

Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2018 10:32 PM

Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on Genesis 6:1-9:17--Noah and the Flood!

Genesis 6-9 records the God-inspired account of a man named Noah and the worldwide flood-- a cataclysmic event in the history of man--that preserved the "seed" of the woman and the promise of a Deliverer, while destroying the "world that was" and ushering in a whole new phase of God's redemptive plan!

Genesis 6:5-8 says: "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...(speaking of the 1,600 or so year period beginning with the "fall" of Adam and Eve and lasting through the time of the flood)!"

Though details are not provided in the Scriptural account, the evil had become so provoking in the eyes of the Lord that He was "sorry that He had made man on the earth" and determined that He would "blot out whom He had created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky"!

But Genesis 6:8 says that one man--Noah--"found favor (grace) in the eyes of the Lord"! And it was through the genealogical line of Noah that God would ultimately fulfill His promise of a Savior (as He said He would in Genesis 3:15).

Well, you know the rest of the story! How God gave Noah detailed instructions on how to build an ark, at a time and in a place that had never even seen rainfall! And how Noah--true to the faith that God saw in him, and rewarded--"did according to all that God commanded him"! The ark turned out to be a "box"--450 yards long (the size of one and a half football fields), 75 yards wide, and 45 yards high! Someone has noted that it was "designed not for speed but for stability"!

One hundred and twenty years later (according to Genesis 6:3)--when Noah was 600 years old, and the ark was finished and everything else was in order and ready to go--the Lord called Noah to enter the ark and to bring along his wife and his three sons and their wives, and all the animals, etc. (as God had commanded)! And then, "God shut the door"!

Actually to be more precise (as the Genesis account is!), it was "in the sixth hundred year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month! And "on that same day (take note of what follows!) all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened"! And "rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights"!

That doesn't sound like the "normal" rainstorm that we're familiar with! Or even the most torrential storm--going on for 40 days and 40 nights--that we could imagine! And it wasn't! The "flood of water" that encompassed the earth--rising at least 22.5 feet above the highest mountains on the earth as of that period (according to Genesis 7:20)--resulted from the "bursting forth of the fountains of the deep" (referring to subterranean reservoirs of water beneath the earth) combined with the unleashing of the "floodgates of the sky" (apparently describing a "canopy" of water originally stored "above the firmament"). This understanding would seem consistent with the way God originally established and "separated" the waters "above" and "below" the firmament (in Genesis 1:7)--and suggests that God perhaps actually configured it all that way in anticipation of the flood--as well as in contributing to the more favorable climate and extended life of human beings during this "antediluvian" period before the flood! The point is that some things were not

the same on the earth during that period before the flood! Nor the same afterward, because of the effect of the flood!

Interestingly, the theory of evolution and of an "old earth"--along with the rejection by many people today of the Biblical account of a worldwide flood which "changed everything"--is tied to a scientific principle (call it a "religious belief system") called "uniformitarianism." This is a presumption that everything in nature has always continued in the same way! It has supposedly gone on for billions of years in the same way, and at the same rate, and will continue the same way in the future! The "laws of nature"! The narrowly defined "scientific method"! But this presumption leaves out an all-important factor! God! Surely if there is an eternal, omnipotent, loving Creator God who is sovereign--as we believe (know) He is--He can intervene in nature at any time for His pleasure, and set aside the very laws He created as He wills! And this He did--both in creating the heavens and the earth, by speaking it into existence (actually in six 24-hour days, to establish the daily pattern for human life), and in destroying the world as we know it (or don't know it!) through a worldwide flood! And He will destroy it yet again--for many of the same reasons, according to II Peter 3:10--but this time not by a flood!

Peter, as a matter of fact, has more to say about this very point (in II Peter 3:3-9), all of which is highly relevant to last nite's lesson! It has to do with "things to come"--but not without looking back at two cataclysmic interventions from the past! Hear what he says: "Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.' (Sounds very "uniformitarian"!)

For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed by water and by water through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water! But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men!" Wow!

And so, here we see two--going on three--cataclysmic events that defy any notion of uniformitarianism, and cry out for men everywhere to repent and believe in a Creator God who is "patient toward them (just as in the days of Noah), not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance!"

Interesting that Jesus connected--and thereby confirmed--His "coming again" with the story of the flood (in Matthew 24:37-39). This is what He said: "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah! For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be!"

Well, the bottom line is that we can put our full confidence in God's Word--in the story of creation! And in the story of the flood! And in the promise of the second coming of Christ! And be to totally thankful for the great redemption story fulfilled on the cross--striking a death blow to Satan, as promised in Genesis 3:15, through the seed of a woman, and carried on by a man named Noah, and his son, Shem--surviving the Tower of Babel (which we'll talk about next week), and all kinds of other things we're going to be encountering in our upcoming lessons from the great book of Genesis! And we're only beginning!

Walk with the Creator this week, men--and be a blessing!

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