

# The Flood

Genesis 7:1-24

Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 Morning Service

Rupert Bentley-Taylor

In Genesis 7 the 2 themes of saving grace & solemn judgement lie side by side.

## I. Salvation      Here is a story of salvation. Primary theme of v1-6

### 1. Of God

1) **Initiates** Salvation is God's doing. In chapter 7 God all way through is the prime mover. He tells Noah what is about to happen & what to do. Salvation is not a human initiative. Still true. Our salvation through Jesus & like the salvation Noah experienced, it is from God from beg to end.

2) **Plans** God planned salvation meticulously. Chapter 6 tells us details about the ark. Chapter 7 gives us many details about the animals God wants to have saved. God was providing in advance, not just how Noah & his family could survive, but also for the world after the Flood: the animals that would then fill the new earth & that human beings would need to use & eat. Nothing was overlooked by God. Our salvation is same: God has provided in Christ everything that we need that we may be saved.

3) **Reveals** God speaks of salvation before he delivers it. Noah builds the ark at God's direction & enters it at God's direction. Doesn't work his own salvation, but plays his part as God directs. Whole Bible has that same function for us: it reveals to us how God saves & how we should respond.

### 2. For People Who Believe God

Noah alone was left as a man who lived in a way pleasing to God. This was why God spoke to him, but not how he was saved. Noah was saved because he believed what God told him & did what God said.

What phrase about Noah comes three times in Hebrews 11:7? \_\_\_\_\_

But he was not alone. Who was saved with him? \_\_\_\_\_ (v1, 7, 13)

Why did Noah's family get into the ark with N when no one else did? V7 tells us 'entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood'. What waters? At the time they went in there was absolutely no sign of the flood. But Noah's family went into the ark with him simply on this basis: that what God said they believed was true. That is how we are saved. We are saved by faith. We hear what God says, and we believe it & do as he commands, even though the vast majority around us do not believe.

### 3. Involves Creation

Not just Noah & family saved here. 7 of the 24 verses are to do with the animals who were also on the ark. God's purpose v3 was 'to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth'. Salvation which comes to human beings, extends beyond human beings in its implications. Still true. See Rom 8:19-21 READ. Noah is told to take with him v2 this huge selection of animals.

How were the animals gathered (see v9 & 15)? \_\_\_\_\_

This really is God's world. God is deeply serious about his creation as a whole.

So salvation is of God, who initiates it, plans it & reveals it, for people who believe God & it extends to creation itself. How it was them & how it still is.

## II. Judgement

### 1. Of God

Doctrine of judgement is rooted in doctrine of creation. If you ask 'what right has God to judge me?' Answer is 'because God made you'. See 7:4 and 6:6-7. We owe every breath to him. Jesus says not a sparrow 'will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father' Mt 10:29. He made us people who see, reflecting a creator who perfectly sees so 6:5. He made us people who feel, sense of right/wrong, reflecting our Creator who is God of holy passion, so 6:6. He made us people who want justice, want evil to be dealt with, reflecting a Creator who will bring justice.

### 2. Revealed

God reveals his purpose to judge well in advance. God revealed to Noah in advance what would happen 6:13. There is knowledge of coming judgement revealed by God to men many years in advance. Why? So that men may be saved. The huge ark towering in the countryside was a declaration to that generation of coming catastrophe. 2 Pet 2:5 says Noah was 'a preacher of righteousness'. Not only built, he spoke. What is chilling is that no one paid any

attention: see Matt 24:37-39. We live in world facing coming judgement: God reveals that to us, so that men may be saved.

### 3. Timed

Repeated references to precise timing in Genesis 7:4, 6, 10, 11-13. v16 'Then the LORD shut him in'. Marked moment when no one outside the ark could any more find any possible deliverance. Jesus & his apostles tell us it is same for us. Paul told the Athenians in Acts 17 'God. Commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead'. Repent now because one day it will be too late.

### 4. Inescapable

Little word 'all or every' comes 23 times in these 24 verses. Nine times it is to do with the universality of judgement: v4, 19-23. v23 'Only Noah was left & those with him in the ark'. There is a phenomenal spread of flood stories from across world. The extraordinary fossil graveyards of huge numbers of animals often on top of mountains point in same direction. NT (Jesus, Paul, Peter, Jude, John) keeps telling us that what happened in the ancient world will happen again. God will judge the whole world & call all men to account.

See 2 Peter 3:3-13. Peter says

- 1) people will mock v3
- 2) people will deliberately forget
- 3) by the same word the present heavens & earth are reserved for fire...
- 4) Lord is patient with you not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.
- 5) the Day of the Lord will come...
- 6) everything will be destroyed.
- 7) what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy & godly lives.
- 8) we are looking forward to a new heaven & a new earth

**Salvation & judgement:** are you ready? Take refuge in Christ, who like the ark, is the wonderful provision of God, so that on the Day God comes in wrath, we may be found safe.