

The Flood (part 3)

Purpose: to show that God's plan was the same with Noah as it was with Adam, and that the flood was His way of showing us His justice and mercy.

After Adam's sin, the entire world became corrupt and violent. Things were so bad, that God was moved to do something about it. God's response to the wickedness of man was to destroy the earth by way of a flood. Yet, thanks to the righteousness of one man (Noah), he was willing to save it.

First, God made a promise to Noah:

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."

Genesis 8:20-22

What was God's promise?

- ***I will never again curse the ground for man's sake*** – He will never flood the earth again.
- ***...Although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth*** – this is the condition of all men – Psalm 14:1-3
- ***... Nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.*** He will not destroy it before the proper time.
- ***While the earth remains*** – there is a time coming when God will eventually destroy the earth – by fire! 2 Peter 3:1-13
- ***Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.*** – these will be given to us continually.

Next, God blessed Noah:

So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."

Genesis 9:1-7

What was God's blessing?

- ***Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.*** This is the same blessings given to Adam in Genesis 1:28
- ***And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth. On every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea.*** This was also what he told Adam in Genesis 1:28
- Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. Man seems to no longer be a vegetarian and is also allowed to eat clean and unclean animals.

Extras?

- ***The fear of you and the dread of you...*** (v.2)
- ***Every moving thing that lives shall be food...*** (v.3)
- ***...You shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.*** (v.4)
- ***Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning...*** (v. 5)

Finally, God made a covenant with Noah:

Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Genesis 9:8-17

The sign of the covenant – the rainbow (vs. 9:12)

- A reminder that God will never again destroy the earth by flood
- A reminder that God is faithful and keeps His promises
- A reminder that God really did not want to destroy man, even though we are sinful and rebellious.