

Roger Simpson, Noah and the flood, October 2024 Grenoble

INTRODUCTION

Great to be with you again.

A couple of events that we'd love to invite you to. Mid week fellowship 730 cake. and coffee

Friday night party. 7pm Bring and Share

Over the next three weeks, focus on some of the characters in the old Testament who "finished well. " they served Jesus Christ throughout their lives until the very end.

Today I want to look at NOAH and the story of THE FLOOD. Genesis 6-8.

When we arrived on Thursday night David met us and told us that there had been some very heavy rain. The cellars in the basement of the apartment block had been flooded.

Apparently there was a terrible flood in Grenoble in 1859. Rained continuously for five days . A warm wind melted all the snow and the Isere flooded very badly.

The story of the FLOOD is sound in Genesis. We used to have a nursery rhyme. " the animals went in two by two , the elephant and the bear and the kangaroo".

Jesus in Matthew 24 said " as it was in the days of Noah so it will be at the coming of the son of Man "The writer of Hebrews mentions Noah in his Hall of fame in Chapter 13," by Faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen built an ark to save his family".

The story of Noah and the flood teaches us some fundamental truth about GOD'S CHARACTER and about HUMAN NATURE.

So let's look at our text.

A. The first thing it teaches us is GODS GRIEF OVER HUMAN SIN.

Let me read Gen 6 v 5-6. " The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the Earth become and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time the Lord was grieved that he had made man on the Earth, and his heart was filled with pain".

The writer describes what society was like before the flood. What stands out?

1. ARROGANCE.

in the first three verses we read of the " sons of God , saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. First for the Nephilim were on the Earth in those days and also afterwards when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them.

They were the heroes of all men of renown."

Who are these sons of God and who were the daughters of men who they were marrying in shameless polygamy?

A number of suggestions have been put forward. Many of the early commentators said that the sons of God were. ANGELS. But Jesus told us that the angels are sexless creatures.

So it is highly unlikely

Others such as AUGUSTINE and CALVIN Suggested that the sons of God were descendants of SETH (Godly seed) were into marrying with the descendants of CAIN (ungodly seed)

But I think the most probable interpretation of these difficult verses is that HUMAN BEINGS made in the image and likeness of God. Descendants of ADAM were meeting with HOMINIDS. Subhuman creatures. Man like apes. AUSTRALOPITHECUS , NEANDERTHAL . Some of them were looking more human, even attractive!!

But whatever interpretation you adopt. These mixed marriages were unnatural and polygamous. They were an. ARROGANT. Denial of Gods ordinance. “ that’s a man would leave his father and mother and be united with his wife and they shall become one flesh.”

2 DECADENCE

The writer says this v5 ‘ every inclination of the thoughts of his heart is only evil all the time” notice he doesn’t say that SOME of these people wereSOMEWHAT evil SOME of the time !! He says EVERY inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only EVIL ALL of the time !!

That is an extraordinary statement.

Jesus laid great emphasis on the heart

The Lord looks on the heart of people. God wants righteousness of the heart.

Jesus Said is out of the heart, from WITHIN , comes Evil thoughts, sexual morality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, envy, arrogance, and folly.

These are the things which defile us in Gods sight

3 VIOLENCE.

The writer says “ now the Earth was corrupt in God sight and was full of VIOLENCE. 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 (v11,13)

Arrogance described their attitude to God

Decadence described their attitude of their hearts

Violence described their attitude to their fellow human beings

So often I find those three things go together.

And we read that the Lord was GRIEVED that he had made human beings on the Earth. That is Heart. . WAS FILLED WITH PAIN.

Our sin and rebellion breaks his heart!

This description of the world before the flood sounds very CONTEMPORARY . It is an accurate description of the world that we are living in.

Wars, rumours of wars. Large scale violence. Violent crime. Somebody was telling me of the gang war here in Grenoble. It is with us in Britain to. A total disregard of GODS holy moral standards . It causes God great pain. God is. GRIEVED. by our sin and wickedness.

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the son of Man.

B. The second thing I learn from this passage is GODS GRACE TOWARDS NOAH.

He was like a bright light, shining in the darkness. What are we told about him. Four things stand out.

1 NOAH was RIGHTEOUS and BLAMELESS. among the people of his day. He stood out.v 9.

He refused to conform to the culture around him. For example. POLYGAMY. was everywhere. But Noah and his three sons were.MONOGAMOUS. the sons only had to bring ONE WIFE Into the Ark and not 25 each !!

2 NOAH WALKED FAITHFULLY WITH GOD v9.

Despite the atmosphere, he was surrounded with, Noah PRACTISED THE PRESENCE OF GOD. He WALKED. With God.

He walked in the presence of God. God was the great reality of his life. In the midst of godlessness. He walked faithfully with God.

Can I ask you are you walking with God? Do you walk in his presence. Is God the great reality of your life?

3. NOAH BELIEVED AND OBEYED GOD.

Hebrews 11v7 “ by Faith Noah when warned about things not yet seen, and Holy fear built an ark to save his family”.

God warned Noah about the coming flood.

He told Noah to build the ARK.

NOAH BELIEVED THE WARNING and obeyed Gods instructions.

The Ark was an enormous structure.

It was over 450 m in length and 85 m in width and over 51 m in depth. You could put 450 big trucks. (like you see on the ferry) in it!

It took many years to build. Some commentators suggest it took 50 years to build.NOAHS contemporaries must've thought that it was a big JOKE ! Building an ocean going ship on land!!

Under a clear blue sky. No rain or even rain clouds.

Sunday afternoon entertainment. Let's go and look at that crazy man Noah, who is building

an ARK. !

BUT Noah BELIEVED the warning of GOD.

JUST AS WE should believe the teaching of Jesus Christ. he has told us that he is COMING BACK, one day to JUDGE THE WORLD

Noah obeyed God “ he did everything just as God commanded him”v22

4 NOAH WAS A PREACHER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

In his second letter, the apostle Peter (2peter 2v15) says” God protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness”.

He not only lived a righteous life himself. But he called his contemporaries to a life of righteousness.

When I decided to follow Jesus Christ. To surrender my whole life to him the preacher invited us to come forward. The crowds will be leaving the church, he said. You will have to go against the crowd. But then he said. IT WILL BE LIKE THAT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. That was over 55 years ago. And it has been absolutely true.

But we can thank God that it is possible by his GRACE and POWER to swim against the stream.

We can thank God that it is possible to obey his command to be different. To be SALT and LIGHT. To be. DISTINCT. we can stand out against the prevailing trends

Can I ask you this morning? Are you like Noah? Are you conscious of giving in to the pressures of those around you? Have you accepted the call to be different. “Don’t be like them.” Jesus said in the sermon on the Mount. Don’t follow the crowd.!!

As in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the son of Man.

C The third thing this passage shows me is
GODS JUDGEMENT ON THE IMPENITENT

The flood came and destroyed them all. . Imagine the horror. Imagine the terror.

Can I just say at this point because it may be a question in some of your minds was the flood an HISTORICAL Event.

I’m sure it was. Not only are there many flood accounts in the ancient stories of Babylon, China, India and Greece. They all mention it but Jesus himself referred to. NOAH AND THE FLOOD.

What was the extent of the flood? Was it universal or was it local? The commentators differ on this. I think personally it was localised to the Mesopotamian basin.

BUT the story tells us something of VITAL IMPORTANCE

THE DIVINE JUDGE IS ALSO THE DIVINE SAVIOUR

For one year and 10 days NOAH and his family sheltered in the Ark. until the time came when Noah released the Dove which returned with an olive branch in its beak.

Jesus clearly warned us that this DIVINE JUDGEMENT is going to be repeated at his SECOND COMING.

But it will be on a much greater scale. On the whole world. This time the ordeal will be by FIRE. and not by WATER.

Listen to the apostle Peter” but the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the Earth and everything Dunn in it will be laid bare “.

As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be with the coming of the son of Man.

Let us pray.

Have you taken refuge in Jesus Christ. Have you given him your life. Have you surrendered to him. Because of his death and Resurrection he offers you forgiveness and the power of the holy spirit.