

"The Flood"

Genesis 7-8

Introduction: Today in our study of the Genesis we have come to Genesis chapter 7. This week as I read through the chapter I asked God why this chapter is here. At first glance it seems as though we are just told some of the details of Noah's entrance into the ark but a closer look will reveal much more for us. Let me show you a verse we must always keep in mind as we work our way through the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ ***All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

When we read this verse that tells us that the 7th chapter of Genesis is inspired by God and it is here for or spiritual profit. In other words this chapter may look like it is just some facts about the flood but there is far more to be seen within the chapter.

When we start to look closely at this chapter we can begin to see from the life of Noah a picture of 2 things:

1. We see what is required for the Christian life.
2. We see also some things which we can expect to experience in the Christian life.

Let us look at some details from Genesis 7.

I. Requirements for the Christian Life.

1. Faith

Hebrews 10:38-39

³⁸ Now **the just shall live by faith**: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

³⁹ But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

We are saved by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ and that part we have no problem with. But many do not realize that as believers we are to LIVE by faith. In other words we are to trust God with whatever situation comes into our lives knowing that He is in control and we can rest in Him.

Let me show you the depth of Noah's faith and then I will take this deeper into our own lives.

We can see Noah's faith in the building of the ark but as I read this chapter this week I saw his faith in another way also.

Notice Genesis 7:6

Noah was 600 years old when the flood came upon the earth.

Notice Genesis 6:3

We have already looked at this verse but again I remind you that Noah was told of the flood about 120 years before the flood came. So if we do a little math we know that Noah started the ark when he was 480 years old.

Notice Genesis 5:32

Here we see that Noah did not father his children until he was 500 which was 20 years after he had started the ark and after he had received the news of the coming judgment.

That means that Noah knew of the coming judgment, he was able to see how corrupt the society was with all of the demonic influence and demonic worship and he still brought 3 boys into the world.

That is faith!

You see God had given a command in Genesis 2 when Adam and Eve were created and the command was to be fruitful and multiply. Noah never allowed the circumstances around him to keep him from being obedient to the will of God.

I have heard people make the statement today that this is no world to bring a child into. If there was ever a world not fit to bring children into it was the world of Noah's day.

Noah did not allow the circumstances of his day to from being obedient to God's Word. Noah believed that if God gave him children and he taught them to follow God that God

would bless him and his children and he was correct. You say, "How do you know he believed that?" Think about it for a moment. What believer would bring a child into a world like Noah's without great faith in God? The answer to that is, "NONE".

I was thinking this week about the results of his faith; through his sons 3 women would escape the judgment of God and it would be through the line of Noah's son Shem that the promise of Jesus Christ would be continued.

But the overall point that I want you to see is that Noah not only was saved by faith but he also lived by faith.

Application:

That is exactly what God desire from each of us that we live by faith. We are to be obedient to His Word no matter what the circumstances are which we face in our lives.

When we don't LIVE by we send a mixed message to the unsaved world around us. We stand up and declare the Word of God to be the absolute Truth and then we doubt God and we allow the situations of this life to dictate the way we live our lives. God desires for us to be obedient to Him no matter what we face in our lives.

2. Patience

This is one of the most difficult requirements we must exercise in our lives.

Notice Genesis 7:11

The flood started on the 17th day of the 600th year of Noah's life. Noah entered the ark 7 days before this.

Notice Genesis 7:1-4

He entered in 7 days before the rains began. So he entered the ark on the 10th day of his 600th year.

Notice Genesis 8:13-14

¹³ And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry.

¹⁴ And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried.

¹⁵ *And God spake unto Noah, saying,*

¹⁶ *Go forth of the ark,*

Noah exited the ark on the 27th day of the 601st year of his life. **So Noah was in the ark 1 year and 17 days.** The entire time he never heard from God. He had to patiently wait for God to tell him when to exit.

That may not seem like a long time but can you imagine being in the ark and knowing everyone else was dead and you waited and waited to here from God?

Application:

When I think about this I am reminded of the times God allows us to face situations where we have no control over and He then seems to be silent.

James 1:2-4

² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

⁴ *But **let patience have her perfect work**, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

I want to draw your attention to James 1:4 and the phrase I have underlined and bolded. James tells us that we are to LET patience have her perfect work. That means when the trials come we are to be patient and wait because as we exercise patience something happens and that is we grow in our faith.

Let me explain. When we get in a situation where we don't know what to do we must do nothing. God has brought us to the situation we are facing because He is doing a work in our lives and one of the tools He desires to use is patience. As we wait patiently in the situation God strengthens our faith. Situation after situation come into our lives where we must wait and each one God uses to build our faith in Him. In each one of the situations we learn to surrender to the will of God and when we do Jesus Christ is seen in our lives.

Isaiah 40:29-31

²⁹ He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth 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.

II. What to expect in the Christian Life.

When I look at this chapter there is one thing I see that all of us can expect and that is storms.

No matter where God leads us in the path which He has ordained for us there will be storms because it is His will that we experience storms as we go through this life.

One of the texts which show this is in Mark.

Mark 6:45-48

⁴⁵ And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.

⁴⁶ And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.

⁴⁷ And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.

⁴⁸ And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

It was the Lord's will that night that His disciples enter into the ship and sail into the midst of the storm. They did not want to go because they knew what was coming. We are no different for when we see the clouds on the horizon we also do all we can to escape the storms of life. But there are many times when they are not escapable because they are part of the path which God has ordained for us.

We fight and struggle to get away from the storms and we wonder where God is in the midst of the turmoil. We try to figure out what it is that He is doing but the Truth is that many times we don't know what He is doing. From our place in the storm we cannot see any positive in the storm at all.

Application:

Maybe you are in the midst of a storm right now. Maybe you can see no light in the midst of the clouds. It is like driving through the thick fog and you cannot see beyond the moment you are in.

Let me give you 2 points of comfort for the storm from the flood of Noah's day.

1. God is with you in the midst of the storm.

Notice Genesis 7:1

Notice very closely this was an invitation from God Who was in the ark.

Notice Genesis 8:16

Here we see that God told Noah and his family to go forth. From that statement I believe we can see that God was with Noah and his family the entire time.

Application:

There is not one storm we face in which we are alone. God is with us in every situation which we face.

Hebrews 13:5-6

⁵ *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

⁶ *So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

Isaiah 43:2-3a

² *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

³ *For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:*

2. The storm is not for our harm but is for our benefit.

Romans 8:35-37

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶ *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

³⁷ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

How can Paul say we are more than conquerors?

Romans 8:28

²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

²⁹ *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Conclusion:

There will be storms. There will be times when we do not know what tomorrow holds. It will require faith and patience. But know this: it is all a part of God's plan and everything that we face is for our good and God's glory.