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(Genesis 6:9-8:19)

Intro. Did you ever hear the story about a donkey crossing a river with a load of salt? He lost his footing and slipped into the water, so that the salt was dissolved. He was mightily pleased at finding himself relieved of his burden when he got upon his legs again. So the next time he came to a river with a load on his back, thinking that the same thing would happen if he got into the water, he let himself go under on purpose. But this time he was loaded with sponges, which absorbed so much water that he could not keep his head up and was drowned. (Encyclopedia of Illustrations #474—family-times.net). The moral of the story is that if you play around in life & don’t take it seriously, you will not only fail in your most basic tasks but thinking lightly of sin will cause you to perish. That’s part of what the Flood story is about as we look in chapters 7-8 of Genesis in our series “Building the Foundation of Your Faith.”

Theme: Judgment

Background: Although Darwinian evolution teaches we have evolved from something lesser & become greater, the biblical narrative teaches we were created innocent but fell in sin & have evolved into greater sin, so much so that God determined to start afresh by destroying the earth through a worldwide Flood.

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

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

3. God is faithful in preserving & delivering His own (6:17-21; 7:1-4, 7-9, 13-16, 23; 8:1-3, 15-17)—the purpose of the Flood was both to punish the ungodly & to preserve the worship of Yahweh

a. God remembered Noah (8:1)

- Peter argues that baptism, which is an appeal to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Christ, corresponds to God’s deliverance of Noah & his family through the Flood (1 Peter 3:20-21)

b. Not only did God preserve Noah & his family, but He also preserved 2 of every kind of land animal (male & female)

- Birds, cattle, dogs, cats, lizards, etc. (but not fish & sea creatures)—note “kind” does not mean “species,” but probably closer to order or family classifications today

➤ Were dinosaurs on the ark?

- There is significant debate among Christians as to when dinosaurs actually died off. Many side with evolutionists & argue for tens or hundreds of millions of years ago. Some have wondered, however, if dinosaurs co-existed with mankind, and if so, did they live long enough to make it on the ark? I believe they did, for several reasons.

1) The word “dinosaur” (meaning “terrible lizard”) was not invented until 1841 (well after the English Bible, especially KJV), so the English translations would not have used it

2) The word “great sea creatures” (1:21) is from the Hebrew term tannin, meaning dragon or sea-serpent (cf. Isa 27:1; Job 41; Ps 74:13); for flying serpents, see Isa 30:6; see also Jer 14:6; Job 40:15-19. The fact that the same terminology is used of animals long after the Flood supports the view that they made it onto the ark.

3) Ancient cave drawings show that early man knew of dinosaurs (a cave near the Natural Bridges National Monument shows something like what was once called a brontosaurus) & folk legends abound with ancient creatures (even fire-breathing dragons, see Job 41:18-21)

- 4) Most of the dinosaurs probably died off shortly after the Flood, because there may not have been enough food to sustain them (or there was enough climate change to affect them)
 - 5) Only two of every “kind” made it onto the ark (not two of every species). Scientists agree that there are only about 50 kinds of dinosaurs
 - 6) The average size of a dinosaur was the size of a sheep (most were the size of chickens)
 - 7) Even the large dinosaur kinds that made it on the ark were probably very young adults (able to reproduce for years to come) & not that large
- If so, why don’t we find fossils of both dinosaurs & man together?
- This question is a good one, but more understanding is needed to answer it.
 - 1) About 95% of all fossils are shallow marine organisms, such as corals and shellfish
 - 2) About 95% of the remaining 5% are algae & plants
 - 3) About 95% of the remaining .25% are invertebrates, including insects
 - 4) The remaining .0125% are vertebrates, mostly fish
 - 5) 95% of land vertebrates consist of a single bone
 - All of that to say that we don’t have many fossils of land vertebrates to compare, so suggesting that dinosaurs and humans could not have co-existed because we don’t find their fossils together is a statement without much support.
 - Because rapid, sedimentation of rock is needed for fossilization, the fossils we discover would have had to happen quickly (especially of fish, which decay within days after death). Because humans are smart and mobile, they could find higher ground during the Flood until it eventually overwhelmed them (causing them to drown rather than be buried in sedimentary rock).
- 4. Whatever God commands you to do, do it (6:22; 7:5, 9, 16; 8:18-19)**
- All throughout the Flood story, we find Noah obeying all God commanded him to do
 - You may be ridiculed or mocked for doing it, for Noah was probably ridiculed for building the ark, but Noah was obedient & God blessed him for his faithfulness
- **So have you obeyed God in terms of trusting Jesus? Repenting from your sins? Being baptized as a follower of Jesus? Joining a local church? Serving the Lord? Giving to the Lord in tithes & offerings? Praying? Reading God’s Word?**
- Conc.** There’s another story about a donkey & its owner & the owner’s son. It comes from Aesop’s Fables around the 6th century BC. A man and his son were once going with their Donkey to market. As they were walking along by its side a countryman passed them and said: “You fools, what is a Donkey for but to ride upon?” So the Man put the Boy on the Donkey and they went on their way. But soon they passed a group of men, one of whom said: “See that lazy youngster, he lets his father walk while he rides.” So the Man ordered his Boy to get off, and got on himself. But they hadn’t gone far when they passed two women, one of whom said to the other: “Shame on that lazy lout to let his poor little son trudge along.” Well, the Man didn’t know what to do, but at last he took his Boy up before him on the Donkey. By this time they had come to the town, and the passers-by began to jeer and point at them. The Man stopped and asked what they were scoffing at. The men said: “Aren’t you ashamed of yourself for overloading that poor Donkey of yours—you and your hulking son?” The Man and Boy got off and tried to think what to do. They thought and they thought, till at last they cut down a pole, tied the Donkey’s feet to it, and raised the pole and the Donkey to their shoulders. They went along amid the laughter of all who met them till they came to Market Bridge, when the Donkey, getting one of his feet loose, kicked out and caused the Boy to drop his end of the pole. In the struggle the Donkey fell over the bridge, and his fore-feet being tied together he was drowned. “That will teach you,” said an old man who had followed them: “PLEASE ALL, AND YOU WILL PLEASE NONE.” Some of you made a profession of faith & may have been baptized to please your parents, but you were never converted. In some countries, individuals want to please their parents & don’t trust in Christ. Some try to please friends or co-workers or themselves, so they don’t trust in Christ. The only One worth pleasing is God & obeying Him.