

# NOAH AND THE ARK

*Genesis 6-9*

## INTRODUCTION

THE WORLD IS NOT ANY MORE PAGAN TODAY THAN IT WAS IN THE PAST.

Yes, there is incredible corruption today.

Integrity and truth are almost extinct.

Unjust business practices are the norm.

Sexual misconduct and exploitation is rampant.

The philosophical thinking-grid of man is indeed empty, void, and full of contradictions.

There is violence, murder, and unjust war in most regions of the world.

Yes, there are pockets or cesspools of sin that are more visible, blatant or obvious

But if you are a scholar of history, you know that these traits characterize the whole of human history.

Ancient Greece was equally sinful in its philosophy and sexual practices. (Corinth, Ephesus)

Ancient Rome was brutal in its treatment of slaves and criminals. It was a culture led by lust, greed and a desire for hedonistic entertainment.

Violence was the cultural characteristic of Nineveh, Gaul, and Babylon.

And as we walk through Genesis, you will see a family and a culture that dealt with issues of integrity, chastity, philosophy, violence, murder, war and sexual infidelity.

There is great truth to the statement, "the more things change, the more they stay the same."

THIS MORNING WE ARE GOING TO STUDY THE EPIC OF NOAH. WHY?

We study not because we wish to primarily learn the effects of a flood upon our geological sphere.

We study not because we wish to primarily learn whether or not the ark is still perched on Mt. Ararat.

We study not because we wish to learn about some ancient history and how their culture differed from ours.

God gave us the story of Noah so that we would better understand man, the influence of Satan, and the work of God.

## HERE IS THE THESIS OF MAIN POINT OF THIS MORNING'S MESSAGE.

The eyes of God are always watching His creation.

He sees all sin and all righteousness.

He looks at many with grief and anger, while looking at some with grace and favor.

Are you the irritant or the gleam in your Father's eye?

## SCRIPTURE TEXT

*Genesis 6:1-13 When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. 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." 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days-- and also afterward-- when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. 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. 6 The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. 7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth-- men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air-- for I am grieved that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. 9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. 10 Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. 11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. 12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. 13 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.*

# WHAT SHOULD WE SEE AS WE STUDY GOD'S HISTORY?

## I. WE SHOULD SEE SATAN'S TIRELESS EFFORTS TO CORRUPT GOD'S IMAGE

### ATTEMPT #1: SATAN SOUGHT TO DESTROY THE IMAGE OF GOD IN THE GARDEN.

"If I can get them to disobey God and eat the forbidden fruit, then God will damn them from his presence for eternity."

### ATTEMPT #2: SATAN SOUGHT TO DESTROY THE IMAGE OF GOD IN THE FIELD.

"If I can get Cain to kill the righteous seed, Abel, then the godly seed will die out and become extinguished."

### ATTEMPT #3: SATAN SOUGHT TO DESTROY THE IMAGE OF GOD IN THE BEDROOM.

*Genesis 6:1 When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.*

We see God characterizing men by two terms: Sons of God, Daughters of men

I do not believe there is any reason to try and read "angels" into this passage. (Boices View)

Sons of God (Elohim) is used in Scripture to describe angels and men.

There is nothing in Scripture about angels every having relationships with men.

As a matter of fact, we know from Scripture that angels cannot "take wives" and "marry." (Mark 12:25, Matthew 22:30, Luke 20:34)

The context simply suggests men like you and me.

Chapter five has just finished a genealogical history of the human race.

Chapter six begins speaking simply of men and women populating the earth.

Sons of God represented those who were true worshipers of God; followers of Seth; those of the woman; the godly seed.

Daughter of men represented those who were not worshipers of God; followers of Cain; those of the serpent, the ungodly seed.

As men are today, so they were in those first centuries.

Men were able to see.

Men were able to appreciate beauty.

Men were unable or unwilling to control their passions and willing to compromise in order to please themselves.

Once again, nothing changes. Satan's practice is to make sin look as appealing as possible. His temptations look very, very sweet.

And so they intermarried.

We know that God has forbidden the intermarriage of believers and non-believers today.

*2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1. Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." 17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." 7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*

We know that God forbade intermarriage with non-worshippers in the prophets' day.

*Ezra 9:1 After these things had been done, the leaders came to me and said, "The people of Israel, including the priests and the Levites, have not kept themselves separate from the neighboring peoples with their detestable practices, like those of the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Ammonites, Moabites, Egyptians and Amorites. 2 They have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, and have mingled the holy race with the peoples around them. And the leaders and officials have led the way in this unfaithfulness."*

We know that God forbade the intermarriage between worshipers and non-worshipers in Solomon's day.

*1 Kings 11:1 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter-- Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. 2 They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. 3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. 4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.*

We know that God forbade the intermarriage of believers and non-worshipers in Moses' day.

*Deuteronomy 7:3 Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons,*

We know that the Patriarch's forbade their children to obtain wives from the pagans of that day.

Isaac did not wish for Jacob to take a wife of the Hittites. (Genesis 28:1)

Abraham sent his servant on a journey to find a believing wife.

We know, because God stays the same and never changes, that it was forbidden also in Noah's day.

Why is intermarriage between believers and non-believers not allowable?

Because God demands perfect purity, and the impure always contaminates the pure.

Augustine writes, "When they [the godly race] were captivated by the daughters of men, they adopted the manners of the earthly to win them as their brides, and forsook the godly ways they had followed in their own holy society." (Augustine, City of God, Book 15)

Mixing righteousness and unrighteousness always results in unrighteousness.

It is a bit harder for me to preach this sermon that it would be for some men and women in our midst this morning. They are married to an unbeliever. They know the difficulties of living with someone who doesn't share their views and morals. They could preach this point far better than I can today.

Moses is describing a moral problem here. And the results of these intermarriages were very devastating.

## II. WE SHOULD SEE SATAN'S SUCCESS IN HIS ATTEMPT TO CORRUPT GOD'S IMAGE

Satan's plan worked brilliantly in the lives of many.

### SATAN WAS SUCCESSFUL IN CONFUSING MEN.

Without God, these men and women began thinking differently.

*Genesis 6:4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days-- and also afterward-- when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.*

The Nephilim listed here were men that were giants of sorts. We see them mentioned again in this way in Numbers 13:33. Here they were called the Sons of Anak, and later they became known as the Assyrians.

And it was these men, the product of corrupt intermarriages that became known as the heroes of old, the men of fame and renown.

Their definition of success changed. They began to admire men based upon a different standard.

Instead of judging greatness by holiness, purity, righteousness and obedience, men were now judged to be great and honored simply because of their external stature or family genealogy.

The marks of greatness had changed. Men's values were warped. They were thinking differently. They were ungodly.

## SATAN WAS SUCCESSFUL IN CORRUPTING MEN.

*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.*

*Genesis 6:11-12 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.*

## SATAN CORRUPTED EVERY MAN.

All the people on earth (6:12)

*Psalms 14:3 All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.*

## SATAN CORRUPTED EVERY MAN'S HEART.

Every inclination of the thoughts of his heart. (6:5)

*Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*

I just heard on the radio this morning the story of one going to the Supreme Court because of bad blood.

Jesus Christ taught us that it is not corruption from the outside that is the problem. But rather, corruption spews forth from within – from the heart.

*Matthew 15:17-20 "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? 18 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. 20 These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'"*

## SATAN CORRUPTED EVERY MAN'S HEART THOROUGHLY.

Only evil... great wickedness (6:5)

## SATAN CORRUPTED EVERY MAN'S HEART THOROUGHLY AND CONTINUALLY.

The Endurance of Man's Odiousness    All the time (6:5)    Every single day.

Paul tells us in Romans that there is "none who does good."

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians of those who do incredible "good deeds" but even these good deeds, without the love of God, are vain and useless. Everything, even the so called "good deeds" done by man, are now considered sinful because they are done by one with a bad heart.

Remember, when the holy joins with the contaminated, the holy becomes contaminated.

Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse told the illustration of a patient waiting to see the doctor. Sitting in the waiting room he became very thirsty. As he walked past the reception desk he saw a water cooler to his left. Only a few feet away was a glass that looked clean. As he filled the glass with the cool, fresh, clean water, it began to foam. The patient then asked the doctor walking by, "What's wrong with the water." The doctor then told him that the problem was not with the water, but with the glass. The glass looked clean, but still had remnants of a diphtheria solution. The water was pure, but the glass was not. Therefore, anything that came into contact with the glass became contaminated to.

There are some Christians who would deny such a deep and all-consuming corruption in man.

Some might say, "Men are good, but they become confused by the evil around them."

They feel I should not be so harsh. I am sounding too judgmental.

Some were insulted a few minutes ago when I called the "sons of men" the "sons of Satan." After all they say, "Aren't we all children of God?"

If these are your thoughts, then you do not correctly understand what Scripture teaches regarding the depth of sin and depravity within man.

The Armenian and the Roman Catholic both agree that within man there is some good in him, there is within him this little flicker of goodness. And that if man will simply choose God with that one little flicker, then God will begin the reconciliation process. (There is no flicker.) (When it comes to righteousness, you are flickerless.)

We are born lions, tigers, wolves and bears, until the Spirit of Christ tames us, and from wild and savage beasts forms us to be mild sheep. (Calvin)

This is not my philosophical perspective of mankind. This is not Calvin's. This is not Luther's. This is not even Moses'. But rather, it was God who looked down and saw, it was God who made the assessment of the situation, and it was God who

inspired Moses to write these words.

We have read here this morning God's description of man.

Allow me to further frustrate and insult you by reading the following divine prognosis of man's situation.

*Psalm 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

*Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." 13 "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." 14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 ruin and misery mark their ways, 17 and the way of peace they do not know." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

Satan was successful in thoroughly confusing and contaminating all the men on the earth. The same is true today.

## SATAN WAS SUCCESSFUL IN CONFLICTING MEN.

The Results of Man's Odiousness

Earth is filled with violence (6:13)

## SATAN WAS SUCCESSFUL IN CONDEMNING MEN.

### MEN BECAME CONTEMPTIBLE IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.

Man, created in the image of God, became odious to God.

God did not wish to look on their sin for so long. The Lord drastically shortens the lifespan of man to 120 years.

*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."*

God was inwardly disturbed, angry, and grieved.

*Genesis 6:6 The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.*

The Lord being "grieved" is also found in Genesis 6:7.

We see that the heroes of the world are the zeroes in the eyes of God. The heroic great ones are the ones who bring severe displeasure to God.

### MEN BECAME CONDEMNED IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.



*Genesis 6:7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth-- men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air ...*

*Genesis 6:13 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.*

God plans his destruction or extermination - men, animals and birds.

At this point, it appears that Satan has been most successful in his plot to corrupt the image of God on earth.

## CONCLUSION

Where is the Gospel? Where is the Good News?

When young folks tell me how terribly wicked they are, and therefore they are afraid that they cannot be saved, I sometimes reply, Yes, but you are much worse than you think you are. They look so astonished for they hoped to be comforted, and they are plunged into a deeper ditch. I tell them that the Lord Jesus came to save the weak and worthless. We lay the axe to the tree of self that men may fly to the tree of life. (C.H. Spurgeon)

In order for you to see Christ's sacrifice as Good News, you must first realize your need for Christ's sacrifice.

We have to first get lost to be found.

We have to be sick to be healed.

We have to be dead in our trespasses and sins in order to be raised to a new life.

The church has failed in that it has tried to show people they are really OK, and that Christ is an addition or extra. (Kind of like leather seats.)

14 So make yourself an ark of cypress 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.

Genesis 7:1 The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. 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. 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." 5 And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him. 6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. 7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. 8 Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, 9 male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

Genesis 8:15 Then God said to Noah, 16 "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. 17 Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you-- the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground-- so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it." 18 So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. 19 All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds-- everything that moves on the earth-- came out of the ark, one kind after another. 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. 21 The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. 22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO NOAH: PART 2

*I. We Should See Satan's Tireless Efforts To Corrupt God's Image*  
*II. We Should See Satan's Success In His Attempt To Corrupt God's Image*  
*III. We Should See Satan's Failure In Eternally Corrupt God's Image*  
*Outlining God's moves in the defeating of Satan*

## INTRODUCTION TO SERMON NUMBER TWO

### SATAN WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL IN HIS CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN.

Mankind was corrupt.

Every member of mankind, every single one was corrupt. There is not one left out of this group.

Every single individual was corrupt and warped and depraved from within.

Every single area of every single thought of every single heart of every single man was always corrupt ... thoroughly and continually and greatly.

And this was the situation, every single day.

Spurgeon helps us understand this natural situation of ours. He writes, "When young folks tell me how terribly wicked they are, and therefore they are afraid that they cannot be saved, I sometimes reply, Yes, but you are much worse than you think you are. They look so astonished for they hoped to be comforted, and they are plunged into a deeper ditch. I tell them that the Lord Jesus came to save the weak and worthless. We lay the axe to the tree of self that men may fly to the tree of life."

Was Satan successful in his corruption campaign? Absolutely.

The image of God was corrupt.

And the image of God was distasteful even to God – especially to God.

Scripture tells us that God was grieved and sorry that He had made man.

And then Genesis goes on to describe how this sorrowful, but violently angry God determined to exterminate the fallen, corrupt, and depraved human race.

### SATAN WAS VERY, VERY SUCCESSFUL. BUT ... HE WAS NOT ENTIRELY SUCCESSFUL.

God's righteous seed and family continued.

There has never been one period of history in which Satan has been able to squelch out the church and the family of God.

And that is evidenced by our sitting here today.

Christ, the promised redeemer, still came.

Christ still died for sinners and defeated Satan.

Christ is reigning on his throne in Heaven.

And you and I are sitting here praising, worshiping, singing, exalting, and serving God. Thousands of years after Satan's grand hoorah, God's truth, His people, and His church are marching on.

And so even in Satan's success, he was defeated.

## THIS BRINGS US TO OUR THESIS THIS MORNING.

In the midst of Satan's wondrous march towards victory, he was still failing. Even when Satan wins, he loses. He is the constant picture before us of "one step forward, two steps backward."

We are going to outline God's battle plan this morning. There are seven steps that led to Satan's grand parade being rained out.

And there is wonderful application for your life and mine today. For the same steps God used in defeating Satan and saving Noah, are the exact same steps He uses to defeat Satan and save men today.

Let's worship God through this sermon as we outline his magnificent moves in the humiliation of Satan.

# III. WE SHOULD SEE SATAN'S FAILURE IN ETERNALLY CORRUPT GOD'S IMAGE

*Outlining God's moves in the defeating of Satan*

## 1. SATAN FAILED BECAUSE GOD GAZED GRACE

### THE GAZE OF GOD

The "eyes of the Lord" or the "gaze of God" is a very interesting theme to study as it recurs again and again throughout Scripture.

There is nothing that happens on the earth that can escape the ever-penetrating eyes of God.

In Genesis chapter one, we see the “eyes of God” looking at His new creation and being very pleased. God “looked” and it was very good.

Over and over again in the Pentateuch, God tells Israel to obey the voice of the Lord and do what is right in His eyes. (Ex. 15:26; Deut. 12:25)

Special blessings are promised to those who do right in the land that God gazes on. (Deut. 11:12)

Deuteronomy 12:28 Be careful to obey all these regulations I am giving you, so that it may always go well with you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is good and right in the eyes of the LORD your God.

In the book of Judges, Israel is described as the people who did evil in the “eyes of the Lord” as they served the gods of Baal, Aram, Sidon, Asherah and others. (Judges 2:11; Judges 3:7; Judges 3:12; Judges 10:6)

God then judges His people and places them in the hands of the Midianites and Philistines, because they did “evil in His sight.” (Judges 13:1)

Dozens of times, the phrase “eyes of the Lord” are used in the books of Kings and Chronicles to describe either the obedience or disobedience of the various kings. (1 Kings 15:11; 15:26; 15:34; 16:7; 16:25; 2 Kings 8:18; 10:30; 12:2)

1 Kings 11:6 So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done.

2 Kings 12:2 Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, always watching, never sleeping.

2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war."

Psalms 11:4 The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD is on his heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; his eyes examine them. (Psalms 33:18)

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

In Genesis 6:5, we see the eyes of the Lord searching, seeing, and seething. God looks, sees the wickedness of men, and becomes sorrowful and enraged.

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.

Then some of the most beautiful language in the Bible is found in Genesis 6:8-9. Imagine the darkness and corruption on earth.

Imagine the anger and violence ready to be exploded upon man. Imagine the terror that is about to reign. And then we read the following words.

Genesis 6:8-9 But Noah found favor (grace) in the eyes of the LORD. This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.

#### The Graceful Gaze of God

Noah found or acquired something different from the other men of his day.

The word “found” (masa) can easily mean “acquire”.

Noah not only had God gazing on him, but Noah had God gracefully gazing on him.

Noah found or acquired (hen) in Hebrew. This word is best translated favor or grace.

Noah found this in the eyes or in the view of the Lord.

God looked at Noah differently ... with grace (hen).

What is “hen” or “grace”?

It is a favorable glance, not deserved.

This verse is carrying the idea of receiving a privileged glance.

God is looking down with a unique eye toward Noah.

In a sense, God was looking down at Noah through “rose colored glasses.”

He saw Noah in a different sense, or in a different light.

What caused God to look at Noah in this graceful fashion?

Noah was included in the everyone

Noah did not deserve God’s favor.

Noah did not earn God’s favor.

Noah did not buy or negotiate God’s favor.

Noah did not convince God to favor him.

Noah did not receive justice.

Noah did not receive fair and equitable compensation.

Noah was the recipient of the graceful gaze of God.

As usual, there are some who would disagree with me regarding God’s graceful gaze.

Some people believe that God loved Noah and provided his way of escape because of Noah's walk.

God looked down, saw that Noah was really good, and said, "He deserves to be saved."

Some would like to switch the order of verses 8 and 9 in order to prove this point.

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. 9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.

But the verse order here helps us.

There is absolutely nothing in the text, English or Hebrew, that gives us the idea that Noah found grace because he was righteous, blameless and walking with God.

Rather, it is the exact opposite. Noah found grace, and then acted gracefully.

Because he received grace from God, Noah then acted differently than his contemporaries.

In the same way, you don't act "Christianly" to become a Christian. Rather, you become a "Christian" and then begin to act "Christianly."

Noah's righteousness or his right living was the **result** of God's grace, not the **cause** or **merit**.

Noah's blameless testimony before others was the result of God's grace, not the reason for it.

And Noah's communion or "walk with God" is the fruit of his relationship with God, not the cause.

And so the same is true for you and me. We are saved, and then we see the fruit. No fruit, no salvation. No change, no cure. No works, no faith. For true grace and salvation always leads to the graceful life. Are you saved? Have you received grace? What does your walk say?

So grace is by nature something that is given. If grace were based on anything, then it would not be grace.

And Noah received this graceful glance from God.

And this was the first step towards the "failing" of Satan.

## 2. SATAN FAILED BECAUSE GOD GAVE REVELATION

God does not simply look down with favor on men. Something must happen in order for these men to become favorable.

Something must happen to save or rescue men from their pitiful condition. That something is salvation.

So how does one find God's method of salvation?

Does one invent his own method of salvation and hope that God will be satisfied.

Does one act in a similar fashion to Toby McGuire who on the front of Parade magazine states very proudly, "I had to find my own truth."

No! The information you need comes from God.

It is God who is offended.

It is God who chooses to be merciful.

It is God who outlines the steps necessary towards reconciliation with Him.

Therefore one must find the "mind of God" regarding salvation and communion with our Holy God.

No, God is the one who grants salvation and who provides the necessary means.

And this means there must be revelation. God must reveal the information that is necessary.

This is exactly what God did. We see this very clearly our Scriptures. God looked down with grace and favor in his eyes, and then communicated his salvific plan for Noah and his family. Noah received the needed divine revelation that outlined the path he was to take.

Genesis 6:13 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.

Genesis 6:14 So make yourself an ark ...

Genesis 6:17 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. 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.

Genesis 7:4 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."

Notice that God names his plan of salvation. He calls it his "covenant."

This is the first time in the Bible that the term "covenant" is used, but it is certainly not the last. From my study, it appears that it will be used another 272 times.

Scripture teaches of God's covenant with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Israel, David, and the culmination of all these in the New Covenant.

This is why we in our religious tradition speak of "covenant theology", "covenant children" and so on.



Some think that Presbyterians have “covenant on the brain”, but we can’t help it. We see it as a central pervasive theme throughout Scripture.

We are covenant recipients just like Noah.

We only know what God is thinking, doing, and how we are to respond because of His revelation to us.

God is God. We are the recipients and beneficiaries of his covenant. We love this, appreciate this, and desire to order our lives around the promises that God has made to us through Christ. It is a beautiful thing to be the “covenant people” of God.

Do you know the saving plan of God for you today? Do you know the terms of God’s covenant? Where would one go to find this important?

We don’t go to a mountain top and lose ourselves in a meditative trance like the Tibetan monks to hear from God.

We don’t work ourselves up into a fevered trance like the pagan worshipers frantically dancing in Africa

We go to church to hear the word of God preached and read. We go to our desks to read the word of God for ourselves. We sit on our sofas and read the word of God with our family.

No revelation, no hope. No Bible, then no revelation, and therefore no hope. God desired to save Noah, and so he gave Noah revelation. What a privilege it is to receive divine revelation from God..

### 3. SATAN FAILED BECAUSE GOD PROVIDED THE MEANS

(ON THE NOTES SHEET I ONLY HAVE TWO BLANKS)

There has to be a way of salvation.

God could have chosen to give Noah supernatural gills.

Maybe he could have sent down Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatuses.

And the same God that looked down with grace, and gave revelation, also outlined the only means whereby Noah and his family could be saved.

Let’s analyze the means of salvation prescribed by God.

### THE MEANS OF SALVATION WAS PERFECT

God outlined the perfect remedy for Noah’s problem.

Genesis 6:14 So make yourself an ark of cypress 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.

This would have been a huge ship. It would not be until the year 1858 that a greater ship was constructed. (Great Eastern) It is an interesting note that nautical engineers have determined that a boxlike, floatable structure like this would be incredibly stable and almost impossible to capsize.

How could a man who had never seen rain, never built a boat, living in the Middle East, possibly build such a magnificent sailing vessel? Only one answer ... he had a great nautical engineer working on his behalf ... God Almighty.

So, for salvation from God's flood, one needed God's boat.

And for salvation from God's holy wrath, one needs God's holy sacrifice.

Christ, just like the ark, was the perfect sacrifice.

## THE MEANS OF SALVATION WAS BIZARRE

In the mind of many, Noah was an absolute idiot.

Have you heard about that religious fanatic Noah that lives over in Palm Beach, Mesopotamia?

That Noah, he is so heavenly minded that he was no earthly good.

How foolish for him to waste his time building this thing he calls an "ark."

A little religion is alright, but he has gone over the edge. Moderation my friend, moderation.

They couldn't understand his mission in life.

There had been no rain ... obviously no floods.

God had not spoken to them.

Things on this earth appeared to be going pretty well.

Sheep futures were on the rise, and the Dow was making a comeback.

Can you imagine his family's questions?

Can you imagine how hot and smelly it got?

Can you imagine the mocking that took place from Noah's neighbors

Noah faced ridicule, weariness, doubting, mockery, loneliness, temptation

But Noah was willing to be considered an idiot in the eyes of the world.

He was willing to pursue the odd, the bizarre and the foolish.

He persevered for 120 years while he built the boat.

This is what all people pursuing God and his means of salvation are called to do. Listen to the words of Paul.

1 Corinthians 2:7-14 No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood it ... The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned

1 Corinthians 1:27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

1 Corinthians 3:18 Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise.

2 Corinthians 12:10-11a That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. I have made a fool of myself

Spurgeon was known for saying that he would willingly be regarded as a dog now by the liberal skeptics and those in his community, knowing that in 50 years he would be vindicated.

Vindication time will come.

And so, I urge you to pursue the bizarre. I urge you to be a fool. Go ahead be a fanatic. Pursue your "ark" which is Christ, though all men tag you as crazy or mad.

God's way of salvation is truly bizarre ... but it is truly beautiful.

## THE MEANS OF SALVATION IS FAMILIAL

God's means of salvation for Noah was perfect, bizarre, and it is familial.      God loves to save families.

Here he saved Noah and his family.

Later he makes a covenant to Abraham and his family.

God then saves Lot and his family.

Joseph is responsible for saving his family.

And on and on it goes.

Look at the emphasis that Scripture places on Noah ... and his family.

Genesis 6:10 Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.    (Strange placement)

Genesis 6:18 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.

Genesis 7:7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.

Genesis 7:13 On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark.

Genesis 8:16 "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives.

Genesis 8:18 So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives.

Genesis 9:8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him:

Genesis 9:9 "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you

Genesis 9:18 The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Biographical Information Regarding Noah: Noah comes from the line of Seth. When Noah was born, six of these ancestors were still living: Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Methuselah, Lamech. Noah means, "comfort, rest."

Do a study here of Enoch, the godly great-grandfather.

We are not simply individuals in the eyes of God.

The sins of the fathers are passed from one generation to another. And the blessing of the righteous is passed down for a thousand generations.

How many beautiful accounts of salvation in the New Testament include an adult, and their family.

I am not in any way promising that once a parent is saved, every member of his family will go to Heaven.

All I am saying at this point is that God loves to save families, and this is his normal way of doing things.

Moms and dads, you have a responsibility. But moms and dads, you have great hope, for God loves to save families.

## THE MEANS OF SALVATION IS TO BE PREACHED

God provided a salvation that was perfect, bizarre, familial, and to be preached or proclaimed.

What did Noah do with this revelation?

He did what every loving, considerate, passionate, God-honoring person would do. He proclaimed it.

How do we know this?

2 Peter calls Noah the “preacher of righteousness.”

This is the mark of one who has received grace and revelation.

Do you preach? Do you invite others to hear preaching? Do you proclaim? Do you tell?

## THE MEANS OF SALVATION IS TO BE OBEYED, HEEDED, FOLLOWED, ACTED UPON.

Noah was not a “hyper-Calvinist.”

He definitely believed that man, including himself, is totally depraved.

He definitely believed that God provided the means of salvation.

He definitely believed that God is the one who bestows mercy.

But look at Noah's actions, or his response.

Genesis 6:22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

Genesis 7:5 And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

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.

God gives the covenant, and he saves those who keep the covenant.

Noah had to obey God.

Noah had to build the ark.

Noah had to get into the ark when God commanded him to do so.

Noah had a responsibility to obey the voice of God.

Noah kept the covenant.

And so do you.

You are depraved.

You are dead in your sins.

You are without hope, except for the graceful gaze of God.

You have now heard His revelation preached.

Now ... respond, believe, repent, confess, turn, die to self and follow Christ.

This is not an invitation, this is a command.

Will you obey?

#### 4. SATAN FAILED BECAUSE GOD GUARANTEED SALVATION

God glanced with love ... gave revelation ... provided the necessary and perfect means ... and now we see that God guarantees the salvation of those that enter through His designed means.

There is great significance to be found in the following verse.

Genesis 7:16 The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

In a sense God is saying, "Watch your fingers, I am locking you in."

But what a terror to also realize that the same action that locks a family in, locks another family out.

God's longsuffering and patience has come to an end. He has not lost his patience, but has ended it.

Can you imagine the thoughts of those who were not in the ark? (mocking, partying in the early rain, mildly concerned, serious concerned, panic till death)

Can you imagine the heart of Noah as he felt the people pound, knock and scream?

This event was the closest thing to Hell that the world has ever seen. (Greatest destruction) (Greatest casualties) (Greatest purging) (Never to be equaled again until the very end)

Can you imagine the emotions you might have when you see those who are on the wrong side of the final judgment?

Can you feel the pain now? Good ... Go preach!

In this verse, you see an interesting play on words in the original Hebrew.

Genesis 7:16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God (Elohim) had commanded him: and the LORD (Jehovah) shut him in.

Elohim is the name of God used to describe the Almighty One who creates and commands.

But here for the first time, Jehovah is used.

Elohim creates and commands all, but Jehovah closes the door on some.

Do you know of Jehovah ... the God who saves and closes the deal?

The one who finishes the job ... secures salvation for believers ... the assuror of safety ... the God who closes the door?

I hope so.

A great preacher once said, "What he opens, no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open."

Do you know who said that? It was the apostle John.

Revelation 3:7 "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. 8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Jesus Christ describes salvation in similar words in his parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25.

Matthew 25:1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' 7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9 "No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 11 "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' 12 "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' 13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

My friends, Jesus Christ is the way, truth, the life, and the door.

I proclaim to you this morning that the door is open. Come in.

And it is a one-way door. For whoever enters, is then shut in by Jehovah, the God of the door.

What a glorious truth. The God who grants salvation and provides salvation, He secures salvation.

There is nothing that can separate my soul from my savior.

## 5. SATAN FAILED BECAUSE GOD COMPLETED SALVATION

We know that the boat worked perfectly.

We know that God remembered Noah - God sent a wind to drive the water from the earth

We know that God's people landed safely.

God kept His Word.

## 6. SATAN FAILED BECAUSE GOD'S JUDGMENT EXTERMINATED THE UNHOLY SEED

In the end, Satan's plan backfired.

The evil seed was exterminated, and the godly seed was all that remained.



And so we see that Satan's successes are really God's successes.

## 7. SATAN FAILED BECAUSE GOD WAS WORSHIPED AND GLORIFIED ... AND HE WAS HUMILIATED.

For Satan ... one step forward and two steps backward.

God still has a worshiping family.

### THE COVENANT FAMILY WORSHIP BY SACRIFICE

God had Noah bring two of every animal into the ark except for the clean animals. Of these, Noah was to bring seven of every kind. (Gen. 7:2)

And then, to make sure this gets done, God brings the animals to Noah. (Genesis 7:9, 15)

Why the emphasis on the clean animals?

Because God was planning on Noah worshiping him through sacrifice.

This is one more proof that God was passionately interested in the sacrificial worship of Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel and Noah.

Noah's first action was to sacrifice and worship.

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.

And the Lord loved it.

Genesis 8:21 The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. 22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

What do you do when you are saved?

You worship the God who saved you.

And so here we are.

Worshiping corporately every Lord's Day.

Worshiping through the sacrifice of our lives every day.

WE COULD ALSO TALK ABOUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO WORSHIP THROUGH REPRODUCING, RULING, AND OBEYING, BUT THAT WOULD TAKE ANOTHER SERMON.

# CONCLUSION: THERE ARE WINNERS AND LOSERS.

Matthew 24:37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

## CHRIST

HE IS THE GIVER OF SALVATION.

HE IS THE MEANS OF SALVATION.

HE IS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR SALVATION.

HE IS THE ARK.

EVERYONE HE LOVES, HE SAVES. ALL THAT HE SAVES ARE TRULY AND ETERNALLY SECURE.

John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

THOSE ON HIS TEAM ARE WINNERS.

## SATAN

HE IS THE PROMOTER OF EVIL.

HE IS BENT ON DESTRUCTION OF ALL MEN.

AND EVEN WHEN HE SUCCEEDS, HE FAILS.

A flood came ... extinguished his seed.

Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery ... Israel was saved.

Christ was killed ... eternally life was acquired for believers.

Paul slayed Christians ... Paul led the charge of Christianity.

## HERE THE CALL

Isaiah 55:1 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Revelation 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. (The fountain is not yet dry. The market is not yet closed.)

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (The arms of God are not yet full.)

## REVELATION OF DESTRUCTION AND JUDGMENT

God states that he will destroy not only men, but also the earth.

Destruction will be by the floodwaters. (17)

Did God destroy the earth at the flood, or is this a future prophecy? Universal?

Some feel this is “phenomenal language” which is “as it would appear to Noah.” The flood was therefore a localized flood in the region of the Mesopotamian valley. The animals that came were the animals indigenous to that area that would need protection from the rising floods.

Scientific Problem #1: If the earth was a perfect sphere, then the amount of water needed to cover the earth would reach a depth of 5-6 miles. But the estimated amount of water needed would be only 2.5 to 3 miles high. God would have had to create this much more water and then uncreated it. (How do you explain a boat getting to the top of Mount Ararat?) (Look how long it took the waters to recede ... almost one year. No localized flood takes that long for the waters to dissipate.) (Why did God command Noah to get in a boat? Why not command Noah to move to a new location like Lot?) (In addition, God's promise never to do “this” again would not have been kept if it was a localized flood.)

Scientific Problem #2: And if God did create this much water, that would alter the weight of the earth and therefore change the orbital path around the sun, and the moon's path around the earth. (Some feel that most of the earth was already covered with water at that time, and that the amount of dry ground today is not the same as it was then.)

Scientific Problem #3: In addition, there would be a drastic problem with the mixing of salt water and freshwater and the survival of fish and sea-life.

Scientific Problem #4: In addition, how did animals cross seas, oceans and mountain ranges in order to make it to Noah? (Animals were already there because Adam named them.)

Scientific Problem #5: How did Noah provide the unique environments needed by each animal, including their needed food supply?

Not having the answers does not mean they are impossibilities.

Problem is, Noah did not write this. Moses did ... and the very words came from God.

It cannot happen unless God transgressed the laws of nature ... and He did ... a miracle.

Terminology: All life, every creature, everything

Genesis 7:19 They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered.

Genesis 7:22 Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died.

More than 30 times in Genesis 6-9, the idea of a universal flood is stated. (Henry Morris, The Genesis Record, Page 199)

Other Biblical texts: Peter speaks of two supernatural events that people do not recognize 2 Peter 3:5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. ... 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. (Creation, Flood)

Flood stories are part of nearly every culture on the globe. (Manu is the flood hero of India) (Gilgamesh Epic found in ancient Nineveh) (New Guinea) (American Indians) (Brazil) (Peru) (The Ark on Ararat, Tim LaHaye, John Morris) (200 flood legends from around the world, 88% have a favored family, 70% find survival in a boat, 95% flood, 67% animals are saved, 57% survivors end up on a mountain)

Boat on Mount Ararat: Discovered in 1955 by a Russian aviator named Vladmimir Roskovitsky.

"At present geology does not prove the flood, but it does not disprove it either. And it actually discloses quite a few items that might be best explained by a flood of worldwide dimensions. There is no reason for the Christian to reject the simple meaning of the Genesis story – nor for anyone else to reject it either. On the contrary, there is every reason to take it as simple truth and move on from that point to ponder the grave warning of God's ultimate judgment of sin embodied in it." (Boice, 366)

Answers to objections: Too many species to put on an ark and care for them for a year. (Read Boice, 328-329)