

Dear Friends and Family,

You may think of Noah as relegated to just the book of Genesis. However, did you know that Noah is referenced 51 times throughout the Bible? Consider this passage in 2 Peter:

2 Peter 2:4-10 “For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, held for judgment; ⁵ and did not spare the ancient world, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly...”

Focus on verse 5 as we turn our attention specifically to the second pericope of God’s wrath, the flood.

Recall the questions we asked in reference to the first pericope of God’s wrath, the Fall:

1. (The Fall of Angels) Why has Satan been allowed to continue on and rule this world?
2. (The Fall of Man) Why are people drawn to and embracing sin?

This week, as we look at the flood narrative, we will examine 6 questions brought to light by some of the passages of Scripture that refer to Noah. Stick with me and dig deep into Scripture as we further explore the problem of sin and our response.



Question #1 - What is your role in a world of sin?

Read: 2 Peter 2:5

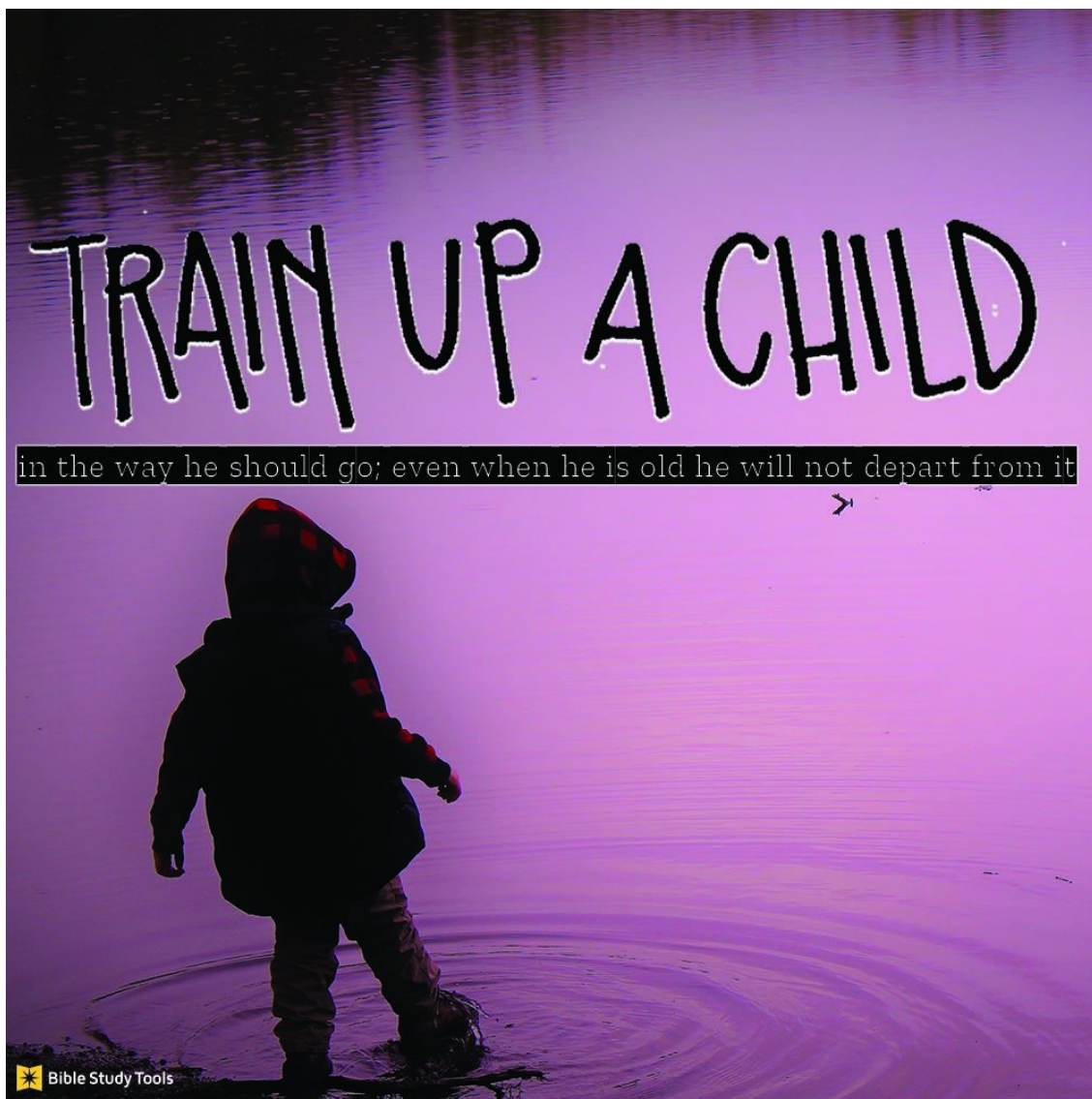
According to 2 Peter 2:5, what role did Noah have before the coming flood? Peter refers to Noah as a “*Preacher of righteousness.*” The Greek word *kérux* translates as “preacher”. This term means a *herald or proclaimer*. It is defined in Strong's concordance as “a “town-crier” proclaiming critical news for the public”. If we turn our attention to the flood narrative in Genesis 6, we can begin to understand why Peter uses this term to describe Noah. Today we associate preaching with proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and calling people to repentance. Noah however, did not preach a message of repentance.

Consider the context:

- vs 5 - what did the Lord take notice of?
- vs 6 - what was the Lord's attitude toward this?
- vs 7 - what did the Lord commit to doing because of this?
- vs 8 - what did the Lord see in Noah?
- vs 11-12 - what was the status of the earth?
- vs 13 - what would the Lord do about it?
- vs 14 - what did the Lord command Noah to do?
- vs 18 - who would the Lord allow to enter the ark?

Noah was not called to preach a message of repentance to the people of the world. Instead he was called to be obedient to the Lord and he and his family would be saved. Noah was the "town-crier" proclaiming critical news for the public, not based on what he said, but what he did. This early incident recorded in Genesis gives credence to the old saying, "Actions speak louder than words." He built a huge boat, hundreds of miles from the sea shore, over the span of decades. Genesis 5:32 reveals that Noah was 500 years old. Then, in Genesis 7:6, the Bible records that Noah is 600 when he enters the ark and the flood begins. Somewhere within this 100 year span of time, Noah obediently built the ark. <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-timeline/how-long-did-it-take-for-noah-to-build-the-ark/>

How we respond to sin may vary - we may have moments where we call others to repent or when we hold brothers accountable to sin. However, we may also find ourselves in the spotlight, with our lives on full display, demonstrating our love for the Lord with only our actions.




Question #2 - Are we able to save anyone?

Read: Ezekiel 14:14-20

This is an important and popular question. Scripture makes it clear that the work of salvation is God's alone (John 6:44, Ephesians 2:8-9). Since God does the work of salvation (by His grace) in our lives (through our faith), we can no more save ourselves than we can anyone else. This does not negate the essential work of evangelism. We are commanded to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We have an integral part in evangelizing the lost as Romans 10:9-17 details.

But just as the prophet Ezekiel states in Ezekiel 14:14-20, Noah in all his righteousness could not save anyone, not even his own sons and daughters. I teach my children, I train them up in righteousness, I pray over them, and I pray that God will draw them by His grace into saving faith. Our role is to teach, to share, to lead, to preach, to pray, to persevere. But we cannot save.



Jesus
1-Minute Bible
Love Notes

**Let's Grow
Up in Our
Faith**

Anyone who lives on milk,
being still an infant, is not
acquainted with the teaching
about righteousness. But
solid food is for the mature,
who by constant use have
trained themselves to
distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 5:13-14 NIV

Another 1-Minute Devotion
from BibleLoveNotes.com

Question #3 - How bad will sin get before Christ returns?

Read: Matthew 24:36-41 and Luke 17:26-37

Consider Matthew 24:36-41 and Luke 17:26-37. Comparing the time preceding the flood and the second coming referenced in Matthew and Luke, people were eating, drinking, and marrying. In other words, they were living life as if all were normal. Genesis 6:5-12 reveals that all was NOT well and that the condition of the world, prior to the flood, was that *every thought was evil all the time!* That did not stop the people from continuing with their daily lives, oblivious to the impending destruction.

Consider also the condition of Sodom and Gomorrah; their evil grieved the Lord (Gen. 18:20, 32 & 19:4). Yet, they lived life without regard for their sin and in complete ignorance of the wrath of God. Sin was so integrated in their way of living that they didn't even recognize their sin...sound familiar? Considering these pericopes and the prophecy of Scripture, we must wonder how prolific sin will be before Christ returns. It is possible our world will be much like that of Sodom & Gomorrah, overrun with sin and evil, before we see the return of Christ. Jesus Himself gave us a question to consider, "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

This should motivate us to live even more carefully, discerning right from wrong (Hebrews 5:14), for we know "The time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires, and they will turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths." (2 Timothy 4:3-4). We should be careful to listen to sound doctrine, testing everything against the Word of Scripture, lest we be deceived.



Question #4 - Does our faith condemn the world?

Read: Hebrews 11:7

I've never considered the larger plan of God in the context of Noah's faith. God knew Noah would be faithful to His command to build the ark. But what if he had not been? The author of Hebrews gives us this unique perspective; the building of the ark was a form of condemnation on the sin of the world. Because Noah was faithful and built the ark, God fulfilled his vow to flood the world. Hebrews presents this thought - If Noah had failed and had not acted on faith, if he had disobeyed God, if he had not built the ark, God would have waited and found another faithful man. In essence, the condemnation of the human race would have been waiting until someone was found

who would be obedient, through whom God would repopulate the earth after the flood. This example demonstrates the grace of God's sovereignty in balance with man's free will in perfect unison together.

As believers, our lives should be pointing to Christ. As we seek to live holy, sanctified lives, we should be pulling away from sin and embracing a lifestyle pleasing to Christ. Our actions will absolutely be contrary to culture.



Question #5 - Is there a second chance for salvation after we die?

Read: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Meditate on the following passages: Hebrews 9:27, 2 Cor. 5:10, Luke 16:19-31

- What do you notice as the overall theme of these texts?
- When is it possible to be saved?
- Is it ever too late to come to salvation?

'between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

After death, there is no “crossing over”. While it’s tempting to think that God will save those in hell, the Bible does not support that thought. If salvation were possible in the afterlife, then damnation would also have to be possible. Consider for a moment being in heaven and having the possibility of losing your salvation and falling to hell. Jesus states clearly that the chasm cannot be crossed.

So to whom did Jesus preach after His death according to 1 Peter 3? Let’s break this text down piece by piece. First, vs 20 states that God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark. Recall that Noah was proclaiming or heralding the message of God via his obedience. Those referenced here are all of the disobedient. It took Noah at least 75 years to construct the ark, during which time God was patient with the disobedient. Those who did evil all the time in every thought and action took no notice of Noah’s proclamation. Instead, they continued in their extravagant evil, eating, drinking, and marrying.

Second, vs 18 provides the necessary context of Christ’s death and its saving power. Notice specifically that Jesus was put to death in the flesh AND made alive in the spirit. This indicates that vs 19 does not necessarily take place during Christ’s three days in the tomb. If vs 18 provides the context of both his death and resurrection, His preaching comes after this. This can be further confirmed by Jesus’s words to the thief on the cross (Luke 23:43).

Finally, this brings us to vs 19, which also, refers back to the spirit of His resurrection. In the spirit He went. Proclamation is the word *kérussó*, it is a derivative of *kéru*, the same term used of Noah as a herald. However, while Noah heralded by his actions, Jesus, in the spirit, heralds by His word. This is why most English bibles translate this term as ‘preach’.

So what was the content of Jesus’s preaching and why did He preach?

Scripture seems to indicate that Jesus preached His message ‘to the spirits’ during His time on earth, after His resurrection. According to Acts 1:1-3, Jesus preached for 40 days after His resurrection until His ascension into heaven. We also know that He appeared and disappeared at will (Luke 24:15 & 31). In His glorified state, in the Spirit, He moved freely between the physical and spiritual world. The term *spirits* used in 1 Peter, is NOT a term that refers to dead humans. (The term *soul* is used scripturally when speaking of dead humans; see Psalm 16:10, Matt. 10:28, Rev. 6:9).

So what does this mean? Jesus in His glorified state in the spirit, preached to Spiritual beings who are not humans. Referring back to the context of the flood narrative, Scripture explains that some of the fallen angels took human wives. For this sin, they were cast into “prison” (review the devotional from two weeks ago). Knowing that there is no salvation after death and that fallen angels have no hope of salvation at all, why did Jesus preach to them?

Jesus, like Noah, did not preach a message of repentance. Instead, according to Strong’s concordance, the Greek word *proclaim*, translated as *preach* in 1 Peter 3:19 means to “preach the Gospel as the authoritative (binding) word of God, bringing eternal accountability to all who hear it.”

Jesus did not preach repentance and salvation. No, He preached wrath and condemnation to the spirits, the fallen angels, held in prison. Contextually, we see the continuity of this passage as it explains at the end, “angels and authorities and powers being subjected to Him”. Jesus proclaimed His victory over the spiritual world after His resurrection from the dead (1 Peter 3:22).



Question #6 - What did God promise never to do again and why is that important?

Read: Isaiah 54:9

God’s wrath in the flood served two purposes. First, It cleansed the earth of all sinful human life and began the re-population with the salvation of Noah and his family. Second, it also separated the physical and spiritual world. The fallen angels who

intermarried with women were cast into prison. This means that an avenue for the total depravity of mankind was somewhat removed. Satan and his demons still exist. They still torment and persecute people, as they seek to deceive as many as possible.

However, God made the promise to never destroy the earth by flood waters again. Furthermore, He promises to never leave us nor forsake us. Look specifically at Isaiah 54:8-10. This prophetic promise to Israel is an echo of Deuteronomy 31:6, where God declares to Israel that He will never leave them nor forsake them. This promise is conferred to us through Christ. When a rainbow appears, it should give us pause and bring to our remembrance the wrath of God upon a sinful world. Our minds should quickly remember the promise of God's salvation through His one and only Son!

He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER ABANDON YOU," so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"
Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their way of life, imitate their faith.
Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today, and forever. -
Hebrews 13:5-8

Take two weeks with this and give yourself ample time to study. There are several huge Biblical topics addressed this week. I encourage you to consider each of the 6 questions thoughtfully. Consider your role in God's kingdom. How can you be proclaiming for the Lord? Do you act as a "town-crier", calling those you know to repent? Do your actions reveal who you serve? May God grant you insight, wisdom and discernment as you dig into His word.

Blessings,

Pastor Matt

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*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **RUN** with endurance the race that is set before us -- Hebrews 12:1*



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