

The window in the top of the ark caused Noah only to be able to look up. Noah and his family were not to look around them upon the scene of destruction and judgment, but up towards the living God. This teaches us that we should look up and not around us.

D. THE FLOOD:

When the ark was completed, the Lord said, "*Come thou and all thy house into the ark*" (Genesis 7:1). We should notice that God said, "Come" and not "Go." The Gospel message is always an invitation. The Lord is still inviting men and women to come.

The rain did not begin to fall nor judgments come until all were in the ark and God had shut the door. Their entrance into the ark was an act of obedience and faith.

The rain began to fall in the six hundredth year of Noah's life, the seventeenth day of the second month (Genesis 7:11), and Noah and his family left the ark in the six hundredth and first year, and the twenty-seventh day of the second month. Therefore, they were in the ark one year and ten days (Genesis 8:14).

It rained for forty days; the waters prevailed for one hundred and fifty days. On the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat. The tops of the mountains were seen on the first day of the tenth month. At the end of another forty-day period Noah opened the window of the ark and sent forth a raven. The balance of the time was spent waiting for the land to dry.

Although the flood was an act of judgment destroying all life, it was the world's baptism by water, and as such it was a purifying and cleansing process. The flood purified the earth. At

the present time the world awaits its baptism of fire when once again it will be cleansed and purified by judgment.

E. GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH:

After the flood we come to the second "beginning" of Genesis. This new beginning resembled the first, in the command to be fruitful and multiply, and in the subjection of the earth to man's dominion.

Upon leaving the ark, Noah's first act was to build not a house for himself, but an altar "unto the Lord" on which he presented burnt offerings. These were, unto the Lord, a sweet savor, and after declaring that He would not curse the ground any more for man's sake, and after promising that while the earth remained, its seasons should not cease, we are told that God blessed Noah and his sons.

Noah becomes the second head of the race. God gives Noah a new covenant and the Dispensation of Human Government began.

God gave Noah a token in order to remember the covenant. This token was the rainbow in the sky. All the colors of the spectrum of the rainbow come from white light and speak to us of God Himself. God is light and many times He reveals Himself in His distinct attributes. The rainbow also speaks to us of the Grace of God. As the rainbow is the joint product of storm and sunshine, so grace is the unmerited favor of God on the dark background of man's sin.

COURSE: GENESIS

LESSON FIVE

SELF HELP TEST

- A. What were the dimensions of the ark?

- B. What does the ark's one door represent?

- C. What is the significance of the one window?

- D. Compare the conditions existing before the flood with those of today.

- E. Explain how the ark was a type of salvation.

- F. State fully the covenant God made with Noah.

If you wish to obtain your AIS Bible and Theology Certificate or work toward your B.A. Degree from Indiana Bible College, complete this Self-Help Test as completely as possible and return it to: AIS, P.O. Box 47917 Indianapolis, IN 46247 or email it to: ais@apostolic.edu or fax it to: (317) 781-7700.