

SONRISE

SMALL GROUPS

HEROES OF THE FAITH

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

NOAH: FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE (GENESIS 6-9)

MAIN POINT

Noah showed faithful obedience before God in building the ark. As followers of Christ, Jesus is the greater ark who has protected us from God's wrath by His perfect obedience on our behalf.

INTRODUCTION

- What is the worst natural disaster you have seen or experienced? What was it like going through that time?
- What happened after the disaster? Where did people look for help and comfort?

We learn a lot about ourselves when we experience such traumatic events. The way we react to the destruction of our property or city shows what and who we value. During such times, many turn to God while others run from Him. The story of Noah is more than simply an account of the greatest flood in history. It is a story about God's judgment and salvation, ultimately pointing to the only one who has ever shown perfect obedience, Jesus.

DISCUSSION

> Read Genesis 6-9.

- How is our culture similar to Noah's? How is it different? Do you think our culture is more or less corrupt than it used to be? Why?
- In your life, the lives of your children, or in today's culture, what consequences have you seen of choosing to disobey God?
- What did it cost Noah to follow God? Does following Jesus always have a cost associated with it? Explain.
- What do these passages teach us about the seriousness of sin? How would your life look different if you took your sin as seriously as God does?
- How was God's grace revealed to Noah and to mankind, even in the midst of the flood? Why would God have been justified to save no one in the flood?
- Noah and his family were protected inside the ark. How have those in Christ been protected from God's wrath because of His obedience?
- How did Noah's obedience before God foreshadow the perfect obedience of Jesus?
- How has God's covenant to Noah been fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus? How did Jesus receive the complete destruction that we all deserve?
- How does Jesus' obedience on our behalf motivate us to greater obedience before God today?

APPLICATION

- Where have you failed to take your sin as seriously as God does? How do you need to respond to Him in light of today's study?
- How might we share the good news of the gospel using the story of Noah? Why is it important that we warn others of God's judgment but also offer them the hope found in Jesus?

COMMENTARY

Genesis 6-9

With the passing of time it became increasingly clear that humanity was unwilling and unable to live out the responsibilities of stewardship. Humans again violated their proper place within God's order by overstepping the limits God had placed on them. As a result of the improper intermingling of the "sons of God" (understood as either the angels or the rulers on the earth) and "the daughters of men," God again saw the need to reassert His lordship and make a fresh beginning that could give the human race another chance at obedience.

The consequence of sin was the great flood, a catastrophe so enormous that all life and institutions perished from the earth. God's grace was still active in preserving a remnant on the ark. In response to the worship of His people, God promised never again to destroy the earth so long as history ran its course. God's pledge to Noah reaffirmed the creation promises of blessing and dominion. Though differing in detail from the original statement of Genesis 1:26-28, the central mandate is identical. The new humanity springing from Noah and his sons was called on to exercise dominion over all the earth as the image of God. The sign of the permanence of that arrangement was the rainbow.

Once more, as though to underline the effects of the fall on human faithfulness, Noah fell victim to his environment. Adam had sinned by partaking of a forbidden fruit; Noah sinned by perverting the use of a permitted fruit. Both cases illustrate that unaided humans can never rise to the level of God-ordained responsibility.

When Noah learned of the abuse he had suffered at the hand of his son Ham, he cursed the offspring of Ham—the Canaanites. He blessed those of his other two sons. This set in motion the relationships among the threefold division of the human race that would forever after determine the course of history. God would enlarge Japheth (the Gentiles), but in time Japheth would find refuge in the preserving and protecting tents of Shem (Israel). The Shemites (or Semites) thus would be the channel of redemptive grace.