



In-Depth Studies Canada



– Home Bible Studies –

The Unfolding Revelation of Christ in the Bible

Week 4 “The Flood” (Gen. 6-10)

Who is God? Judge and Savior

1. At First in Gen. 6-10, We See God as the Judge

God judges the human race by bringing the Flood, showing that man can never regain fellowship with God on his own and that a covenant of mercy is needed.

But in Gen. 6-10, we also see God as the savior, showing mercy on people who do not deserve it.

A. God Brings the Flood Because Sin Increases on Such a Vast Scale and God is Righteous

The problem of sin is total: Gen. 6:5; 11-13

The destruction is total: Gen. 6:7; 13; 17

In the account of the Flood, we see judgment as uncreation.

Gen. 6:7 compare with 1:20-26

Parting the waters was at the very beginning of God's creative work (Gen. 1:6). When man rebels against the rule of the Creator-God, God brings the Flood (Gen. 7:11).

2. But in the Flood, the God Who Judges is Also the God Who Saves

God saves Noah and his family. Salvation comes through a covenant that God establishes at his initiative (Gen. 6:18).

This covenant recognizes one righteous man (Gen. 7:1). Only Noah – who represents those who are saved – is called righteous. His family is not. God's covenant of mercy with Noah shows us the pattern of salvation; God finds favor with one man and saves others because of their relationship with the man God favors.

This also introduces us to two important Biblical concepts, both of which the Bible sometimes speaks about with reference to the Flood:

1. The Day of the LORD: An appointed time when God will finally vindicate his righteous name against all sin (Job 20:28-29; Dan. 9:26).

2. The Remnant: Those whom God spares from judgment, even though they also deserve it (Gen. 7:23; Matt. 24:37-41).

B. God Brings the Flood to Bring About a New Creation.

In the beginning, God tells Adam and Eve to *be fruitful and increase in number* (Gen. 1:28). God repeats the command in the Flood (Gen. 8:17; 9:1).

Who Are We? In Gen. 6-10, We Are Either Condemned or Saved

Our spiritual state is the same as those in the days of the ancient Flood – we are still exiled sinners and can never regain fellowship with God on our own. Like those in the days of the Flood, our fate depends on the God who provides a covenant of mercy.

How Does Gen. 6-10 Point Us to Christ?

God's choice of Noah points us to Jesus. God chooses Noah because he wants to show that humanity needs a righteous representative.

“God's grace to Noah did not appear because of this man's righteousness, but because of the particularity of God's program of redemption.

O. Palmer Robertson, *The Christ of the Covenants*, p. 113

Jesus Christ is our perfect representative who brings a greater and final salvation, when even the possibility of judgment no longer exists (Rev. 21:1).

What Does Gen. 6-10 Mean for Us?

Watch: Jesus used the Flood account to warn his people to watch for his coming. The Second Coming, like the Flood, will come when we least expect it (Matt 24:36-39).

False teaching is dangerous: 2 Peter is a letter that warns Christians against false teachers. Twice Peter uses the Flood account to stress the danger of false teaching (2 Peter 2:1-10; 3:3-13)

Be baptized. Jesus' disciples took seriously his command (Matt. 28:19) to be baptized. 2 Peter 3:20, 21 says God's salvation of Noah and his family from the Flood is a symbol of the greater salvation in Christ.

Fear and trust God: Even though Genesis calls Noah righteous, he too was a man of faith and fear. That is his example for us (Heb 11:7).

Conclusion: What Does Gen. 1-10 Mean for Us?

Jesus is our Genesis: Jesus personifies all the themes of these first chapters of the Bible.