

The Book of Genesis

The Story

The Flood

Wednesday 16 June 2021

6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Opening Prayer

Reading Assignment – Genesis Chapters 5 - 11

Background

Our story continues with the record of the male descendants of Adam. In this telling, the men get all the credit. There is rare mention of the women, who actually do all the hard work of giving birth and caring for the children. The story indicates that sin was the major occupation of humans. Their wickedness was great and their every thought an action led to evil. So, God decided to destroy all humans on the earth. He regretted that he had created them. For reasons that are not clear, God regretted creating the animals and the birds as well, and decided to destroy them also. Amazingly, there was only one person, a man called Noah, who pleased God.

God decided to spare Noah, who pleased him, his wife, and his family, Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their wives, along with pairs of male and female representatives of all the animals and birds. They escape the great flood that God causes in a very large boat. Everyone else dies. Note: There are two flood stories poorly integrated. After a year on the boat, the flood had receded enough for all of them to go outside to the land. God says, "I will never do that again." Everyone is relieved. And the men start getting credit for having sons again. Some of the sons decide to build a tower to heaven. It does not go well. One of the later sons in the Shem line is called Abram.

Questions to Consider

1. Enoch in Chapter 5 and Noah in Chapter 6 are said to “walk with God” during their lives. What might this mean? Are there people today who “walk with God” as compared to living as best we can in the world? Is it related to the Kingdom of God?
2. Why is human sin the predominant theme of the ancient age? Is it the predominant theme of our age? When will it not be a major theme?
3. What do you think the story of Noah and the two floods can teach us today?
4. What was the big deal about seeing Noah drunk and naked?
5. Do you think the punishment of the people and animals of Noah’s time with death was just or extreme? Explain.
6. Returning to the Kingdom of God idea, do you feel that you are a part of the Kingdom of God sometimes or always? How do you know when you are actively part of the Kingdom?
7. What was the purpose of the Tower of Babel?
8. Where are the women in these stories?

Closing Prayer

