

I Know A Man

Genesis 6-9

This year, 2020, our youth group have decided to make it our **year of Biblical narratives**, which means we will be spending our time studying through the **redemptive story from Genesis to Revelation**, to see how every story whispers the name of Jesus.

Following our series, today I get the privilege to preach on Noah, and this brings back memories, because it was the first story that I ever taught a class.

Noah's Ark is one of those stories that almost everyone knows about, it's one of those famous bedtime stories that you tell your kids, there's hundreds of children books in every Christian store. And we see huge paintings on walls and churches. The irony is that this is not a kid-friendly story. It's an incredible story, but this is about a global flood that God sent to kill off every living thing.

There has been a lot of questions floating around Noah's Ark.

- **How could a good God** do this?
- Or was this a **global flood** or a **regional flood**?
- Or have they **found the Ark**? I have heard many **crazy claims** on google.

Or we have questions about the story itself, like;

- **How could you even fit all those animals** on the Ark?
- How **much poop** would all those animals produce daily?
- Where was the **Dinosaurs**, did they miss the boat, or did Noah not let them on?
- And why did Noah allowed animals like **snakes, tarantulas, or cats** to get on the ark, when we know they are evil.

These are all great questions... but they are not the main focus of this story. Therefore, they are not the main point of this message. This historical event is about the **corruption of humanity and the wrath of God**. (Not the cutest story) The flood was God's way of washing the world of evil and starting over.

But if you read till the end of the story, you would know that the "new creation" **failed**. Listen, not because God failed, but because through that, **God wants to show us, the extreme measure it will take to purify the world of sin**. It's going to take more than water and flood, but **by his own sacrifice through his own blood**.

I have title this message "**I Know A Man**" because God did not know-a righteous man, so He sent one instead.

This narrative is found in Genesis chapter 6 through chapter 9, there are so many good details in this story, and I hope that you read it in your bible reading plan last week, but if you didn't, you should go read this incredible story this week.

But for our time today, I have put together **5 short points, that I think, summarize this whole story for us**. And in these points, we will be focusing on the character of God and his actions through the story.

5 points that summarize this narrative

1. The Furious Grief of God (Gen.6:1-7)

• The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

• And the Lord **regretted** that he had made man on the earth, and it **grieved** him to his heart. • So the Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am **sorry** that I have made them.”

These verses about God’s judgment bothers a lot of people... “*why would God regret making man?*” You have to understand it bothers God so much more, than it bothers you. It **grieved** him to his heart. He is **literally heartbroken** over it.

- In (v.6) The word for “**grieved to the heart**” in Hebrew is a painful word (אָצַב) (aw-tsab') that described something being carved out.¹ As if God is saying the wickedness of man is hollowing out his heart. Sin and corruption have made him sick to his stomach.
- The opening of chapter 6 tells us of **sexual perversions**. “²*The sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose.*” Scholars are not sure what this means. Some people think this is demons having sexual relations with humans, but honestly, I think this is to say that Godly people started to sleep around with ungodly people. And sex became whenever with whoever and marriage was no longer important before God.
- So God said in v5 that “*Every intention of the thought in man’s heart was evil all the time.*” God knows that these wicked people will never turn back to him, they will continue to live in sin, in violent, and in despair. He has no other choice, but to wipe the world clean and start over.
- **That’s what love does; love would take extreme measures**. That’s why we allow our love ones to go through, painful treatments, like chemotherapy so that they could be rid of cancer.
- Sin, like a disease, has consumed the human race, now God is taking an extreme measure by sending a flood to literally clean the earth.
- **He loves his creation too much to let it persist in wickedness,**
- **and he loves justice too much to let the wicked go unpunished.**
- so he decided to do something about it.

Here is our second part of the story.

¹ <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/6087.htm>

2. The Favored Grace of God (Gen.6:8-10)

⁸ **But Noah found favor (or grace) in the eyes of the Lord.**

Why? What was special about Noah? Nothing.

Vs. 9 tells you **he was a righteous man, blameless in his generation.**

Is that because he had no sin in his heart?

- No, he had plenty of evil in his heart—you'll see that at the end of the story.

Heb 11:7 says that he was **righteous because he responded** to God's offer of salvation.

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith...became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

- Noah's **righteousness** was the **gift that comes by faith**
- Noah was not perfect, but he believed God, and received God's **favor** by surrendering his heart.
- **That's always the way people become righteous.** You don't earn it, you don't work for it, you don't strive for it, **God grants righteousness**, as a gift, to all who will believe and respond in faith will be saved. That is the **favored grace of God**.

Noah's faith drove him to obedience.

- We are given the exact measurements of the ark. It's about a football field and a half.
- Think about how dumb Noah looks building a huge boat on a mountain, for 100 years.
- Noah was probably mocked for 100 years for trusting God, and built the boat.
- That's what real faith looks like.
- Faith is not just a belief; it should always produce actions. That's why James 2 says **faith without works is dead**.
- Your obedience is the evidence of your Faith with God.
- Here is what you have to realized, **it's not your obedience to God that you are righteous, but because you have been made righteous through faith, now you gladly obey God and serve him.**

The next point in the story

3. The Floodgates of God (Gen. 7:11-16)

"In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

"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.

"The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord shut him in.

First of all, let's take a moment and appreciate Noah was 600 years old. If God can use Noah, he can use anyone, it doesn't matter how **old** you are, or how **little** you are.

Most of the time God chooses the weakest ordinary people to demonstrate his strength and his power.

V11 tells us, that water sprung up from underground, and rain poured down from the floodgates of heaven. The tallest mountains were covered under 23 feet of water. And the flood remained for 5 months. Killing every living thing under it.

- *You never see this part in the children's books.
- Can you imagine the same people that mocked of him and criticized him, are now crying and beating on the door of the ark and begged to come in, but it was too late.
- In v16 the Lord shut the door of the boat.
- You know, it took Noah 100 years to build that boat, and in that time, **God was giving people the chance to return to him** and get in the boat, but they refused.
- **And let me warn you, there is coming a day, where he will once again judge the earth, and this time it is with fire.**
- 2 Peter 3:6-7, "By these waters the world of that time was... destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserve for fire... for the day of judgment and the destruction of the ungodly."
- In my short years of teaching and living out God's words, I have had countless people, friends, and family, turned against me, criticizing me, because **I openly talk about the judgment of God.** Listen, There is a living hell, an eternal punishment, set for those who have sinned against an eternal God.
- How can we talk about **Noah**, and not talk about **judgment**, how can we living among lost people and not talk about the hope we have in Jesus?
- And the only reason He is taking so long to return today, is that He wants YOU to have a chance to repent and enter into Jesus.
- **Jesus is our ark of salvation**, and if you are not found in him, God's judgment is upon YOU.
- Proverbs 18:10, "The name of the Lord is a strong fortress; the righteous run into it and they are safe."
- **We believe that, those who confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord, and have faith in their heart, that he has withstand the wrath of God in our place, will be saved!**
- He's coming back. He may be slow; but he's just giving YOU a chance to flee to Jesus for safety.
- **Ex:** My worst fear... (they will be judge for their sin but blood on your hands, blameless)
- (V.10) So after 40 days and 40 nights on the ark, Noah sent out birds to check out the land and the dove brought back an olive branch to indicate that there was dry land and new life after the judgment.
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Our story continues to our next phrase, point 4.

4. The Future Guarantee of God (Gen.8:20-Gen.9:6)

Gen 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.* The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: *“Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.”*

God made a promised with humans, that he will never destroy the world in that way again. Now in chapter 9, God made a **covenant** with Noah, like a vow in marriage, or a contract among people.

In this **covenant** God repeats the voice of Eden.

- Gen. 9:1 *“And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”*

- In Eden, God said, “you must NOT eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil or you will die.” Now in the new world, he said to Noah in (v4)

4 “But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. 5 And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting ... And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being.

- I know that sounds confusing, but God is just teaching us the **principle of the value of human life**. He says that there is life within blood, and when you shed blood you are talking its life away. So if you take another person’s life, for that crime, your blood will be demanded.² Blood for blood in (v6)

*6 “Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the **image of God** has God made mankind.*

- God wants to show us that **he places a high value on human life**, the price for taking a life is a life.
- Which means **Every human being**—of whatever race, color, age, status, level of intelligence or level of development—**bears his image** and is precious in his sight.
- So if we see someone being mistreated, abused, or killed it should **grieve** us as much as it **grieves** him. Because they are made in the **image of God**.
- That’s why as believers, we stand up against injustice of the **unborn**. Because each baby is created by God and her life should not be taken from her.
- Someone people say: **“My right, my body.”**
 - **But the unborn child is not part of your body. The baby has her own DNA, and her own blood type. It’s not yours.**
 - Human life belongs to God, and only he has the right to take it away. So it’s our job to protect the innocent!

Proverbs 31:8-9 “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. 9 Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

- That means for the elderly, the sick, the special needs, the immigrants, **and the children**— all people are made in the **image of God** and they deserve our love and protection.

Just look at where our culture has gone since the generation of Noah, we have all broken God’s covenant.

But all of that to say, God knows our weaknesses, he knows that we are evil people since birth, and we deserve his judgment. **But God made a way for us**. We have a **future guarantee in Christ**. In our passage v21 God says, *“Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood.”*

- **Our wickedness against God, deserves punish from God**. He has the right to take our life and spill our blood. But God chose to spare us, He chose to not repay us as our sin deserve. He chose to send his son Jesus Christ, to **bear that judgment in our place**. His life was taken, and his blood was spilled.

We have a future guarantee that anyone who comes to Jesus will be saved from judgment. This is our hope!

Which leads us to my last point to wrap up our story.

² <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/genesis-9-4.html>

5. The Faultless Gift of God (Gen 9:12-17)

If you know anything about the end of the story in chapter 9 you would see that Noah, the father of the new creation, failed. He plants a grape garden, made wine, and passed out drunk in his tent. And the story ends with how it opened with some kind of sexual perversions, wickedness from the heart, and once again humanity is left naked in a garden. **Sin** is still there, **shame** is still there, **wickedness** is still there.

- Now you ask yourself why God couldn't just snap his fingers and get rid of sin and evil, well if he did that, then he would have gotten rid of YOU. Have you realized, that **you are evil to the heart?**

God wants to show us, that in order to save us, there must be a better solution. He must clean the heart! **God then gave us a sign to points us to his faultless gift of salvation.**

V13 *"I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."*

- Charles Spurgeon pointed out that the word for "**Bow**" here in Hebrew is "**Gesed**" means a **war-bow** or a **bow and arrow**.
- Of course, a **rainbow** is what God puts in the sky, but according to Spurgeon, the rainbow shows us that God has laid down his war bow in the heavens.
 - In fact, Spurgeon, pointed out, *"if you look at this rainbow, it's a bow of many colors. Not a bloodstained bow, but a bow of joy. A bow NOT turned downwards to shoot at us, but upwards."*³
 - This points to God will one day wipe out evil from the earth, not by shooting the arrow of wrath into us, but by taking the flaming arrows of his own wrath, into himself.

And that's where you start to see hints about Jesus all through this story...

- **Jesus will one day come, like a better Noah... a righteous and blameless man.**
- Where Noah and all of us have **failed**, Jesus was faultless.
- While **Noah obeyed God** even when people mocked him, **Jesus obeyed God** even when people persecuted him and killed him.
- While **Noah provided an Ark** made of gopher wood, **Jesus was hung on a wood cross to provide salvation** through himself, his own **flesh and blood**,
 - That's why we take **communion**, to say that now we are in Christ, a new creation, **he is our ark of salvation!**
- While Noah saw God washing the world of sin, to start the new creation, Jesus came to wash our hearts of sin, to start a new person.
 - That's why believers get baptize, to say that *"we have been wash by the blood."*
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!"*
- Jesus is our only savior, and he will protect us from the storm of God's wrath and lift us up above the waters of judgment.
- **And like Noah's ark, this Ark of Salvation only has one door. One way.**
- John 10:9, *"I am the door. If anyone enters in by me, he will be saved..."*
- One day, just as he did in Noah's generation, he will shut that door and no more chance will be given.

Have you fled to the Ark of Jesus for safety?

Are you warning others? *(I know a man that can save)*

³ <https://www.ccel.org/ccel/spurgeon/sermons21.lvi.html>