

Noah's Choice

Douglas Cho, Ph.D./D.R.S.

Genesis 6: 5-9 [NKJV]

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

1. Noah's Generation and Mission

In Noah's generation the people were wicked and their thoughts were continually evil in the sight of God. This condition of God's creation grieved His heart much. However, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. While living in an evil world, Noah was a man of God who feared Him, loved His truth, kept close fellowship with Him and walked with Him.

Prior to the great flood in Noah's time the people lived in the blessings of God's creation. Although rain had never fallen on the earth, there was sufficient amount of moisture in the ground and this resulted in plentiful harvests. As a result people lived in plenty and prospered. How do I know that? Unless there was such blessings how could people live to be hundreds of years old and produce many children? Also, for Noah and his three sons to be able to construct the immense ship called 'the ark,' there had to be plentiful availability of useful timber, which required the surrounding forest areas to produce relatively fast tree growth, much like the southern yellow pine [SYP] in the southeast of the U.S. Thus, we can conjecture that the land of fertile, the topography relatively mild with small undulations. Creation scientists explain that the high mountains of today came about as a result of gigantic tectonic deformations and relocations during the great flood.

Noah's family probably engaged in farming while building the ark for over a hundred years. The yield from their farming had to be sufficient to meet their needs and allowed them to devote significant amount of hours each week to the ark construction. Thus, God's general blessings were enjoyed by not only Noah's family but all people who were living then. Yet, most people were not grateful to God and chose to ignore that they were His creation.

The key reason why Noah was recognized as a righteous person before God was that he chose to live a life that was different from those of the 99.9 percent of the people of the time, who were living for themselves only. It may be hard to believe to you but the Books of Enoch records that during the time of Jared, who was Noah's great great grandfather 200 of the angels who had been serving God chose to come down to the earth and chose daughters of the people as their wives. From such unnatural, rebellious marriages were produced Nephilim, who were large giants. The angels and their offspring giants polluted the world and cause them to rebel against God, engaging in numerous sexual fornications and violations. They killed many people, animals and birds of the air driven by their violent tendencies. They taught and forced people to worship angels and follow the false teachings of the fallen angels.

In those times before the flood there were only a few righteous persons. Enoch, who was Noah's great grandfather, did not see death but was lifted up to heaven. Noah's grandfather, Methuselah, and Noah received a mission from God to warn the people of the coming flood that would destroy the entire world because of God's wrath. They were given the definite period of 120 years and this warning was later fulfilled exactly as God had warned. All God-serving people except Noah's family died before the

flood. Only eight people of Noah's family were saved, including Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives. That is why in the Chinese character for ship (船) included 'eight persons' because those who created the Chinese characters had brought the story of Genesis when they came east from Babylon after God dispersed the people.

I am surprised that none of Noah's siblings and close relatives was included in the list of the saved people. They must have been fully aware of Noah's family doing the ark building every day for five years. Yet they ignored Noah's plea to join them in the ark and probably derided their endeavor as foolish.

[1 Peter 3:20] who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

Apostle Peter recorded that God waited in patience for the people of the era to join Noah and his family while the ark of salvation was being prepared for five years. Yet they were disobedient and grieved the heart of God. Can you imagine Noah's heart when the ark entrance door was finally closed one week prior the rain—the pain in knowing that his own siblings and close relatives would die in the coming flood? How are your hearts while you await for the second coming of the Lord, knowing that when the final days arrive, your loving family, friends and relatives will no longer have opportunities of receiving God's grace? Are you not facing derision, criticisms, cold looks, despise and persecution because of your hope in the Lord's second coming?

I also watched a documentary some time ago about the persecution of Christians by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) as their enemy in very persistent and extreme ways. The persecution and oppression that the Chinese Christians are facing from the CCP are worse than those of the early Christians during the first three centuries after Christ's ascension. Just like in the days of Noah God is watching what goes on around the globe with keen interest. In due time God will crush the CCP and divide China into multiple smaller, weak nations just as the USSR was divided. And the governments of the world which are subservient to the CCP will also receive their due punishments from the hand of the Almighty God.

2. Noah's Choice and Our Choice

Here we summarize some of the lessons gained from the study of Noah's life:

- A. Noah's faith must have been influenced by his forefathers, namely, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, and Lamech. Enoch's testimony was well known to all who were living in Noah's era. Although Enoch had been raptured by the time Noah was born, his testimony as told by his grandfather, Methuselah, and father, Lamech, must have set a shining benchmark to young Noah in the midst of the spiritual darkness around him.
- B. Noah's heart must have grieved as he saw how the corrupted generation of the children of the fallen angels kept on depraving the world of his time. Noah must have pleaded daily to God so that God would exercise His lordship over the evils of the world, just as we are doing today. Books of Enoch records that the righteous souls of Noah's time pleaded their cause to God.
- C. Noah and his three sons, though small in number, were devoted to the huge task of building the ark, which was a large ship, according to God's instructions, and God must have provided help using His angels. They did not consider this project as something that was beyond their abilities, but willingly took on the assignment. And Noah kept on encouraging and teaching his family members so that this divine project could be accomplished.

- D. Noah regarded the grace of God as more precious than anything in the world and walked with God daily. Just as He did for Abraham as recorded in Genesis, God revealed His being to Noah by sending His angels often to encourage and to provide help to him. Noah regarded the trends of the world as nothing worthwhile to pursue but valued and enjoyed his close walk with God as far above the worldly treasures. In his heart there was an unshakeable sense of mission as given by God. Without it he and his family could not have been faithful in the immense project of ark construction for five years.
- E. Bible records that there was no rain during the period from the creation to the great flood. Noah and the people of the time had never seen rain coming on them. Yet, Noah believed God's word that He would destroy the whole world with a global flood. Noah believed although his eyes had never seen nor he could imagine the details of God's plan. Only after the flood started, he and his family could experience the magnitude of God's plan while being tossed within the ark for close to a year. Do you believe the word of God as you read? Do you have a heart and mind to live out God's word in your own life just as He directs you?

Lord Jesus told His disciples that the days prior to the last days will be like the days of Noah:

[Luke 17: 26-27] And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

What our Lord meant is that the people of our times would not have any sense of awakening about the impending wrath of God on the unbelieving evil world and would not be making preparations for the day when God's grace will no longer be extended to the humanity. Such indifference and disregard is commonly found not only among the unbelieving peoples but also in the Christian churches and in believers' homes. Just as the people of Noah's time were busily engaged in marrying, going to schools, fighting political battles, struggling to get ahead in this world and seeking to gain wealth and fame, they are not aware that the day of disasters of God's judgment is just around the corner.

I'd like to encourage all of you to go and visit the 'Ark Encounter' in Williamstown, Kentucky, where the real life size of Noah's ark is in display, if you have not already done so. It is well worth a trip for you and your family to view how Noah and his family obeyed God and provided a way of salvation for themselves and the chosen animals so that the humanity and the living creation could be preserved even to our days. The following website has the details to help you plan your trip:

<https://arkencounter.com/noahs-ark/>

I am not a sales person for Ark Encounter, but I am a preacher who is selling God's amazing plan for human salvation and His endeavors, about which you may come to have some understanding when you spend a day there. And I encourage you to read the Genesis account of Noah's life and the great flood through which God wielded His wrath on the dark, evil generation of Noah's time. It was a preview of a similar plan of His wrath, which is yet to come to the present evil world, very likely in our generation. Amen.