



Sowing the Word

"Then Noah built an altar to the LORD... and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma."

Genesis 8:20-21a

Genesis 6-8

January 21st, 2009

So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

(Nehemiah 8:8)

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Helpful Study Links:

Additional Commentary: (Great Resource!)

http://preceptaustin.org/genesis_commentaries.htm

Further Research Sources

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/>

Ken Ham's Website. Great resources, articles. Also a great source for books and videos you can get a hold of. (we have these in our library too)

<http://www.drdino.com/>

Kent Hovind's website. Another great site, with lots of answers, and another great video series you can get a hold of. (We also have these in our library)

<http://www.creationscience.com/>

Walt Brown's website. Very helpful, detailed, but not too hard for a non-science major to read. Has a book you can order that has all that is on this website if you prefer it in your hands.

<http://www.discovercreation.org/>

The Alpha Omega Institute's website. This institute is dedicated to teaching the Biblical and scientific evidence of creation throughout the world.

<http://www.icr.org/>

The Institute for Creation Research.

Helpful Study Resource:

Explore the Book by J. Sidlow Baxter

Commentary:

The commentary used with permission throughout this booklet is:

With the Word Bible Commentary

by Warren W. Wiersbe.

ISBN 0-8407-9108-9

Outline

Genesis Outline

- I. Creation (1–2)
- II. The Fall of mankind (3)
- III. Early History of mankind – first thousand years (4-5)
- IV. Noah and the Flood (6-9)
- V. Tower of Babel (10-11)
- VI. Abraham (12-25:18)
- VII. Isaac (25:19-27)
- VIII. Jacob (28-36)
- IX. Joseph (37-50)

This weeks Outline

IV. Noah and the Flood (6-9)

A. The Preparation for the Flood (6)

1. God's Grief (6:1–7,11-12): God is grieved over the sin of mankind
 - a. Despicable immorality (v.1-4)
 - b. Evil intentions are the norm (v.5)
 - c. Corruption is the norm (v.11-12)
 - e. Violence is the norm (v.11)
 - f. God Grieved over (v.6)
2. God's Grace (6:3,8-10)
 - a. Longsuffering but limited time (v.3)
 - b. Noah found grace in God's eyes (v.8)
 - c. Noah's character (v.9-10)
3. God's Guidance (6:11–22)
 - a. Destruction! - what God will do (v.11–13)
 - b. Construction! - what Noah is to do, build an Ark (v.14–22)

B. The Protection during the Flood (7)

1. Come into the Ark (v.1-9)
2. Calamity outside the Ark (v.10-12)
3. Cover of God's protection in the Ark (v.13-16)
4. Conditions outside the Ark (v.17-24)

C. The Process after the Flood (8)

1. Noah's security (v.1–5): "But God remembered Noah."
2. Noah's search with a raven and a dove (v.6–12)
3. Noah's surveillance (v.13-14)
4. Noah's summons – God calls them out of the Ark (v.15–19)
5. Noah's sacrifice (8:20–22)

Booklet Notes

Chapter 6-8 thoughts and helps by Pastor Jim

Who are the sons of God mentioned in this chapter?

This is one of those areas where good Bible students disagree. There are basically two views on what all this is talking about. Pastor Phil has an article that goes into greater depth on this in this booklet, so let me just give you a couple thoughts.

The Sons of God – Angels?

The phrase “sons of God” is *benai elohim*. Every time “*benai elohim*” appears in the Old Testament, it is in reference to angels. Thus, the natural way to take this, would be to take this as a reference to angels. Thus this would be referring to a very deviant description of sexual relations between angels and women. It seems that this situation is what Peter talks about (2 Peter 2:4) and Jude (Jude 6-7) The Hebrew word translated “giants” is *nephalim*, which literally means “fallen ones.” Some see this as a reference to literal giants - and this very possible. We see Giants in scripture, including Goliath that David fought. (which by the way it says in the text “and after those days” - which could refer to this sin happening again, after the flood)

The Sons of God – men?

Many Bible students struggle with the idea of angels having relations with women - for a lot of excellent reasons. Thus some feel that this is a unique use of this phrase and that it is referring to the godly line of Seth verses the ungodly line of Cain. This has interesting ramifications. It is true that throughout scripture we see just this sin messing with mankind. The Jews were not to intermarry with cultures outside theirs, because it would corrupt them. Others from outside could become Jews...and thus marry, but no intermarrying between those who would not convert. The same is true today, Christians are not to marry non-Christians, because of the danger and damage. So this could be a reference that refers to that same issue that is consistent throughout scripture. This has interesting and good application. But there are several problems with it. One – we don't seem to have a “godly generation” mixing with an ungodly generation – because the very context shows us that only Noah found grace in God's eyes. The second problem is how such relations between godly people and ungodly

people produced Giants.

The Flood

There is tremendous evidence for a universal flood. Some of the tallest mountain peaks in the world—i.e. the Himalayans - are made of sedimentary rock. When were the Himalayans underwater? We've also found marine fossils on the peaks of some of the world's tallest mountains.

Understand a global deluge is the most validated event in antiquity. All cultures - from Mexico to Babylon to China - have accounts of a great flood, a boat, and a family who survived. Though not identical to the biblical record, these stories are corrupted versions of the same historical event, God judging the earth with a flood.

Some scholars believe a comet penetrated the vapor canopy causing it to explode and collapse. We're told "windows of heaven were opened", or literally the sluice gates were unleashed - not simple rain, but gushing water poured onto the earth.

In addition, "the fountains of the deep were broken up". Volcanic explosions released subterranean springs and oceans. It's also possible the comet caused a tilt in the earth's axis, the continents to shift, and the mountains to rise.

The whole geology of the earth was altered. As we're told in 2 Peter 3:6, "the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water." When Noah and his family exited the ark they walked out into a whole new environment.

What about Dinosaurs?

Unlike our evolutionary teaching, what we call Dinosaurs would have lived at the same time as Adam and the rest. They would have survived the flood as well, since Noah was to bring on the Ark two of each animal.

We've found cave drawings of dinosaurs - put there by human artists. The Bible describes two animals that are dinosaurs in Job 40-41. So obviously they were familiar with them in Job's day.

In fact, there are animals we could call dinosaurs still alive today in remote parts of the world. In 1977, a plesiosaur, was snagged 900 feet underwater near Christchurch, New Zealand. How could Dinosaurs fit on the ark? Well, no one said they had to be full grown. Noah could have carried two of all the infant dinosaurs, or even two of the dinosaur eggs, aboard the Ark.

Where have most of the Dinosaurs gone? After the dinosaurs walked out

into the post-flood ecosystem they were unable to survive, and quickly became extinct. In fact, in our deteriorating and devolving world—animals are continually going extinct. We are not evolving and getting more and more animals...but devolving and having less and less.

Whose Ark is it?

When it's time to board the Ark, God doesn't tell Noah to go onto the ark, but to come into the ark – the implication is that God is onboard waiting for Noah. Hey, we call it Noah's ark, but God was the captain! Actually, the ark was not a boat, it was a barge. It had no onboard navigation. Noah couldn't steer it. It was up to God to guide it to a proper resting place. Next time you feel you've lost the power to navigate your life, remember Who's onboard. When you feel like a victim – like you're being tossed on the waves, trust the Captain to steer your ship, and set you down on dry ground.

The Ark

The Ark was at minimal 450 feet long, by 75 feet wide, by 45 feet high. It may even have been bigger, depending on what size cubit Noah used. Prior to 1858, the Ark was the largest seagoing vessel ever constructed. Its 3 decks gave it 100,000 square feet of floor space.

The Ark's 6 to 1 ratio of length to width is by modern day shipbuilding standards the perfect proportion to survive rough waters. The Ark would be impossible to capsize. It was an incredible piece of engineering – designed by God!

A Water/Vapor canopy?

In Genesis 1:7, God divided the waters below and above the firmament. It's believed by some scholars that the water above refers to more than simply the water vapor contained in our atmosphere. Before the flood a dense, highly compacted, vapor canopy existed in the upper levels of the atmosphere. This canopy shrouded and shielded the globe.

The oldest book in the Bible, Job, seems to speak of this canopy in 38:9. God says, "When I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band..." The cause of aging is a mystery, but the chief culprit seems to be solar radiation. A vapor canopy would block out the harmful rays of the sun, and slow down the aging process. Humans would be able to live up to 900 years.

If this vapor canopy existed it would mean the antediluvian world was a virtual paradise. Global temperatures would be constant – probably around 72 degrees. Storms would be nonexistent since hot air would never collide

with cold air. Clouds wouldn't form which would preclude rain - which is what we were told in Genesis 2:5.

The world before the flood would've been a subtropical paradise, with lush vegetation from pole to pole. The Earth was a colossal greenhouse. It's interesting, that all around the world there's great evidence for this idea. On the northern tip of Canada's Vancouver Island we've found thousands of fossilized palm trees. On the Spitsbergen Islands, north of Norway, well above the Arctic Circle, fossilized palm leaves, 10 to 12 feet in length, have been discovered. As well as, fossils of various kinds of subtropical marine life. Also in Siberia, Russian miners discovered frozen mammoths with tropical vegetation still in their mouths.

Devotion thought—Waiting on God

Noah was in the ark for 371 days (over a year), and about 60% of the time was spent just sitting on Mount Ararat, waiting for the waters to recede. Noah had to be patient. He had to learn to wait on God.

Philip Brooks, was pacing back and forth in his living room when a friend came to visit. His friend asked Brooks why he was so restless. Brooks responded, "Because I am in a hurry, and God is not."

Is there an area in your life where you need to learn to rest in God's promise and allow Him to bring it to pass in His time and in His way? Remember, "Noah" means "rest", and we need to rest in the Lord as Noah rested in the ark.

The Ark is a type of Jesus.

- First, the ark was made of wood – a symbol for humanity. Wood is an object that was once living, but is now dead – just like mankind. Jesus was without sin, but He came to Earth in the form of a man.
- Note the ark was 3 decks, yet 1 ship. God is three persons, yet one God.
- Remember, both Noah and Jesus were carpenters. Both built a judgment-proof means of salvation, and invited all who would enter to come.
- In Genesis 50:6 we're told the bones of Joseph were placed in an ark. There the ark was a coffin, just as it is here. Think about it, on the ark Noah and his family died to their past life, their former relationships, their old environment. The old life was gone, and they were given a whole new life. Likewise, for those of us who are in Christ – we also, die to the old life. When we come to Christ a new man emerges - we enter a new environment—with a whole new way to live.

- Everyone on the ark was safe and secure. It was water-proofed inside and out. God even shut the door! And when you're in Christ you're as saved as you can get!
- There was only one ark, and there's only one means of salvation - through Jesus. Notice, the ark had only one door. Jesus said, "I am the door". He is the only way to God. And note, where the door is located - in the side of the ark. It was out of that door that life came to repopulate the earth - and it was from Jesus' side that the blood was spilt which enables you and me to experience new life. (similar picture—it was out of Adam's side that Eve was created...)
- The ark was also not just a shelter from the storm, but Noah stored supplies on the ark. It was a source of sustenance. Likewise Jesus is not only our Savior, but He satisfies our deepest needs. He provides us abundant life.
- Noah entered the ark because he believed in God's promise to protect him through the storm, and likewise we enter Christ by faith in God's promise.
- And finally, it's fascinating that the ark landed on Mount Ararat on Nisan 17th. That's the exact day of the year Jesus rose from the dead. The resting of the ark and the resurrection of Jesus both marked new beginnings for mankind.

Points To Ponder About The Flood

Dr. Kent Hovind

2 Pet. 3:3-8 tells us that people who scoff at the Bible are "willingly ignorant" of the Creation and the Flood. In order to understand science and the Bible, we must not be ignorant of those two great events in Earth's history. See Creation Seminar tape 2 for more information.

Over 250 Flood legends from all parts of the world have been found. Most have similarities to the Genesis story.

Noah's ark was built only to float, not to sail anywhere. Many ark scholars believe that the ark was a "barge" shape, not a pointed "boat" shape. This would greatly increase the cargo capacity. Scoffers have pointed out that the largest sailing ships were less than 300 feet because of the problem of twisting and flexing the boat. These ships had giant masts, and sails to catch the wind. Noah's ark need neither of those and therefore had far less torsional stress.

Even using the small 18-inch cubit (my height is 6-ft. 1-in. and I have a 21-

in. cubit) the ark was large enough to hold all the required animals, people, and food with room to spare.

The length-to-width ratio of 6 to 1 is what shipbuilders today often use. This is the best ratio for stability in stormy weather. (God thinks of everything!)

The ark may have had a "moon-pool" in the center. The larger ships would have a hole in the center of the bottom of the boat with walls extending up into the ship. There are several reasons for this feature:

It allowed water to go up into the hole as the ship crested waves. This would be needed to relieve strain on longer ships.

The rising and lowering water acted as a piston to pump fresh air in and out of the ship. This would prevent the buildup of dangerous gasses from all the animals on board.

The hole was a great place to dump garbage into the ocean without going outside.

The ark may have had large drogue (anchor) stones suspended over the sides to keep it more stable in rough weather. Many of these stones have been found in the region where the ark landed.

Noah lived 950 years! Many Bible scholars believe the pre-Flood people were much larger than modern man. Skeletons over 11 feet tall have been found! If Noah were taller, his cubit (elbow to fingertip) would have been much larger also. This would make the ark larger by the same ratio. See Seminar tape #2 for more info on this.

God told Noah to bring two of each kind (seven of some), not of each species or variety. Noah had only two of the dog kind, which would include the wolves, coyotes, foxes, mutts, etc. The "kind" grouping is probably closer to our modern family division in taxonomy, and would greatly reduce the number of animals on the ark. Animals have diversified into many varieties in the last 4400 years since the Flood. This diversification is not anything similar to great claims that the evolutionists teach. (They teach, "Kelp can turn into Kent," given enough time!)

Noah did not have to get the animals. God brought them to him (Gen. 6:20, "shall come to thee").

Only land-dwelling, air-breathing animals had to be included on the ark (Gen. 7:15, "in which is the breath of life," 7:22). Noah did not need to bring all the thousands of insects varieties.

Many animals sleep, hibernate, or become very inactive during bad weather.

All animals (and people) were vegetarians before and during the Flood according to Gen. 1:20-30 with Gen. 9:3.

The pre-Flood people were probably much smarter and more advanced

than people today. The longer life spans, Adam's direct contact with God, and the fact that they could glean the wisdom of many generations that were still alive would greatly expand their knowledge base.

The Bible says that the highest mountains were covered by 15 cubits of water. This is half the height of the ark. The ark was safe from scraping bottom at all times.

The large mountains, as we have them today, did not exist until after the Flood when "the mountains arose and the valleys sank down" (Ps. 104:5-9, Gen. 8:3-8).

There is enough water in the oceans right now to cover the earth 8,000 feet deep if the surface of the earth were smooth.

Many claim to have seen the ark in recent times in the area in which the Bible says it landed. There are two primary schools of thought about the actual site of the ark (see my Creation Seminar Part 3 video for more on this). Much energy and time has been expended to prove both views. Some believe the ark is on Mt. Ararat, covered by snow (CBS showed a one-hour special in 1993 about this site). The other group believes the ark is seventeen miles south of Mt. Ararat in a valley called "the valley of eight" (8 souls on the ark).

The Bible says the ark landed in the "mountains" of Ararat, not necessarily on the mountain itself.

The continents were not separated until 100-300 years after the Flood (Gen. 10:25). The people and animals had time to migrate anywhere on earth by then. See Seminar Part 6 for more information.

The top 3,000 feet of Mt. Everest (from 26,000-29,000 feet) is made up of sedimentary rock packed with seashells and other ocean-dwelling animals. Sedimentary rock is found all over the world. Sedimentary rock is formed in water.

Petrified clams in the closed position (found all over the world) testify to their rapid burial while they were still alive, even on top of Mount Everest.

Bent rock layers, fossil graveyards, and poly-strata fossils are best explained by a Flood.

People choose to not believe in the Flood because it speaks of the judgment of God on sin (2 Pet. 3:3-8).

Mt. St. Helens Explosion Gives Creation Evidence

By Bruce Malone

In order to determine what has happened in the past geologists study current process and use these observations to determine how rock layers came to cover our planet. Before the 1800's, geology was dominated by an acknowledgement that a worldwide flood was the cause of these rock layers. This changed when the founders of modern geology, James Hutton and Charles Lyell, succeeded in replacing this interpretation with the belief in uniformitarianism.

This article is one of many found within Mr. Malone's excellent book, Search for the Truth.

Uniformitarianism is the belief that slow-and-gradual processes, like we see today, account for the geologic features of our planet. It also assumes that there has never been a massive and rapid accumulation of sediment caused by a world wide catastrophe. Charles Darwin was heavily influenced by this type of thought when he extended the concept of slow and gradual geological change to include slow and gradual biological change. In the last 30 years many geologists have come to accept as fact that the past has seen rapid geological changes far surpassing anything we see happening today. However, the geological community still clings to the belief that there have been millions of years between these catastrophes.

The foundational assumption of the creation model is that there has been a worldwide flood in the recent past. If this assumption is correct, there should be evidence for this event. A worldwide flood would have caused massive destruction of plant and animal life followed by a redeposition of this bio-matter and sediment. This bio-matter and sediment. This would result in enormous fossil beds at locations throughout the planet. This is what the fossil record reveals.

One criticism of the creation models is the lack of a natural model which duplicates the processes happening during this alleged flood. However, in 1980, the explosion of Mt. St. Helen's in Washington provided just such a model. When Mt. St. Helen's exploded an estimated 18 billion cubic feet of rock, ash, dirt, steam, and melted snow flowed down the side of the mountain at estimated speeds at 90 mph. This, and subsequent ash flows, laid down as much as 600 feet of sediment on the north face of the mountain slope. In essence, a massive flood event was modeled for the scientific community.

The sediments laid down during the violent mud and ash flows were not a homogenized mixture but rather a series of finely layered horizontal strata. They look quite similar to the horizontal layers of rock which can be observed in road cuts as you travel our interstate highways. These types of horizontal bands of rock strata are often assumed to indicate millions of years of earth history, but Mt. St. Helen's has provided geologists with a scale model of how this same type of horizontal strata could be laid down rapidly by flowing water. Subsequent to the Mt. St. Helen's explosion, a new river canyon was formed in one day (March 19, 1982) as backed up water broke through the newly deposited sediment. This canyon is 100 feet deep and looks amazingly like a 1/40th scale model of the Grand Canyon. Had no one been present to see this area form, we might assume that the small stream presently located at the bottom of the canyon had cut the canyon over millions of years. This is the story of most of us have been taught about the Colorado river and the Grand Canyon. Many geologists are now coming to acknowledge that just as the Toutle River canyon at Mt. St. Helen's formed rapidly, the Grand Canyon was also formed over a short period of time by a massive flow of water.

The majority of the geologic community believe that low energy processes and long time periods account for the geologic record. Creationists believe that high energy processes and short periods of time account for the geologic record. Only one viewpoint is correct. Only one viewpoint agrees with the Biblical record. Guess Which one?

Q & A With Pastor Phil

Who were the giants mentioned in Genesis 6?

Chapter six in the book of Genesis is an important chapter because it lays the foundation for the global flood. First, we are told what the state of man was. Secondly, we see that God was grieved in His heart and with that, the coming judgment is revealed. Finally, we see God's grace upon Noah and His plan to preserve life on the earth.

As we consider the backdrop in Genesis, chapter six opens with these verses: "Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose."

Then in verse 4, "There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown." Much discussion and debate is centered on this opening section in Genesis 6. This brief article is in no way a comprehensive study of this topic, but hopefully some light will be shed on the subject.

Something Significant Happened

The first point to take note of is that something significant took place here. The described events seem tied to God's decision to destroy man. It appears that God is going out of His way to inform us that the relationship between the sons of God and the daughters of men was not natural. There are two primary views. One view suggests that fallen angels bred with women producing an ungodly race that were half human and half demonic. Another popular view is that godly men intermarried with ungodly women and produced offspring that fell into deep wickedness. There are other views with some Biblical merit as well, but they are for the most part variations of the two mentioned above. You will find trusted and well respected Bible teachers on both sides of the debate. Although there is disagreement, all will agree that what took place was no minor matter. God looked upon this union between the sons of God and the daughters of men and was grieved.

Who are the Sons of God?

In order to better understand what took place we must look closely at the words. The phrase Sons of God is made up of two Hebrew words (bene Elohim). Individually they are used many times in scripture, but they are used only a few times together as they appear in Genesis 6. When this

phrase is used elsewhere in the Old Testament, it seems clear that it speaks of angels rather than men. It is also interesting to note that Satan is mentioned as being among the sons of God in Job 1:6 and 2:1. This forms the basis for the view that the sons of God in Genesis 6 are fallen angels. In light of the Hebrew usage of this phrase, proponents of this view claim it would be inconsistent to interpret the sons of God as anything other than angels. Others have claimed that the phrase sons of God could very well be speaking of men. Could this be true? Certainly the New Testament embraces this idea. Matthew 5:9, Romans 8:14, Galatians 3:26 all use the phrase "sons of God" when referring to humans. Even Adam is called the son of God in the genealogy in Luke 3:38. Although the Greek New Testament interprets the phrase sons of God as human, does it provide license to deal similarly with the Hebrew Old Testament? That question remains before us.

Who are the Giants?

The word translated giants in Genesis 6 is the Hebrew word nephilim. It's used only three times in scripture. On top of its rare usage, it also is a word with a somewhat obscure meaning. It is related to the Hebrew verb meaning to fall. Thus when used as a plural noun it is often interpreted fallen ones. The likely reason it is translated giants comes from the context in Numbers 13:32 where it describes the men as being of great stature. The Genesis 6 passage does not comment on their size specifically, but refers to them as mighty men who were of old, men of renown. There is another Hebrew word that is often translated giant. It is the word raphah and it refers to a race of giants known as the Rephaim. Some assume they are one in the same, but this is inconclusive because there is no direct connection to one another in scripture. We know very little about the nephilim. Just as their origin is shrouded in uncertainty, so also is their demise. We are told that, "There were giants (nephilim) on the earth in those days and also afterwards". The Numbers 13 passage shows us that they existed after the flood, but that is the last time the word is used leaving us with more questions than answers.

Some Final Thoughts

To fully examine this subject in detail would require much more time and length than this brief article allows. Were the Nephilim a mixed race part fallen angel and part human? Or, were they the sinful offspring of godly men from the lineage of Seth who were beguiled by the beauty of the daughters of men. There remains to this day no shortage of disagreement. In reading commentaries and the works of others who have studied this subject it becomes clear that some have very strong

opinions about this issue. It is here where caution is needed. Beware of being overly dogmatic. Certainly there is nothing wrong with taking a position in this matter, but don't write off everyone else who sees it differently. There are times to be unbending and absolute, but I don't believe this is one of those times. I fear that we miss the point of the passage when we become too engaged in the details. The most important aspect of this passage is that the depravity of man became so great that God chose to destroy man from the face of the earth. This passage should move us to have a Biblical understanding of sin and of God's judgment. Because of man's wickedness God destroyed millions while only one household was rescued. This is a sobering point. Is our sin today any less grievous than in Noah's day? Surely God will again judge mankind – both the small and the great, while only a few will find grace in His eyes. We may be left with unanswered questions, but this is the point we need to take from this section of scripture.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Genesis 6-8

The account of a flood is written into the history of many ancient peoples, and the results of a flood are seen in many places on the earth. Jesus believed in the Flood (Matt. 24:37–39), and so did Peter (1 Pet. 3:20) and the author of Hebrews (11:7).

The holiness of God (6:1–7). God saw a world of people who were inwardly corrupt, outwardly violent, and upwardly rebellious. Noah was the tenth generation from Adam. It didn't take long for sin to spread in the human race. When the world is again as it was in Noah's day, watch for the return of the Lord (Matt. 24:37–39).

The grace of God (6:8–7:10). Noah was saved just as any sinner is saved, by grace (Gen. 6:8), through faith (Heb. 11:7). See Eph. 2:8–9. He heard God's Word, believed God's promise of protection, and proved his faith by his works. There was only one way to be saved from destruction, and that was by entering the ark; and the ark had only one door. It is a picture of the salvation we have in Christ.

The wrath of God (7:11–24). God was very patient and gave the world at

least 120 years of opportunity to be saved (Gen. 6:3; 1 Pet. 3:20; 2 Pet. 2:5). The world refused Noah's witness and rejected God's grace up to the very day Noah and his family went into the ark. God waited another week (how the neighbors must have laughed at Noah!), but then the judgment came. As David proclaimed, "The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood" (Ps. 29:10). He is sovereign in all things! The next worldwide judgment will be with fire, not water (2 Pet. 3:1–12).

The faithfulness of God (8:1–22). Noah had faith in God's promises, and God did not disappoint him. (See 1 Kings 8:56.) True faith does not get in a hurry (Isa. 28:16); Noah waited until the word of God told him what to do. The first thing Noah and his family did on the cleansed earth was to worship the God who had faithfully cared for them (Ps. 116:12–19; Rom. 12:1–2). God gave them a covenant that assured them of the continuity of creation despite man's evil heart. This covenant makes possible the sustaining of life on earth. God has been faithful to His covenant, but man has not been faithful in his stewardship of the earth. (See Rev. 11:18).

Faithfulness to God:

Noah and his family were the only believers on earth, yet they witnessed courageously for God and against the evil of their day. They were faithful to God when everything seemed to be against them. God still calls His people to stand alone if needs be, and He promises never to forsake us (Heb. 13:5–6). God will judge us not on the basis of our popularity but on our faithfulness to Him (1 Cor. 4:2). God needs courageous witnesses today.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Ge 6:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

