

## January 7-Genesis 7

The reason for the flood is very clear in chapters 6 and 7. God has decided to judge the iniquity of mankind by almost completely destroying life. Of course, we learned in Genesis 6 that there is one exception to this total destruction and that is Noah and his family. God in His mercy chose to preserve Noah based on Noah's faith and trust in Him. This preservation can be seen as a type of "reset" in that God chooses to almost start afresh with Noah's family as the sole survivors. God says as much in verse 4 stating "For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." God's stated purpose is to "blot out", literally to erase man and all of the earthly creatures, except for a holy remnant. This holy remnant of Noah's family was spared by God because of their obedience to God. In fact, the Bible tells us in multiple places that Noah was obedient to do all that God had commanded (6:22, 7:5). Noah's faith was admirable and his obedience was a direct result of his unshakeable belief in the promises of God. However, Noah's actions were not enough to save him. While Noah was faithful and obedient in every respect as he prepared for the flood, there came a moment in which Noah could no longer do what was necessary in order for his family to be safe. This event takes place in verses 15-16 where we read "They went into the ark with Noah... and those that entered, male and female of all flesh went in as God had commanded him. And the Lord shut him in." I hope you paid attention to that last sentence; the Lord is the one who preserved and protected Noah and his family! Within this text there is an important and central truth. For Noah, there came a time in which he was simply powerless to complete the process of saving his family. He had been faithful in all that God had commanded but he reaches a point in which he simply cannot help himself.

The actual flood of all of the earth as recorded in Genesis 7 is important for the biblical student for many reasons, but one reason that perhaps is as important as any other is the truth that the destruction caused by God in the flood is a foreshadowing of a coming day of judgment caused by God but this time with fire. In speaking about the destructive flood in 2 Peter, the Apostle Peter draws a parallel between the first global destruction and the coming judgment of God, this time by fire, saying "the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the Day of Judgment and destruction of the ungodly." Just as God looked upon the earth in Genesis 6 and saw rampant ungodliness that led Him to destroy all of creation by flood, there is coming a day in which He will look down upon this earth and see its depravity once again. On that day, by proclamation of His Word, God will once again declare that all of humanity will be judged and destroyed. It is a day that will bring with it much weeping and sorrow. God shares with us in 2 Peter that all of creation will be burned, but "we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13). Peter's message to believers is not one of doom and gloom but one of hope. It's the same kind of hope that Noah had as he existed amongst a crooked and perverse generation. Namely, it is the hope that God would save and preserve us while He destroys those who are His enemy. Just as Noah needed the saving hand of God to shut Him into the ark and insulate him from the forces of destruction so we need God's saving hand to pluck us from the scene of His judgment and save us from His wrath.

The good news for believers today is that Jesus Christ has already absorbed the wrath of God on our behalf! Those who are in Christ no longer have to fear His judgments, but this saving work of Christ is evidenced by our obedience. Just as Noah was faithful to do what God commanded and so was saved we must understand that our obedience to God is evidence of our own salvation. John 3:36 tells us "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." I pray your life is one of loving obedience, if it is you can know that God has saved you from His wrath, even while you couldn't save yourself!