



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Noah and the Flood!

Lesson Text: Genesis 6-10

Focus Verses: Genesis 9:11-13 - ¹¹And I will establish my covenant with you, neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. ¹²And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

Truth About Covenant: God made a covenant promise that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood.

Covenant Context: When humanity's sin reached its boiling point, God promised to wash the world of wickedness, but He extended grace to righteous Noah and provided a way of escape from the Flood. God splashed a rainbow across the sky as a token of His covenant to never again destroy the earth with a flood.

God's creation had turned its back on their Creator en masse. This rejection hurt the heart of God and caused Him to promise aloud: *"I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them"* (Genesis 6:7).

Faith requires obedience to God's instructions as Noah did, without hesitation or reservation. *"Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he"* (Genesis 6:22). Obedience is not complicated: God instructs and we obey. Noah did not have the luxury of satellite imagery and radar apps on his smartphone. He had an even more trustworthy early warning system—the word of God. The Lord gave Noah a warning about the storm of all storms. He also gave Noah specific instructions on how to prepare for it. Obedience was crucial, the results inevitable. Exactly as God said, He brought floodwaters to the earth, destroyed His creation, and saved only those in the ark. He proved His control over creation while also proving His faithfulness to His word.

Before the rain fell for the first time in the history of the world, Noah had a choice to make: **fear or faith?** We have the same choice to make. With a horizontal gaze, we find ample reasons (or excuses) to fear. Sin's spiral is on full display; figurative and literal storms continue to batter us in what seems like seasonal cycles. Yet if we are walking in covenant with God through obedience to His Word, we only need to look up after the rain to be reminded of the faithfulness of God. We have nothing to fear, for God is in control. **The next time fear rears its ugly head, raise yours a bit higher, fix your eyes on Jesus, and remember the rainbow.** He who was faithful to Noah will be forever faithful to us.

Commitment is easier when we have a lot of details or previous experience with the person to whom we are committing, not so much when there are unanswered questions and parts we do not understand. No one, including Noah, fully understood what was going to happen or how building an ark was going to save anyone. Yet Noah obeyed. As the sole representative of the righteous remnant, Noah undoubtedly felt isolated. But because of his obedience, he was also insulated. Lack of understanding did not inhibit Noah's obedience. He trusted God, and God trusted him. Through Noah, God reaffirmed His covenant with humanity. Noah chose not to live in fear, but to trust in God's faithfulness.

Yes, the Flood is a story of judgment, but it is also a story of mercy; it is a story of the faithfulness of God. Sin's progressive effect on creation's caretakers reached its inevitable conclusion—death. A just God could no longer allow wickedness to rule the world. The earth which God originally declared to be **"good,"** was now described as **"corrupt before God"** and **"filled with violence"** (Genesis 6:11). Humanity's wicked ways had to be judged. Humanity had broken its covenant with our Creator and thus warranted judgment.

Our covenant-making and covenant-keeping God continues to prove Himself faithful. This assurance should free us from paralyzing fear. **No matter what we hear or see on the news or online, God is in control.** We know how our story ends; we who are in covenant with God will reign and rule with Him. Let us live and act with the ever-present awareness that there is a God, and we are not Him. And let us follow God's Word and obey His oft-repeated command: **"Fear not."**

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