

Bible Study Guide: Genesis 7–11 and Job 1

Overview

Genesis 7–11 records both the judgment of the flood and the continuation of humanity through Noah's family. Once again humanity rebels against God's authority after the flood. The introduction to Job then shifts our attention to the reality of suffering, the sovereignty of God, and the limits of human understanding.

Opening Question

What stood out to you most about God's judgment, mercy, or authority this week?

Genesis 7

God's instructions to Noah reveal that a distinction between clean and unclean animals already existed before the Mosaic Law. Here the distinction is between animals that are worthy for sacrifice and those that are not.

The flood account does not specifically mention dinosaurs, nor does Scripture clearly explain their existence or extinction. Scripture simply does not address the subject.

Genesis 7:11 describes both rain falling from heaven and "the fountains of the great deep" bursting open. Some have theorized that massive geological changes, including the splitting apart of what may have been one "super continent," may have occurred during the flood. While such theories are possible, Scripture does not definitively confirm or deny them. The emphasis of the text is on the totality and severity of God's judgment.

God could have built the ark Himself, yet He chose to have Noah spend years building it publicly. During that time, people had the opportunity to repent but they did not. Genesis 7:16 specifically states that God shut the door of the ark. Every land-dwelling creature outside the ark perished, including the Nephilim. However, it is not definitely stated that no Nephilim were born after the flood.

Read Aloud: Genesis 7:11-16. Genesis 7:21-23

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think God had Noah build the ark over such a long period of time?
 2. What does Genesis 7 reveal about both God's patience and His judgment?
 3. Why is it significant that God Himself shut the door of the ark?
 4. What do we learn about humanity from their refusal to repent before the flood?
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Genesis 8

Genesis 8 records the beginning of restoration after judgment. The ark comes to rest upon the mountains of Ararat, a mountain range in modern-day eastern Turkey. Some modern explorers claim to have discovered remnants of Noah's ark, but our confidence in the flood account rests on the authority of Scripture rather than archaeological discoveries.

The raven and dove serve practical purposes within the narrative. A raven, being a scavenger, could land on floating debris or muddy surfaces, while the dove would seek clean, dry land. When the dove failed to return, Noah knew the earth had become habitable again.

Read Aloud: Genesis 8:1-12. Genesis 8:20-22

Discussion Questions

1. What does Genesis 8 teach us about God's faithfulness after judgment?
2. What significance do you see in Noah's first action after leaving the ark being worship?
3. How does this chapter balance themes of judgment and restoration?

Genesis 9

After the flood, God establishes a new beginning for humanity through Noah and his family. God causes the animals to fear mankind and gives humanity permission to eat animals, though blood was not to be consumed. God also establishes strict commands regarding murder, emphasizing the value of human life, because humankind is made in God's image.

Genesis 9 introduces the *Noahic Covenant*, God's promise never again to destroy the earth with a global flood. The rainbow serves as the sign of this covenant. Some believe that atmospheric conditions changed after the flood, making rainbows a newly visible phenomenon.

Although Noah is described as righteous and blameless in his generation, Genesis 9 reminds us that he was still a sinner. Noah becomes drunk and lies uncovered in his tent. Ham's response reveals dishonor rather than compassion. The Hebrew word translated "saw" in verse 22 carries the idea of looking with approval or delight. Rather than covering his father's shame, Ham exposed it further. Noah's curse upon Canaan foreshadows the future conflict between the Canaanites and Israel.

Read Aloud: Genesis 9:1-7. Genesis 9:8-17. Genesis 9:20-27

Discussion Questions

1. Why does God place such strong emphasis on the value of human life after the flood?
2. What does the Noahic Covenant reveal about God's character?
3. What does Ham's reaction to Noah's drunken state reveal about his heart?

Genesis 10

Genesis 10 traces the spread of nations after the flood and demonstrates how humanity multiplied across the earth. This chapter establishes the origins of many people groups that appear throughout the rest of Scripture.

Nimrod emerges as a powerful ruler whose kingdom began in Shinar, or ancient Babylonia. His activities are connected to Babel and later cities associated with rebellion against God. The descendants of Canaan listed in this chapter include groups such as the Jebusites, who would later inhabit Jerusalem before Israel conquered the land under David.

Read Aloud: Genesis 10:1-12. Genesis 10:15-20

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Scripture include detailed records of nations and genealogies?
 2. What significance do you see in Nimrod's rise to power?
 3. What, if anything, do the events recorded in Genesis 10 foreshadow?
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Genesis 11

Genesis 11 records humanity's unified rebellion against God at Babel. Rather than scattering throughout the earth as God commanded, the people gathered together in Shinar, ancient Babylonia, to build a city and tower for themselves. The Hebrew word *migdal* simply means tower and does not specify the structure's exact appearance. It may have resembled a ziggurat or pyramid-like structure common in the ancient world.

While human unity may sound ideal, sinful humanity united inevitably leads to pride and rebellion. This event parallels the future global rebellion described in Revelation under the Antichrist's rule. In verse 7, God says, "Let us go down," providing another glimpse into the triune nature of God.

God confuses the languages of the people and scatters them across the earth. Humanity could not be trusted with unified power.

Read Aloud: Genesis 11:1-9

Discussion Questions

1. What motivated the people to build the tower of Babel?
2. Why was humanity's unity at Babel dangerous?
3. What similarities do you see between Babel and modern society?

Job Overview

Job is generally understood to have lived during the time of the patriarchs, likely around the days of Abraham. Although much of the book is written poetically, this does not mean the account is fictional. The poetic structure likely aided memorization and oral transmission. Job is best understood as a real historical person experiencing real suffering.

The authorship of Job is uncertain, though some believe Job himself may have preserved the account. The book wrestles with difficult questions surrounding suffering, God's sovereignty, justice, and human limitation. One of the central themes of Job is that human beings are not ultimately in a position to judge God or demand explanations from Him.

Job 1

Job 1 introduces Job as a righteous and blameless man who fears God. Then the text immediately shifts to a heavenly scene where Satan appears before God. Even after his fall, Satan is still permitted some kind of limited access before God. The chapter makes clear that Satan's power is restricted and operates only within boundaries God allows.

One of the most uncomfortable aspects of Job 1 is that God Himself initiates the conversation about Job. This introduces the central tension of the book. Human beings often struggle with the reality that God may permit, or even inflict, suffering for purposes beyond human understanding. The chapter forces readers to wrestle with the sovereignty of God and the limits of human perspective.

Read Aloud: Job 1:1-5. Job 1:6-12. Job 1:20-22

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Job 1 is uncomfortable or difficult for many readers?
2. What does this chapter teach us about Satan's limitations?
3. How does Job respond to suffering, and what can we learn from his response?

Seeing the Gospel

Genesis 7–11 and Job 1 both remind us that humanity lives under the curse of sin and cannot save itself. The flood demonstrates God's judgment against wickedness, while the ark points to God providing a way of rescue. The rebellion at Babel reveals humanity's desire to exalt itself apart from God.

Job 1 reminds us that suffering is not always the direct result of personal sin and that God's purposes often extend beyond human understanding. Ultimately, both Noah and Job point forward to the need for a greater mediator and deliverer. Jesus Christ becomes the true refuge from judgment and the One who fully trusted the Father even through suffering.