

RAIN RAIN GO AWAY

Genesis 6-9

INTRO Turn your Bibles or turn them on, to the first book of God's Holy writ, the book of Genesis. I will cover a lot of scripture today from chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9 of this great book. If you are familiar with God's Word, then you are aware that these chapters tell the story of Noah and His God. I have titled my sermon today, "RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY"

This past Thursday, after a Wednesday of bad storms, I challenged you in our prayer text together to think about what it will be like when finally, the dark night of this life is over and we awaken to a brand new and glorious day with God, when the sunshine of His countenance warms our beings. What a day that will be! I would like to continue that thought today as we look at the life of Noah for just a few minutes.

Now, to presume that one can expound the life of Noah in a single sermon is a bit audacious, I admit. But I do believe there are truths here that we can bump into for a moment and still benefit from the encounter. Instead of reading aloud 2 ½ chapters word for word, let me give you a textual overview of the event. It's still going to be a lot of verses, but it should be very interesting to you.

Before I read the account, let me speak to a common misconception concerning Noah and his famous Ark. There are those outside, and some within, the church that claim this story is nothing more than a fairytale. They can't believe with their small finite minds that anything of this magnitude and nature could have possibly taken place. They choose not to believe despite a mountain of scientific evidence that says indeed a global flood did take place. The Bible, God's Holy, inerrant, infallible, and authoritative Word, tells us that Noah was a real man that God declared as righteous among his generation. God spoke with Noah, and Noah walked with God.

Besides the Genesis account, Noah is mentioned in 8 other books of the Bible. Let me read those from the New Testament.

Matthew 24:37-38 *"For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,"*

Hebrews 11:7 *"By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household..."*

1 Peter 3:18-20 *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, 20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through (the) water."*

And in 2 Peter 2:5 the Bible calls Noah, "a preacher of righteousness..."

Noah was a real man, who built a really big Ark. And because of his faithfulness to the command of God to do so, everyone alive today owes him a debt of gratitude.

Now, let's read together and see what these chapters can teach us about our lives!

Genesis 6:5-7 “The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground...”

Genesis 6:8-10, 18 “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. 9 This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. 10 Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. 18 And God said, “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 6:13-17, 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 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 three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. 16 Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. 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... 22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him.”

Genesis 7:1-3 “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 pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, 3 and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth.”

Genesis 7:7-9, 13-14, 16 “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... 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. 14 They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind... 16 The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord shut him in.”

Genesis 7:11-12 “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. 12 And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.”

Genesis 8:1-5 “But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters started to recede. 2 Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. 3 The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of a hundred and fifty days the water had gone down (quiet a bit), 4 and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. 5 And the waters continued to recede...”

Genesis 8:8-12 “Noah sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. 9 But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark... 10 He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. 11 When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. 12 He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.”

Genesis 8:14-20 “By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. (That’s 371 days they have been closed up on the ARK) 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 on 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... came out of the ark, one kind after another. 20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord...”

They came out and Noah built an altar to the Lord! Can you imagine how great it must have felt to walk down that gangplank and step off on dry ground? What a relief it must have been for Noah, and his family, as all those animals started running around and eventually ran off into the unknown of their new environment, to know he would never have to feed or clean up after another animal ever again! I CAN JUST ABOUT GUARANTEE THAT NOAH HAD NO PETS FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!

We don’t know for sure what life was like onboard the ark, but we know enough to speculate on some things. Have you ever been to a zoo? First of all, it would have been noisy, with chimpanzees and peacocks screaming, birds singing and squawking! Have you ever been to the Eyrich’s? Dave’s birds will give you a heart attack when they sound off! It would have stunk, or stank, whichever, or both! I can’t emphasize this enough! It would have gone on 24 hours a day! Some animals are nocturnal. I’m sure Noah and God had more than a couple conversations about that. SEA SICKNESS, Omygeee, can you imagine? Not only Noah and his family, but the animals as well probably got sick!

The Bible tells us that “all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.” What we’re reading about in this verse is a cataclysmic event like nothing ever before or after it. Brutal storms of lightening and torrential rains pouring down from above. But not only is judgement coming from above, it’s also coming from within. Scientists tell us that the springs of the great deep bursting forth were likely the trigger that ultimately resulted in the continental-sized break-up of the earth’s crust. The bursting forth of subterranean waters would have most definitely produced great tsunamis and violent raging seas. This means that the Flood began as a savage, catastrophic event. And that’s exactly what we see in scripture when God pours out His wrath upon the earth. The account of Revelation teems with calamity as God pours out his wrath upon sinful, rebellious humanity. And it’s upon these raging seas that Noah and his family, and the last of the world’s animal life hang in the balance between life and death! I would have died of motion sickness, I’m sure. WOW, CAN YOU IMAGINE?

Okay, you may say, Wayne, that’s awful, I’m glad it was Noah and not me that went through that. And don’t get me wrong, I love these old Bible stories. They are exciting and dramatic. But I need something for today, not something that happened 4500 years ago. What can you tell me that will help with my current financial crisis? What can you tell me that will help me know how to care for my child? How can I get out of this situation I’m in and find peace of mind once again? I need my rain rain to go away. I get it. Notice...

I) NOAH'S FAITH: Genesis 6:22 *"Noah did everything just as God commanded him."* That is a huge statement! I mean God had just told Noah He was going to wipe out all humanity, all life of every kind. He then tells him to build a boat that is just, even by today's standard, massive! And Noah, somehow, had faith enough to say yes, and he did everything just as God commanded!

The Bible doesn't tell us exactly how long it took for Noah to build the Ark. Best guess is between 50 and 75 years. And we don't know that Noah had any help. Although we can assume that his 3 sons helped. Maybe his father Lamech, and his grandfather, Methuselah helped before they died. But we don't know for sure. What we do know is that this would have been a colossal undertaking for anyone of that day, for anyone of any day!

In the last 10 years, there have been two arks built to the biblical specs of Noah's ark. One, in the Netherlands, built by Johan Huibers and 8 of his friends, and then the Ark Encounter in Kentucky, built by the fine people at Answers In Genesis. Both were massive projects that cost a small fortune! We have no reason to believe that Noah was a rich man. The only thing we know about him for sure is what is mentioned after the flood. In Genesis 9:20 the Bible says, *"Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard."* That's all we really know, other than, he was a righteous man that walked with God. So, it could be that Noah was just a good old farmer boy. But when God told him to build a boat, he didn't balk, he did what God told him to do, because he had faith in God!

It was Noah's FAITH that allowed him to accomplish the impossible!

Now, listen close to what I am about to say... The secret to you successfully navigating all those areas we spoke of a moment ago is FAITH, having FAITH IN GOD.

You see, I don't believe that Noah was a ship builder. I don't think he had any extraordinary gifts or abilities in the area of heavy machinery and engineering. WHAT I DO BELIEVE is that he had a great ability to listen to God. And then, he just did what God told him to do. As a matter of fact, In the record of Genesis, we don't hear Noah speak at all to God, he just listened. It's only after the flood that the first words of Noah are recorded. Up to that point he's listening. And that is exactly what we have to do to grow in our faith.

Romans 10:17 *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

The reason most people never grow in faith, the reason many never get victory over the difficult things in their lives, is because they aren't good at listening to God.

How much time do you spend listening to the voice of God? When you pray, do you ever just stop talking and listen? If you want your faith to grow, find a place you can be alone with God, start out by saying, Lord I need to hear from you... then shut up and wait on His voice. Don't be afraid of the silence. Give God time to run every evil spirit out of the room, give Him time to calm your mind, and when He has your attention, He'll speak. And when He speaks, your life will change!

Noah had faith. And so can you. Notice...

II) NOAH'S FUTURE: Genesis 9:10-15 *"Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: 9 'I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you 10 and with every living creature that was with you...11 I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood...12 And God said, 'This is*

I) NOAH'S FAITH:

II) NOAH'S FUTURE: **Genesis 9:10-15** CONTINUED "...the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: 13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant between me and you...Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life."

Do you want to know the greatest thing about Noah's FUTURE? It's that he had one! Everyone else, everything else, on earth died, ceased, came to an abrupt end. Only Noah, and those with him, had a future. And Noah's future was secured by his right relationship with God!

Can I ask, do you have a right relationship with God? Are things right between you and your heavenly Father? Do you have a relationship with God?

In **Jeremiah 29:11** God is speaking, and He says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope."

You may have come here today thinking, I'm not going to make it. I can't keep going like this. And Satan has echoed those thoughts to you over and over again. But if you are a child of God, if you have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have a bright future ahead of you!

Ever wonder why Satan is always trying to get you down? It's because he knows this is the only time he will ever be able to trouble you. He knows something you need to realize... YOU HAVE A GREAT FUTURE AHEAD OF YOU!

Isaiah 40:28-31 "Hast thou not known? Have you not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. 29 He gives power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

1 Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

CONCLUSION: Come on, stand to your feet, clap your hands, and worship God! Noah built an altar and worshipped God when he realized his future. You can do the same thing today! I'm sure there were times when Noah probably thought, we're not going to make it, times he wanted to scream, RAIN RAIN GO AWAY! But somehow he held on to the promise, that everything was going to be alright. And God was faithful. It was **Corrie Ten Boom** that said, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."