

Week 3 - Noah

Last week we talked about Adam and why he is such an important character in the Bible. He was the first man ever created, but he brought sin into the world through his disobedience of God. From that point forward in history, mankind has always had to deal with sin. Rebelling against God is the natural thing for us to do.

As time kept going, people continued to get deeper and deeper into sin as Genesis 6:5 says “The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” As you can see, sin was not just a small problem, it was a big problem, so God decided to do something about it.

God chose to send a great flood over all the earth to wipe out everything and judge the sin of the world in that colossal event. To keep the promise that he made to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to one day have the seed of the woman crush the head of the serpent and defeat sin, God had to keep some people alive. Out of everyone in the world, God chose to save a man named **Noah**.

God chose Noah out of His grace. Noah wasn't perfect, but God promised to save him and He was faithful to complete His promise. God told Noah all about the condition of Creation and how sin had corrupted everything. He told Noah about His plan to make an end to all the life on the earth with a great flood that would cover the whole world. To save Noah and his family, God instructed Noah exactly how to build a big boat called an ark.

The coming flood would be catastrophic to everything on the earth, so God told Noah to bring aboard the ark two of every kind of animal with him so spare them from death. After Noah had done all that God commanded him, he closed up the ark and God brought great rains upon the whole earth and flooded for many months and Noah, his family, and the animals stayed on the ark for about a year.

God had to judge the sin of the world. He could not allow the world to continue in its current state because it had been so corrupted. God made it clear how serious a problem sin really was. But God also showed how amazing His grace was. He chose Noah out of all the people on earth to save from this incredible tragedy even though he didn't deserve it. He showed how faithful He would be to carry out the promise He made to Adam and Eve many, many generations earlier as He kept a remnant safe. It made it possible for the Savior of the world to be born one day and defeat sin once and for all.

When Noah finally came out of the ark, it would have been very lonely. For so long he had seen the harshness of God's wrath against sin and he would have seen how life was wiped out from the earth. But God showed Noah the sign of the rainbow in the sky with the promise to never bring that kind of devastating flood upon the earth again in the same way. And Noah honored God's covenant with him by making an altar and giving sacrifices.

God was faithful and gracious to Noah as He kept his promise that one day sin would be defeated altogether. Noah trusted in God to fulfill His promises and he experienced that faithfulness even when everything around him seemed bleak. As we continue next week, we'll follow the offspring of Noah as God narrows down the specifics of His promise to the family of a certain man many generations later.

Discussion Questions:

- Why did God need to save some people from the Flood?
- Why did God choose Noah?
- What was the sign God gave Noah after the Flood with the promise to never destroy mankind like that again?