

The Great Flood

Lesson for Sunday, September 4, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

- What are some of the explanations that you have heard regarding Noah's Ark?
 - Only a regional flood; just a myth; we tend to make it more a cartoon than actual event; etc.
- The Bible presents the Flood as an actual historical event that took place in real history.
 - Creation scientists believe it happened around 4500 years ago, and scientific evidence more than supports the Bible's teaching.
- But regardless of what scientists say, Christians have the testimony of Jesus Christ. You can reference Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27.
 - Not to mention many of the NT authors: 1 Peter 3, 2 Peter 2, Hebrews 11.
- The flood is a real historical event that Christians should understand and be able to explain. Maybe more importantly is what the account of the Flood teaches us about the God that we serve.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. THE **PREPARATION** FOR THE FLOOD (6:14-16)
 - a. In Genesis 6:14, God simply commands Noah to "make thee an ark." What do we know about the ark from verses 14-16?
 - i. Material: Gopher wood for the structure & pitch for the sealant.
 - ii. Design:
 1. It had rooms (nests) for animals.
 2. Window around top deck for light & ventilation.
 3. One door in the side
 - iii. Dimensions: 450' long x 75' wide x 45' high
 1. A cubit: average 17½ in.
 2. The space on the Ark was equivalent to 522 railroad cars.
 - b. One Christian historian commented: "The ark was of great proportion. In fact, it was not until 1858 that a vessel of greater length was constructed. Second, it can be shown through simulated tests in water that a box-like structure of the ark's dimensions is exceedingly stable, indeed, almost impossible to capsize. Whatever our judgment, there is an obvious presumption in favor of the design having come from God."
2. THE **PASSENGERS** ON THE ARK (7:13-14)
 - a. The People: Noah, his wife, their three sons & their wives.
 - b. The Animals: Seven pairs of every clean beast and two pairs of unclean.
 - c. Questions:
 - i. How could they catch the animals? Genesis 6:20
 - ii. How could there be room enough for all the animals?
 1. In verse 20 we see the repeated word "kind." There are many breeds of dogs. Noah only needed 2 dogs – not 2 poodles, labs, etc.
 2. Noah didn't need every species, just two of every kind. There are about 7,000 kinds.
 3. Most likely, God sent young animals which would be smaller.
 4. Plus, the average size of land animals is smaller than a sheep.

5. Calculation: The Ark could have carried 125,000 sheep.
3. THE **DESTRUCTION** OF THE FLOOD (Genesis 7:19-23)
 - a. It's hard to imagine exactly what happened. But notice the Bible's descriptions of the two main water sources:
 - i. 7:11 – "The fountains of the great deep broken up." Broken up has the idea of they exploded, blowing continental land masses apart.
 - ii. 7:11 – "The windows of heaven were opened." Most believe this is a reference to the "waters above the firmament" in 1:6-8.
 - b. 6:12 – The waters were colliding on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. In 8:2, God stopped the Flood.
 - c. An often-asked question is: Was the flood local, regional or worldwide? What does the Bible say?
 - i. 7:19 – "upon the earth...all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven were covered."
 - ii. 7:20 – "the mountains were covered"
 - iii. 7:21 – "all flesh died that moved upon the earth"
 - iv. 7:23 – "and they were destroyed from the earth"
 - v. 7:24 – "the waters prevailed upon the earth."
 - d. If you doubt the events of the Flood, you have a major issue with the simple words of the Bible. What else could they mean?
 4. THE **PURPOSE** OF THE FLOOD
 - a. The cause of the Flood is clearly stated in Scripture: to bring the judgment of God on a corrupt, violent world (see Genesis 6:5).
 - b. What does this teach us about the God that we serve?
 - i. God is a moral God and we live in a moral universe. Justice will prevail.
 - ii. God's patience has limits.
 - iii. God is sovereign: He controls all things.
 - iv. God is holy: His character is the standard for right and wrong.
 - v. God is righteous: He always does what is right.
 - vi. God is gracious: He delayed His judgment 120 years.

DISCUSS: How should the Flood shape our faith today?