

Intro. On their way out of church one Sunday, the Jones family was greeted by the pastor, “Jim, it’s been awhile since I’ve seen you. Are you doing okay?” Before he had a chance to reply, Mrs. Jones spoke up, “Pastor, tell Jim his golfing on Sundays is a sin!” While Jim Jones began to look downcast, the pastor said, “I’ve played golf with Jim & I would describe his play as a sin, too!” While we may make more minor judgments about sin, there was a time when God dealt with sin in a major way through a worldwide Flood. As we continue our series in Genesis 1-11 on “Building the Foundation of Your Faith,” today we look at portions of Genesis 6-8 on part 1 of “The Flood.”

Theme: Judgment

Background: Shortly after God created mankind, sin came into the world, causing it to tailspin into greater levels of sin & evil, so much that God regretted He had made man.

➤ Lessons to learn from the era of the Flood:

1. Don’t miss the differences between Noah & the world (6:9-13, 18-22)

a. Noah received God’s favor/grace (6:8) & then became

- 1) **Righteous in relation to man (6:9)**—while righteous can mean one is right with God, here it probably refers to his relationship with other people
- 2) **Blameless in relation to God (6:9)**—perfect/whole-hearted (not sinless) but sound & having integrity; he walked with God (cf. 5:21-24)
- 3) **Part of God’s covenant to preserve life (6:18-22; cf. chapter 9)**

b. Mankind’s sin & its effects are the problem with the world (6:11-13; cf. 6:5; 8:21)

- 1) **The earth was corrupt & heading for destruction (6:11)**—what God had decided to destroy had been virtually self-destroyed already (kind of like our world today)
- 2) **The earth was violent & crying for judgment (6:11-13)**—when “God saw” the earth, it was not good (like it was in chapter 1) but “corrupt” & “filled with violence” because of sinners

Illus: I’m not trying to make a political statement but use a relevant example—while we need tighter gun-control laws, simply making it illegal to obtain firearms isn’t the solution, because the earth is corrupt & full of violence & law-breakers bent on killing others don’t care about the legality of gun laws

2. Because of sin, God judged the entire world through the Flood (6:17; 7:11-12, 19-23)

a. The Flood waters came from above & below (7:11-12)—the “fountains of the great deep burst forth” & “the windows of the heavens were opened”

b. The Flood was universal, not local, or else God lied (6:17; 7:19-23)

- 1) **Ancient cultures include a great Flood story**—it would not be uncommon for descendants of Noah to tell the story to others even if they strayed from the One True God
- 2) **Evidence of marine life on mountaintops & in places like Kansas** (more than 1,000 miles from an ocean with large mountain ranges on each side to keep ocean water from reaching it, unless there was a lot of water)
- 3) **If it was a local flood, God could have told Noah to move rather than build an ark**—like the angels rescuing Lot from Sodom, which would have been much easier
- 4) **If it was a local flood, then God has lied, because local floods happen every year (cf. 8:21; 9:11, 15-17)**—see what’s taking place in WV right now

- We've seen lots of people die from local floods each year, but since God is talking about a Universal Flood, He has remained faithful—a Universal Flood points toward Universal Judgment for all sinners one day
- c. The Flood was catastrophic (6:17; 7:11-12, 18-23)**
- 1) **Killing life (6:17; 7:21-23)**—the vast majority of animals & humans were killed during the Flood (more on this next time in the Fossil Record)
 - 2) **Forming rock layers rapidly (7:18-20)**—see examples of Mount St. Helen's & Providence Canyons
- But don't rock strata form over millions of years?
 - Evolutionists and old earth creationists argue that it took millions of years to form the various rock strata that we find today. This idea was first proposed by Charles Lyell in his 3-volume work *Principles of Geology* (1830-1833). Lyell's theory was radical uniformitarianism, which insists that only present-day processes of sedimentation & erosion at present-day rates of intensity & magnitude should be used for the rock record of past geological activity. Is this view valid?
 - No, because the cataclysmic events of the Flood were so significant that today's sedimentation & erosion processes aren't at all close to what occurred then. Not only has this position been argued above, but the eruption of Mount St. Helen's produced 25 feet of rock strata within 3 hours on June 12, 1980. If no one would have been around to record it, today's geologists would claim that much sedimentation took millions of years to form (instead of only 3 hours!). Moreover, as you see these pictures of Providence Canyon outside of Lumpkin, GA, we know this canyon—which has been called the “Little Grand Canyon,” with depths up to 150 feet—formed in 1846 due to erosion from increased settlement & farming practices, what was once a 3-foot ditch grew more than 400 feet in just a few years
 - But doesn't Carbon-14 dating & radiometric dating prove the earth is millions of years old?
 - Proponents for an old earth often look to dating methods as proof of an old earth. C-14 is supposed to be accurate up to 50K-100K years. This form of dating measures the amount of C-14 (stable) in a decayed organism against the C-12 (unstable, decreases in half-lives). It builds off the assumption that the ratio of C-14 to C-12 in the atmosphere has always been the same. We know the ratio is not the same, however. Moreover, the decaying rate of the magnetic field around the earth (which allowed less C-14 production in the past) points to an earth some 10K years old. Finally, due to larger amounts of vegetation prior to the Flood, the ratio of C-14/C-12 could have been as much as 1/500th of what it is today.
 - Problems also occur with radiometric dating, which assumes the initial conditions of a rock are known, the amount of parent or daughter elements in a sample has not been altered by anything other than radioactive decay, and the decay rate (half-life) of a parent isotope has remained constant since the rock was formed. Note that these are significant assumptions. Various attempts at dating known-rocks from the lava of Mount Saint Helens have shown the inconsistencies of radiometric dating. Additional problems lie with the discovery of large amounts of helium inside zircon crystals, which contain U-238 that decays into Pb-206. The helium is supposed to migrate out of the zircons rapidly, but old earth proponents cannot explain its presence.
- 3) **Seismic & volcanic activity occurred & tectonic plates probably shifted greatly (7:11-12)**—the land masses were probably shifted during this time, because there would have been earthquakes & volcanic eruptions, resulting in tsunamis before the Flood

4) Lifespans shortened drastically after the Flood (11:10-26; cf. 5:1-32)

- What accounts for the long lives of the first 10 generations (Gen 5—average 912 years, excluding Enoch) in comparison to the next 10 generations (Gen 11—average 317 years) & the 3 generations after Abraham (average 146 years)?
- What accounts for these drastic changes? One answer has to do with the Flood (the Canopy Theory—see more in chapter 11). Another has to do with heritable and genetic factors that have multiplied through the millennia, negatively affecting the longevity of humans. Moreover, disease-causing bacteria, various stressors on one's body, and more help contribute to shortened lifespans today. Many scientists and doctors believe that even if complete cures were found for the 3 major killers today (cancer, stroke, coronary artery disease), the maximum lifespan of humans would still not increase (though more would approach this maximum).

➤ **Are you ready for the next worldwide judgment on sin?** Have you turned from your sins & trusted in Christ & are you living for Him today?

Conc. In the last few weeks, I have beaten my boys in sports & lately it's been basketball. They want me to give them a chance. I let them win a few weeks ago & they were talking smack, so I decided to shut them up. I occasionally show mercy as a reminder of God's mercy to us, but I also show them total domination to learn about the supremacy of God over our lives. If they talk smack, judgment day is coming! But the other night, I was playing them in Oceanopoly (a version of Monopoly). Late in the game, when I had dominated the board, Luke was frustrated & I asked him to make me any offer & I would accept it. He asked to trade everything—properties, big fish (hotels), money & all & he finished me off. Why would I do that? Why would I give him the best deal ever offered in Monopoly? As an example of Jesus' offer to us—He has all the righteousness & obedience & we have sin & guilt—Jesus took all our sin & guilt & traded His righteousness & obedience through His death on the cross & our reception of His sacrifice through faith. That's the way you escape the coming judgment (of which the Flood serves as a warning)—trust in Jesus who has already been judged for you.