

Bible Basics Conference 2012: “Genesis 1-12”

Part 8

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[00:00:01] The story of Noah. A number of people have alluded to it as they've been discussing the early chapters of Genesis. Before we begin, I'd like you to think, perhaps even look at the booklets that we've been given and look at the chapters and the headings. I'm sure many people don't even need to do that. But I'd like you to think for a moment of how much space, how many chapters does God in his word apportion to the story of Noah. We can perhaps think of the 11 chapters before chapter 12 starts on Abraham. We think that Noah is found in four chapters, four out of 11. Surely the story of Noah is something that is very important to God and something whereby we can learn a great deal from. The Lord Jesus spoke of the times of Noah.

[00:01:12] Matthew's gospel, Luke's gospel. We find incidents about Noah or Noah's life three times in the epistles that Peter wrote. We find other mentions of those days in the Old Testament, Ezekiel and Isaiah. The story of Noah is a very, very important. It's amazing that perhaps one of the first stories that children learn is the story of Noah. It's an illustration, isn't it, of how God in his word presents stories to us that contain a great deal of truth and will benefit us a great [00:02:02] deal if we understand and learn from them. So there's a lot to say, a lot to get through. But I'd like first of all to present some of the main truths that are contained in the story of Noah. The first one is the only time when judgment has passed upon all of mankind. Think about it for a moment. We look through the whole of God's word, particularly the Old Testament, and we see God having to act in judgment, particularly against Israel. He takes them away into exile, ten tribes and then the two tribes. He has to exercise judgment against the nations, against different countries, different groups, different peoples. But the flood that was sent upon this earth was the only time judgment was passed upon all mankind. And we know from God's word that he [00:03:08] tells us that all mankind will be judged in the future. We've got evidence in the past that he was able to do this. But although judgment was passed upon all this world, salvation was provided by the grace of God in the ark. There was a means whereby we can be saved. That Noah was saved, not through anything he'd done, but God in his grace acted so that certain, eight of them were preserved from the flood in the ark. God remembered Noah in the ark. We'll see perhaps later that this [00:04:04] could be considered the central point in the story of Noah. That there was Noah in the ark, the terrible physical catastrophe that was happening all around. But God remembered those people in the ark. That he remembers about individuals, he

remembers about families, he protected them, he watched over them, he cared for them, he provided them during that time of catastrophe. Fourthly, it is possible that men and women can shine for God in an evil society. How we must remember this? We know, don't we, from other scriptures that the times of Noah are characterized by the times in the last days. It is possible for you and I to shine for God. Despite everything [00:05:08] that goes on, despite all the sin and the wickedness and the corruption and the violence, it is possible for you and I to shine for him. And perhaps others will want to develop later the fact that the flood, Noah's time, caused many dramatic changes. It affected this world a great deal. But the first few verses of chapter 6 introduce us to these four verses that we certainly need to consider. We need to look at them carefully. So you've highlighted in red those people that we need to take or consider carefully. The sons of God saw the daughters of men, that which were fair, and they took them wives of all which they chose. And if we look at verse 4, [00:06:09] there were giants in the earth in those days. And also after that, when the sons of God came into the daughters of men and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. What is this referring to? What is it talking about? Well, we've got highlighted there the giants. The giants are ordinary men. We read of giants after the flood.

In the promised land, we read of Goliath. It mentions the sons of God. And Jude tells us, [00:07:03] our angels which kept not their first estate. What does that mean? We'll look at it later.

But also we've got mighty men which were of old, of renown. And it's been suggested that these were produced by the sons of God, angels, taking wives of the daughters of men. So we're told of the seriousness of some of the things that were going on in that time before the flood. It tells us, doesn't it, as to why God took this drastic action to wipe out the whole of the people living on this earth. That these mighty men were a mixture. And they were a mixture of the sons of God, which were [00:08:05] angels, who kept not their first estate. And they took for themselves wives of the daughters of men. The mighty men were a mixture of angels and men. The giants were ordinary men. Now, why do we say this? The sons of God, that phrase which we hear very regularly from the New Testament, we are sons of God. It's one of the many blessings that we've been brought into. But in the Old Testament, they never refer to men. Sons of God never refer to men. If we look in the book of Job, three times, angels are referred to as the sons of God. And if we think that we know from the New Testament that [00:09:04] the angels are spirits, cannot be seen. But in the Old Testament, when the angels were sent to men, they appeared as ordinary men. And we think of the examples of Abraham and Lot. So we have there evidence, reasons, as to why we suggest that these mighty men of old, men of renown, were a mixture of angels and men. No wonder, apart from what we commonly refer to when the earth was filled with wickedness and violence, that God deemed it necessary to wipe out the whole of mankind. But isn't there another reason? People have alluded to it once or twice already. Satan. We've seen evidence of Satan at work. That Satan instigated [00:10:04] this to prevent the Messiah coming. He wanted to corrupt man. He wanted to mix man. Why? Because we know that all the counsels of God are centered in his beloved son, the Lord Jesus Christ. What a study it would be to look through the Old Testament and see the number of ways, on the number of occasions, the number of instances, Satan working behind the scenes, tried to prevent the coming of the Lord Jesus as the Messiah into this world. If we look at the story of Noah, to move on to another tack, it's interesting. I put this in front of you as a suggestion. Shared it with one or two others. But if we take some of the salient events that we're told about in the story of Noah, [00:11:04] you can see that what's done there is to give each one of them a letter, up until the letter G. We mentioned earlier about God remembered Noah as perhaps the most important point in the history of Noah. But if you take each of those points of God saying he will destroy, point A, of Noah told to build the ark, come into the ark, seven days until the flood, 40 days of rain, 150 days of water on the earth. You'll see as you come

after the story of Noah that the pattern, the numbers, and the thought seem to be reversed. We've got 150 days, the water abating, 40 days on Mount Ararat, seven days waiting between the dust sent out. Go forth of the ark, the opposite to what he's told earlier. Noah building an altar and God promising again not to curse the ground anymore. [00:12:08] We can see there there's a parallel and you've seen already this morning that there's been a number of parallels introduced into the scriptures and explained to us. But God in his word seems to use the idea of parallels to help us to remember, to help us to get a pattern. We've seen the idea of compare and contrast is a mechanism that the Holy Spirit seems to use in his word to help us to understand things that might be a little bit difficult by comparing and contrasting other thoughts. Have a think about that pattern there. It was perhaps given to help man remember the stories. There's a framework there. God is not a God of disorder. There's a pattern that we can learn from and help us remember. [00:13:06] But if we look at that increase of wickedness of man, we've already thought of Methuselah and the patience, the grace, the long-suffering of God as he waited. He knew that man wouldn't repent, but Methuselah there was a witness. But if we think of this story of Noah, we're told in other parts of the scriptures that Noah was a righteous testimony. In his life he practiced righteousness, he preached righteousness. The two went together.

He was a witness to everybody round about him. He was a witness, a righteous witness in a most remarkable way. He built the ark. What an incredible witness that was to people round about them. [00:14:06] Had the people ever seen water on the land? Had the people there ever seen a boat of any description whatsoever?

But Noah was faithful and he built the ark. God gave him the exact dimensions.

God told him what to do and he did it. Another example to us.

But there was a terrible increase of sin, of wickedness and corruption. Do we see that all around us today?

The Lord Jesus spoke of the fact that in the days of Noah, that people would be marrying and giving in marriage. That people would be carrying on as normal, but absolutely careless, heedless to God's message that they needed to repent.

[00:15:11] That judgment was coming. We see how similar that is of today.

We read in some ways these remarkable words. That he repented the Lord that he had made man. What does that mean? What can we learn from this? We know that the purposes of God, what God has purposed, cannot be set aside. But when it comes to the ways of God, they are variable depending upon man's reception. Depending on how God acts and reacts to what God has said. We can see it in the example of Noah.

A man shall reign in righteousness. Judgment, the ways of God, were sent to destroy evil on the earth. [00:16:08] God had his purposes, and his purposes center in his son.

Nothing will thwart those purposes. He will be the one who will be supreme.

And the ways of God are variable depending on our reaction to it.

Thought a little bit about Noah. But he does say that he was a just man, perfect in his generations. Wondering in particular about that phrase. The suggestion about the sons of God, the mighty men of renown, perhaps gives added meaning as to what it means to be perfect in his generations. He would suggest that Noah wasn't corrupted by any of these mighty men of renown.

[00:17:02] Already thought about Noah walking with God. But if we think about Noah and what a remarkable man that he was. A preacher of righteousness, that he was skillful, that he built that boat.

We don't know whether he did it by himself. We don't know whether his family were involved. We don't know whether he paid men to help him. Don't know whether anybody's got any thoughts about that. But he was certainly active. He wasn't somebody who was used to doing nothing, being slothful and lazy. He built that ark. It took him a very long time. But he kept going. He wasn't put on.

God had spoken to him. He must have been a family man. His family went with him into the ark.

[00:18:02] We don't need much about his family. We don't know what their views were. But Noah and his family went into the ark. Even his son's wives followed them into the ark.

That he was a patient man, that he didn't give up over all those years, that he kept going. Though we read of him as a priest, one who came out of the ark and worshipped God. And clearly, he was a spiritual man, that he knew what God had said and obeyed it.

Rusty and others have alluded to this verse. But I think it's always a good job and idea to carry on and just reinforce what's been said. We look at this, these two verses. Jehovah saying to Noah, go into the ark, thou and all thy house, for thee have seen righteous before me in this generation. [00:19:02] And verse 16, and they came, came male and female of all flesh, as God, Elohim, had commanded him and Jehovah shut him in. It's a good explanation. It's a good example for us of Jehovah in the same verse. Verse 16, being used to express that relationship, but in the very same verse. Then Elohim was used because it spoke about God.

You might have seen pictures of, I believe, I don't know if anybody's actually seen it, it's a reality. There's people in Holland who have built a scale down, still a large replica of Noah's ark.

A witness to people of what has happened. But into that ark, seven of every clean animal were taken. [00:20:03] It's fairly obvious that why seven of the clean animals and only two of each of the unclean animals. Seven were taken of clean animals so that Noah could offer sacrifices of the clean animals. Again, we're not told specifically, and we are told a great deal of detail in this story of Noah. As to how Noah knew at that time, before the law was given, as to which were clean and which were unclean. But two of the unclean, there wasn't any reason to doubt. We know amongst the animal kingdom and amongst humans how reproduction doesn't always happen. But two, it was going to succeed. They were going to produce. God was behind it all. God was given the instructions and God would bring the increased. [00:21:05] And the story of Noah and Ark is a wonderful story, I'm sure most of us know, of the idea of salvation. Salvation is of the Lord. You and I wouldn't be here this afternoon listening to God's word unless God in his grace had acted towards us. And how did he act? He commands. He commanded Noah, make the ark. In the New Testament we hear of God commanding all men everywhere to repent. There's a way of salvation and the way in Noah's day was to make an ark. Today, it is to put our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus. The gopher wood, the wood was specifically mentioned, the type to use. [00:22:01] We think of trees, speaking of humanity

cut down and they were used to build the ark. Speaking of Christ, speaking of a way in which Christ was cut down, was nailed to that accursed tree, but bringing forth life.

The pitch, we know many have told us before that this means to cover or to atone. It's the same word that's used in the idea of atonement. That all in that ark was safe, they were covered by the death of Christ. The rooms, the rooms would perhaps speak of rest in the Lord. The only way in which we can have rest is by trusting in him and trusting in him so that we know that he will give us rest throughout eternity. The door, one door. There's only one way of salvation.

[00:23:03] And how wonderful it is that the Lord shut him in. The Lord closed the door, shut the door. They were safe. Nobody could be able to stop them being saved.

We can think of the window, speaking of divine light. After salvation, they received divine light.

And the Lord said, come thou and all thine house into the ark. That the waters of the flood caused a separation for Noah and his family. A separation from the world.

And it delivered Noah and his family from their enemies. And likewise, trusting the Lord Jesus separates us.

It separates us from the rest of mankind. [00:24:02] That who do not trust the Savior, they will go on to that lost eternity. That it delivers us, delivers us from our enemies.

Why? Why are we delivered from our enemies? So that we can serve God in the very place in which we were slaves. We can serve him in this world. We can think of the similarity between the last days and the time of the flood.

What a warning this is to us.

What a tremendous warning.

Are we living like Noah?

As practicing righteousness? Preaching righteousness? That corruption and violence was so great that it demanded judgment. God had to act.

And he acted.

[00:25:02] Noah's flood is the evidence of it. But he will act in that future day. And the earth will be judged.

That God was long-suffering.

Long-suffering at the time of building the ark. But how long-suffering has God been since the death of his son on the cross? Nearly 2,000 years now.

And he's waiting for the church to be built. For sinners to be saved. For all to be brought in before he acts in judgment.

How wonderful that is.

That the godly were warned beforehand and saved. That we know that by reading the scriptures, by understanding God's word. That we can put our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus today. And be saved from the judgment to come. [00:26:01] Now is there anyone here who isn't saved?

Saved from that awful judgment. Think about the turmoil that was in that earth. When the waters above and the waters below came forth on the earth. All were destroyed.

All who know not the Savior will be destroyed. We're told that Noah was moved with fear. He understood what that judgment entailed.

The judgment of God will come upon the wickedness in this world. Are you saved?

Are you going to be saved? And most wonderfully. We as those who trust in the Lord Jesus. Will not go through the flood like Noah. Who we were told spoke of the remnant of Israel. That will have to go through in that tribulation period. Terrible sufferings.

[00:27:02] But like Enoch. To be taken out of this world. Before the judgment will come. There's no escape route. There's all those people who could have repented.

Noah preached.

There's only Noah and his family saved. We might preach the gospel today. We do preach the gospel today. Thankfully souls are being saved and are being brought in. But Noah was faithful. Despite his knowing of nobody. Who repented.

And most wonderfully.

After.

We missed out number four I'm sorry. But it tells us doesn't it. We know in Noah's day. That the earth was destroyed by water. But we're told that it's by fire. In 2 Peter.

That the earth will be destroyed in a future day. [00:28:01] That fire and water. Something of the earth. Will be used to destroy the earth itself. We heard earlier. How that God created the heavens and the earth. By the word of his power. Mighty.

Fantastic. Wonderful. Amazing things that could be done. How much simpler it is to destroy. Rather than to create. God created the world. He will destroy.

Are you safe.

Have you put your trust in the Lord Jesus. Are you going to be taken out of this world. Before the judgment will surely come. And. That better world that Noah enjoyed. Will be nothing.

Compared with the place.

In my father's house are many mansions. That the Lord has gone to prepare. For those of us who love the Lord Jesus. May it be that each one of us. Has made that step of faith. [00:29:01] And trusted the Savior. Before the judgment comes.