

Before the Flood
Genesis 6:13-22
February 19, 2017

Introduction

There are two types of people in the Bible: the condemned and the saved. The condemned are judged by God and forever separated from Him. The saved are those who believe in God through faith and are forever joined with Him.

***John 3:18** He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

***John 5:29** and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.*

***John 5:24** I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.*

God has destroyed the world once by the Flood, and He will destroy the world again, but this time with fire. Those who believe will be spared, but for those who reject Him, they will endure His judgment. What we are focusing on this morning is God's marvelous grace on those who believe.

***Genesis 6:13-22** So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. **14** So make yourself an ark of cypress [or gopher] wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. **15** This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. **16** Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. **17** I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. **18** But I will establish My covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. **19** You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. **20** Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. **21** You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." **22** Noah did everything just as God commanded him.*

I. The Ark (13-17)

- God said to Noah
 - God is the only one speaking
 - Noah never says a word
 - Noah's only spoken words are at the end of **chapter 9**
 - The Flood is not about Noah, but about God
 - It is about His justice
 - And His salvation
- The coming judgment
 - Against all people
 - All are wicked

Genesis 6:5 *The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.*

- This is a large population of people
 - Remember this is a very healthy population
 - Very little genetic defects
 - Possibly 7 billion people living on earth
 - 1650 years between Adam's fall and the Flood

World population milestones in billions (USCB estimates)									
Population	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Year	1804	1927	1960	1974	1987	1999	2011	2024	2042
Years elapsed	—	123	33	14	13	12	12	13	18

- Why?
 - Their violence
 - Their sexual perversions (**6:3-4**)
- Build an ark
 - God commands Noah to build an ark

Note: God chose Noah out of all the people on earth due to His mercy and grace—there was nothing good in Noah for Noah to earn God's approval. God chooses Noah and then approaches him. He gives Noah a command to build something that has never been built and built for such purpose of a flood. See below: Noah obeys God.

- Ark –Hebrew word for box
 - Box to protect the family and all animals inside
 - Same word as ark with Moses

Exodus 2:3 *But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank.*

- Made of gopher wood
 - We do not know what kind of wood this was
 - Could have been a cypress wood
 - Coated with pitch inside and out
 - Waterproofing
 - Again we do not know what material this was
- Huge vessel
 - Rectangular vessel

- 450 feet long by 75 feet wide by 45 feet tall
 - Hebrew—300 cubits by 50 cubits by 30 cubits
 - If cubits being around 18 inches (This is Mosaic measurement)
- 3 decks inside with many rooms each deck
- By volume—Around 522 railroad boxcars
 - 240 full-grown sheep in a boxcar
 - For Ark—125,000 sheep-sized animals in Ark
 - Many animals were smaller than the sheep
 - What about elephants and hippos and rhinos and other large mammals
 - The Bible does not say if they were full-grown adults; perhaps these animals were young animals, not fully grown yet.
- Marvel of engineering
 - This vessel is the perfect ratio: 6:1 (length : width)
 - Most stable ratio
 - Will not capsize or sink from violent waves
 - God is the one that tells Noah this ratio
 - Largest ship made until 1859—350 feet long
 - 1859—largest ship made—692 feet (SS Great Eastern)
 - Wood and steel construction
 - The Ark was an all wood construction
- Roof
 - Covered roof with ventilation 18 inches all around the Ark, below roof
 - Door on side of Ark
- The universal flood
 - Many people (Christians) believe that the Flood was only local
 - However, the Words of Scripture show that this is an universal flood
 - End to all people, destroy them and the earth (**6:13**)
 - All life under the heavens; everything on earth will perish (**6:17**)
 - This is not hyperbolic language, but factual, historical prose

II. The Promise (18-22)

- My covenant
 - First time God makes a covenant
 - What is covenant?
 - A promise by God to His people
 - People do nothing to earn or keep the covenant
 - The covenant is established by God and upheld by God
 - Example: Davidic covenant

2 Samuel 7:11b-13 *The LORD declares to you that the LORD Himself will establish a house for you: 12 When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish His kingdom. 13 He is the one who will build a house for My Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*

Luke 1:32-33 *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end."*

- What is this promise?
 - I will save your life and your family's life
 - You will not experience My judgment or wrath!

1 Thessalonians 5:9 *For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- How? Through the Ark
- The animals
 - God will bring the animals to Noah, but Noah is to bring them into the Ark
 - Male and female of every kind
 - What kind of animals?
 - Those that breath air above the water
 - Birds
 - Mammals
 - Reptiles
 - Insects
 - Does not include fish or other water creatures
- Store food for your family and the animals
 - Animals are vegetarians
- Noah obeys God
 - There was no rain at that time

Genesis 2:5-6 *and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, 6 but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.*

- For Noah—it was faith granted by God for him to believe His word
- It is only by God's grace that Noah was able to do what God wants him to do

Hebrews 11:7 *By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*