

The Final Days
Genesis 7:1-5
February 26, 2017

Introduction

Over the years, people have asked me why God destroyed the world with water when He made everything very good. The assumption behind this question is that God made the universe, and that He cares about the environment He created. However, God is concerned about righteousness, not the environment. Sin provokes God to anger, and it leads to His judgment.

When God sent the Flood, He did it because every person was doing evil against God. His patience was at its end. Some people believe God's patience is eternal, but this is not the case when we look in the Bible. We know that His patience, while long, does have its end. In fact, God Himself said that He will not continue to give man a chance to repent.

Genesis 6:3 *Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."*

However, He still shows mercy and grace to all people, warning them of the upcoming judgment. God used Enoch to warn people of His judgment (**Jude 14-15**), and used Noah to preach to the people (**2 Peter 2:5**). We come to the part where it is the final days before the Flood comes. God is still giving man an opportunity to repent.

Genesis 7:1-5

1 The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation."

- The Lord said to Noah
 - Second time God has spoken to Noah
 - Noah's words are not recorded
- Go into the ark
 - God's patience has ended
 - The time has come for His judgment to be unleashed on the world
 - At this time, Methuselah has died
 - His name means "When he dies, it shall come"
 - What shall come?
 - The Flood
 - Moses does not tell us how Methuselah dies or exactly when he dies
 - We figure this by calculating his birth and time of death with chronology
 - His death is the same year as the Flood
- The ark
 - Box like vessel
 - Huge in size
 - No oars, sails, or rudder
 - It was designed to safely float and carry large cargo during this terrible deluge
- You and your whole family
 - Noah
 - Noah's wife
 - His sons (3) and their wives
 - No other people joined them

- Again, they knew of what God was planning
- Noah warned them
- Ark is clearly seen
- Because of your righteousness
 - You are righteous before Me
 - God's grace (election)
 - Noah's faith
 - Evident by his total obedience to God's command
- In this generation
 - None of the people living were righteous
 - There were righteous people between Adam and Noah
 - Adam, Abel, and Enoch
 - Some others that Scripture has recorded
 - However, they have all died before the Flood
 - How do we know this?

Genesis 18:23-26, 32 *Then Abraham approached Him and said: "Will You sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will You really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? 25 Far be it from You to do such a thing-to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" 26 The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake." 32 Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."*

- Only Noah was counted righteous

2 *Take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and two of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate,*

3 *and also seven of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth.*

- Seven clean animals
 - This is new information, not found in **6:19-20**
- Clean and unclean animals
 - Here we find distinctions between clean and unclean animals
 - Moses does not explain to us what they are
 - We can guess that God has explained to Noah what He accepts
 - This was before the Mosaic Law
 - Mosaic Law on clean and unclean animals
 - **Leviticus 11**

Leviticus 11:46-47 *These are the regulations concerning animals, birds, every living thing that moves in the water and every creature that moves about on the ground. 47 You must distinguish between the unclean and the clean, between living creatures that may be eaten and those that may not be eaten.*

- This is for eating and handling clean and unclean animals
- However, these clean animals were not for food

- People were vegetarians before the Flood
- After the Flood, God approved them eating meat

Genesis 9:3 *Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.*

- What is God's reason for distinguishing clean and unclean animals?
 - Symbolic
 - God is telling people to know the difference between His way and man's way
 - Obedient to God
 - The reason these animals are symbolic of being clean and unclean
 - Clean animals could not wash away sin nor could unclean animals add sin
 - Jesus said that nothing comes into the mouth makes a person unclean
 - It is what comes out of the heart
 - God tells Peter that everything He has created is clean
- Why did God tell Noah to bring extra clean animals?
 - For sacrifice

Genesis 8:20 *Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.*

- How did Noah know this?
 - Abel sacrificed the best of his flock to God
 - People are aware of what God requires
- Why seven? (this included birds)
- If only two, then animals of those kinds would have been extinct when being sacrificed
- Two of every unclean animals
- Keep them alive
 - Noah was responsible for the animals' well-being
 - Kept them fed and alive
 - These animals (clean and unclean) were to repopulate the earth
 - From two?
 - Adam and Eve were only two
 - Amazing diversity among people!

4 *Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made."*

- The reason for getting into the ark
 - The time for judgment is now
- Seven more days
 - God give the world seven more days to repent
 - None ever did
 - Analogous to the 7 year tribulation before Jesus' Second Coming
 - God gives men 7 years to repent

Revelation 16:10-11 *The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony 11 and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.*

- I will send rain for forty days and nights
 - First time rain has been mentioned to Noah
 - Rain did not fall on earth

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—*

- New information for Noah
- I will wipe out every living creature from the earth
 - All people were killed by the Flood
 - Universal, world-wide Flood
 - “†”
 - God takes credit for judgment
 - He does not hide the fact that He is doing it

5 *And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.*

- Again, Noah does what God commands without question and doubt