

Genesis 6-10

December 5, 2010

Today we look at the story of Noah and the flood.

6:1-4: Who can tell us what takes place in chapter 6 verses 1 to 4?

- It says here that the “sons of God” took wives from themselves from the daughters of men.

Who are the “sons of God” and the daughters of men?

- Some have thought that these “sons of God” were actually angels who married human women. But Jesus said that angels do not marry ([Matthew 22:30](#) & [Mark 12:25](#)). These “sons of God” were likely men who followed the Lord and the daughters of men were likely women who did not follow the Lord.

Who were the Nephilim (*NEFF-uhl-um*)?

- They were a race of giants.

Are there others like the Nephilim mentioned in Scripture?

- Goliath and his four sons were all giants ([2 Samuel 21:15-22](#)).

Did you notice in verse three that God declared that the lives of men were about to be shorter? This was likely going to be a result of the “canopy” collapsing so that now the earth would endure the ultraviolet rays from the sun and men would live in a world with a lesser amount of oxygen content. By David’s day, men were living only **70 years, with the strongest men making it to **80** ([Psalm 90:10](#)).**

6:5-9: What do we learn in verses 5 to 9?

- People had become horribly evil. God was grieved by the behavior of the men He had created. [See 6:11-12](#). Even the animal kingdom had become an offense to God. But Noah found favor with God because he was righteous and blameless.

What does it mean to be righteous and blameless?

- To be righteous is to have character and to do the right thing before God. To be blameless is to repair any wrongs with men. We can’t be perfect, but we can be blameless.

Do you think that God was surprised that man had become so evil?

- No. God is all knowing and eternal. He knows the end from the beginning, because He’s already there. He knew when He created man that man would sin, the flood would come, and that Jesus would have to die.

6:13-22: What do we learn in verses 13 to 22?

- God will destroy the earth. Noah, his wife, their sons, and their wives will be saved in a huge boat that they are to build according to God’s instructions. He is also to take land animals on the ark with him.

7:1-5: What takes place in chapter 7 verses 1 to 5?

- God tells Noah to take **7 of each** “clean” animal and two of each unclean animal. God told Noah a **week in advance** that the rain would come, **40 days** and nights of rain.

What do we learn about Noah in **7:5 and 6:22**?

- Noah was doing everything the Lord told him to do.

Genesis is a book of “firsts”; what “first” do we learn about in **verse 4**?

- This would be the first time that it would rain on the earth (**2:5-6**).

7:6-24: Answer these questions out of **verses 6 to 24**. How old was Noah when He entered the Ark?

- Noah was **600** (**7:6**).

Did the floodwaters all come from the sky?

- No. The canopy collapsed and the water came down from the sky for **40 days and nights** (**7:11-12**). But the earth also apparently cracked in places and water came up out of the earth (**7:11**).

8:1-19: What happened in **chapter 8 verses 1 to 19**?

- Have someone tell what took place.

8:20: What did Noah do first when he got off of the ark?

- He built an altar and worshiped.

How is this significant to us?

- God should always be first in our lives. We give Him the first day of each week (Sunday, our holy day; **Acts 20:7 & 1 Corinthians 16:2**). We seek Him first; see **Matthew 6:33**. We are to give to Him first; see **Proverbs 3:9**. We are to give God our first and best, not just what’s left.

8:21: What does God promise in **verse 21**?

- God promises to never again destroy every living thing as He had done.

9:3: Do you notice anything unusual about **chapter 9 verse 3**?

- God now gives man permission to eat meat. Prior to this, men were vegetarians; see **1:29**.

9:4: In **verse 4** God begins to unfold the doctrine of “blood” in Scripture. What does God tell us about the “blood” in Scripture?

- See **Leviticus 17:14**. The life of a person is in their blood. It took mankind several thousand years to discover that it is the blood that carries “life” to the entire body. Death comes when the blood goes bad or ceases to flow. See **Hebrews 9:22**. There is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. God slew an animal in **Genesis 3:21** to “cover” Adam and Eve’s sin. Christ shed His blood to pay for our sin.

9:6: God begins to establish the law of justice here. What does He say?

- If you murder someone, then you are to die for that crime. Scripture later gives us exceptions to this that excludes accidental deaths, self-defense, and killing in war.

9:8-17: What takes place in **verses 8 to 17**?

- God again promises to never again destroy all flesh with a flood. He creates the rainbow as a sign of the covenant (promise) that He makes to mankind.

9:20-27: What happens in **verses 20 to 27**?

- Noah gets drunk and apparently is laying or running around naked in his tent. Ham comes in, sees him, and goes to tell his brothers. They walk in backward with some clothing and cover their father without seeing his nakedness. Noah then curses Canaan and blesses Shem and Japeth (*JAY-peth*).

What are your thoughts on what took place here?

- The whole episode is creating by Noah's drunken stupor. Had Noah been doing the right thing, and then none of this would have happened. Maybe **Ham** should have covered his father, but he probably was shocked, not only by the nakedness but by the drunkenness. **Noah** was likely still drunk when he awoke after passing out, and in his drunken stupor he curses **Canaan** (HAM'S SON) who had done nothing wrong. **Noah** was trying to be spiritual and fatherly when he had given up his right (at that time) to be either.

What lessons might we learn from Noah's behavior?

- It's easier to start well than it is to finish well.
- Even those who have lived righteous lives have the potential to "blow it" if we don't watch our steps and guard our hearts.
- It's always easier to blame someone else than it is to admit your own guilt.

10:8-11: What do we learn in chapter 10 verses 8 to 11?

- A man named **Nimrod** became a "mighty one" and a "great hunter before the Lord". He builds a great city called **Babel** (*BAA-bull*) that is the sight of our next story in **chapter 11** and is the site of Babylon. Babylon later becomes a wicked place. He also built another great city: **Nineveh** (*NIN-uh-vuh*). It, too, over time becomes a wicked city but repents at the preaching of Jonah