

## 2. BIBLE CHARACTER SERIES

SUBJECT: NOAH

TITLE: A Man Called Noah

TEXT: GENESIS 6-9

INTRODUCTION. Within several generation from Adam, his descendants had become so sinfully wicked that it grieved God that the one creation created in His image was in full and radical rebellion against Him. Turning from the Lord and following Satan, they had become slaves to iniquity. They mocked God and defied His commandments, and their vile behavior angered their Creator. I want to state up front that there is a purpose we must not miss in this message. Having written many sermons, articles, Bible studies, and commentaries, I am well aware of the fact that we need to discern and communicate the purpose in any book of the Bible, or in any passage. With the Bible, the first thing we should do is determine whether or not the Lord states the purpose of any book, or section Himself. If His purpose is stated we need to find that purpose and state it accurately and succinctly. In Genesis, Chapters 6 - 9, the purpose is stated emphatically, even if it is not seen stated clearly by the casual reader.

There are three facts we must keep in mind as we read this passage. In the first place (1), the entire world, following the ruler of this world, had become increasingly evil and corrupt. There was no indication that they were willing to hear or obey the Lord. In the second place (2), there was in the midst of all this evil, one man who remained faithful to the Lord in all things. His name was Noah, a man who worshiped God without compromising with the godless people around him. He was both committed and uncompromising in his commitment to Elohim, the Creator of all that exists. He was obedient to Adonai, his Sovereign Ruler. In the third place (3), God was not caught by surprise by the behavior of the open rebellion of the people who owed their very existence to Him. But there is more: He did not have to resort to hand wringing at the behavior of these sinful people. The Lord is never at a loss as to the evil behavior of human beings, or their pretense to worship and serve Him.

For all time, human beings who are willing to read this account from Genesis, will know that He has a plan of action and He is not too timid to reveal it or to implement it. When we read Jeremiah we know He knew what to do about "unfaithful" Israel, and when the time came He knew what to do about "treacherous" Judah (see Jer. 3:6ff). When we read Revelation we see that He has known for thousands of years what to do about those who persist in rebelling against Him.

The translation I will be using in this series is the Holman Christian Standard Bible. For years, I studied from the New American Standard Bible and preached from the King James Version, or the New King James Version. After my involvement with the HCSB from my very first meeting as a member of the Board of Trustees for LifeWay Christian Resources and the Broadman and Holman Committee I have used the HCSB, the same Scripture used in LifeWay literature, along with the KJV. I would strongly recommend

the Holman Standard Study Bible, which has more helps than any other study Bible I have seen.

I served two terms on the Board of Trustees for LifeWay Christian Resources and I served on the Broadman and Holman Committee. During the second term I served as Vice Chairman and then Chairman of this outstanding committee. My first vote on the committee was to recommend to the full board that we go forward with this new translation. They had tried to get the New American Standard Bible to use along with the King James Version, but the secular owners of the New American Standard Bible would not work with LifeWay. A new translation was needed that was accurate and easy to read. Dr. Ed Blum met with the Broadman and Holman Committee and answered questions for us. Later, Dr. Jimmy Draper, LifeWay President and CEO, brought Dr. Blum to my table at lunch to answer some questions about the HCSB. I was very impressed and it was obvious that Dr. Draper was, too.

Now, back to Noah and the Flood. There was one man in all the world who was completely dedicate to the Lord. He obeyed the Lord and followed Him. That man's name was Noah and he was a righteous man who walked with the Lord. Actually, Noah had a wife and three sons, each of whom had a wife, so there were eight people walked with the Lord. He, we are told, found grace in the eyes of the Lord's. Noah was a man among men, and the Lord decided to use him in His plan to judge the wicked men of the day and to preserve something of creation, to make a new start with mankind, and to preserve His covenant with Adam (Gen. 3:15).

#### I. WICKEDNESS HAD SPREAD ALL OVER THE WORLD, GEN. 6:1-5.

##### A. We Need to Take a Look at the World in which Noah Lived.

“When the Lord saw that man's wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time, (6) the Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.” (Gen 6:5-6, HCSB)

Picture “Spring break” at the beach, a barroom at midnight, Bourbon Street in New Orleans (and you don't have to go to one of the joints to have some idea what it must be like), robbers, thieves, liars, pickpockets, brothels, murder, fights child abuse, sexual abuse of children, sex slaves, and any other vile, evil you can imagine. Every kind of evil man can imagine! And all of it in the presence of the Lord who created them for better things.

It would be interesting to know how many things are happening in the world today which would have shocked those evil people of Noah's day. We might start with what mothers today buy for their daughters to wear to the beach, or parade across the state at

a beauty pageant. Those people would consume wine and beer, but they had never imagined the distilled liquor many consume today.

#### B. Yahweh Saw that Evil Filled the World.

The Book of Genesis tells us just how low and sinful the world had become:

(1) "When mankind began to multiply on the earth and daughters were born to them, (2) the sons of God saw that the daughters of mankind were beautiful, and they took any they chose as wives for themselves. (3) And the Lord said, "My Spirit will not remain with mankind forever, because they are corrupt. Their days will be 120 years." (4) The Nephilim were on the earth both in those days and afterward, when the sons of God came to the daughters of mankind, who bore children to them. They were the powerful men of old, the famous men." (Gen 6:1-4, HCSB)

If you are wondering what the Scripture means by "the sons of God" and "the daughters of mankind," let me assure you that you are not the first to speculate as to the identity of either. Believe it or not, some have suggested that angels came down and took wives from among human beings and had families. This of course, is not possible, as it conflicts with what Jesus said in Matthew 22:20-30: "Jesus answered them, "You are deceived, because you don't know the Scriptures or the power of God. (30) For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven." (Matt 22:29-31, HCSB)

A more likely explanation is that the "sons of God" were the descendants of Seth, the third son of Adam and Eve, a man who walked with the Lord. That being the case, it would seem that the sons of godly Seth must have seen the daughters of the ungodly Cain, who slew his brother Abel. It is not surprising that the daughters of the godless Cain would be godless, nor does it mean that all the women who descended from Seth were totally committed to God. Today, there are daughters of Christian parents who live godless lives, and there are daughters of ungodly parents who commit themselves to Jesus Christ and live godly lives. When we combine godless women with men who sought a relationship with such women we can understand why the descendants of those unions chose godless lives. The world was filled with sin and rebellion.

#### C. The Lord Regretted that He Had Created Man.

"When the Lord saw that man's wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time, (6) the Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. (7) Then the Lord said, "I will wipe off from the face of the earth mankind, whom I created, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky – for I regret that I made them." (Gen 6:5-7)

Now, let us see what Yahweh saw when he looked at the people He had created.

1. He saw widespread wickedness. No doubt, this included gross immorality, idolatry, drunkenness, lying, stealing, violence and rebellion against parents and authorities.
2. Every scheme of man was evil. Sin was everywhere. Satan had his way with the whole population. There is no way we can comprehend the moral level to which mankind had fallen. Today, we are warned of scams on the phone, Internet, and at the front door. Those scams now come from foreign countries, as well as from one's neighbor hood.
3. He regretted that He had made man. This highlights the evil that prevailed throughout the world. Everything the Lord saw among the people He had created offended His holiness.
4. He determined that He would "wipe them off the face of the earth." There would be other times when He considered destroying Israel and starting over with Moses, so He would be acting in a manner consistent with His holiness and His righteousness if He destroyed all that lived on earth.

## II. NOAH WAS A GODLY MAN IN A GODLESS WORLD.

### A. Let Us Take a Look at the Man Noah.

"Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God. (10) And Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth." (Gen 6:9-10)

1. Noah was the tenth in descent from Adam, through Seth, Gen. 5:28-29.

### HISTORICAL NOTE FROM ADAM CLARKE'S COMMENTARY:

"Dr. Lightfoot very probably conjectures that Methuselah was alive in the first month of this year. And it appears, says he, how clearly the Spirit of prophecy foretold of things to come, when it directed his father Enoch almost a thousand years before to name him Methuselah, which signifies they die by a dart; or, he dieth, and then is the dart; or, he dieth, end then it is sent. And thus Adam and Methuselah had measured the whole time between the creation and the flood, and lived above two hundred and forty years together." – Adam Clarke's Commentary (Bold added by JLS) [Ask any O T scholar if they have heard of Dr. Lightfoot]

This follows the biblical record, not something some modern day Bible-less evolutionist

has proposed. Man, throughout the ages had been in rebellion against God, and one way they can justify that to themselves and to others is to try to disprove the Bible, a popular pastime for some. Have you ever observed the way the History Channel or the Discovery Channel handles their coverage of the Bible? Then you may have seen them choose so-called Bible scholars to comment on the Bible.

“Religious” people can warp and twist Scripture to suit their purpose. Take, for example, the way liberals have treated anything miraculous in the Bible. The so-called higher critics, for example, scoff at the stories about Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, dismissing them as myth and insisting that the Book of Daniel was written around 165 B. C. to encourage the Jews. Dr. Bill Cooper, in his book, *The Authenticity of the Book of Daniel*, proves, for those who are willing to look the truth in the face and acknowledge it, that Daniel and his three friends did live, and they lived during the days of the Babylonian Empire, just as it is recorded in the Bible. In fact, there are ancient records from Babylon and from Persia that affirm the position of Daniel, as well as his friends. His book should be read by anyone interested in discovering that evidence.

Dr. Cooper, in his book, *After the Flood*, wrote, after twenty-five years of research, some amazing facts about the table of nations we find in Genesis 10. In his research in records preserved in libraries and museums in his country he records proof that five or six royal families in Europe - at the time Jesus was on earth - could trace their royal lines back, through Japheth, to Noah.

2. This historical account lists Noah as the son of Lamech. In other words, Noah was a real person who lived at a real time, in a real place. This is fact, not fiction. Interestingly, Dr. Bill Cooper, *The Authenticity of Genesis*, has found enough information to conclude that people groups all over the world who have had no friendly relationship with each other down through the centuries, have similar stories of a flood that was sent by their god to punish people for their evil ways. The stories are often similar, even though there has been little or no contact between the tribes down through the centuries. It is obvious that these Flood stories were not taught by modern day missionaries.

3. Lamech named him Noah because he foresaw how the Lord would use him. Through Noah, God would preserve the human race. Through Noah, God would give comfort and rest to His people. Through his servant Noah God would begin anew to establish a witness for Himself, a record we can trace from Noah down to the birth, life, and crucifixion of His Son for our sins.

4. Noah was unusually righteous in an evil and corrupt world (Gen. 6:6-9). This was God’s assessment of Noah, not Noah’s assessment of himself. Mankind has never been able to live a godly life in human will or power. Left on his own, he is no match for

Satan, who, according to the record of Job, walks this earth, challenging God for any who profess faith in Him.

5. He was 480 years old when God warned him of the catastrophe to come. Those who believe early man was an ignorant cave man who could not read or write, should read about how carefully many of the ancient people groups kept records of their families and accomplishments. Is it not interesting that the modern mind is often amazed at ancient records about historical events, as long as those events have nothing to do with God? However, if you mention God or the Bible they set out to prove that it is not authentic.

#### B. God Told Noah of His Plan to Destroy the World Because of Sin.

1. He would send a flood. The fact that He sent it 100 years later was obviously no problem with the Lord. God announced His plans when Noah was 480 years old, and he began work on the ark when he was 500 years old and the flood came when he was 600 years old (Gen. 7:6). Noah was a real person, living at a real time in history, not a myth. Yahweh was about to destroy the world, with the exception of Noah and his family. After the flood, the Lord never to destroy the world again with a world wide flood. However, He very clearly reveals in His word that the world will be destroyed again. In 2 Peter 3:10-12, we are told that all the elements of this world will "melt with the heat."

In final judgment upon this world God will rain down fire and brimstone on earth and the earth would not have as much of a chance of survival as Sodom and Gomorrah, where there remains some remarkable evidence of the intense fire. My good friend from England, Dr. Bill Cooper, after viewing a picture of the region from space, sent the message: "Go to the Massada slide and you will see in the background to the right the ashen remains of Gomorrah." He added that some buildings can still be seen, and to see evidence of this he added, "Yes, even the shape of the buildings which today are calcium sulphate instead of limestone, transformed by the heat of the sulphur and brimstone which the Lord rained down upon them. Amazing."

The world was once destroyed by water, and Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire and brimstone, but when the Lord destroys the world the next time, there will be no such evidence, and there will be no human eyes left to see it. Whatever the problem is, God has the answer. Why doesn't He act now as America turns its back on Him? He will act when the time comes and when He acts His judgment will be quick and decisive.

2. Noah was ordered to build an ark.

(14) "Make yourself an ark of gofer wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with

pitch inside and outside. 15 This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. 16 You are to make a roof, finishing [the sides of the ark] to within 18 inches [of the roof]. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper [decks]." (Gen 6:14-16, HCSB)

Specific instructions were given by the Lord, and Noah and his sons followed His instructions to the letter. Time was no problem and whatever material was needed was provided by the Lord.

3. Construction on the ark made Noah the laughing stock of the whole region. Neighbors could see the length, height, width, three levels, and compartments or cages for the various animals. No one had ever seen anything like it.

4. He and his family were held up to ridicule. They were building the ark on high ground! There had never been a flood before. In fact, some creation scientists believe it had never rained before this. They believe plants were watered by a mist rising from the Earth. However, both humans and animals could use water from the many streams.

5. As Noah worked on the ark he warned neighbors of the coming catastrophe (2 Pet. 2:5). The neighbors were curious because of the building of such a structure, but when Noah began to warn the people, some were amazed, some amused, and some appalled.

6. God pleaded with the people, through Noah, to repent for 100 years. One would like to think that when they were warned they would repent. When I was in the sixth grade a student stood at the front of the class every morning and read to us from the Bible. We paid attention. Someone led us in praying the Model Prayer (the Lord's Prayer), and we were reverent. When my younger brother was in high school, he told me, they had Bible reading and prayer every morning, but not in person. Someone went to the principal's office and read a few verses over the PA system, but, he said, no one paid attention. When I was in seminary, my Systematic Theology professor began one class with comments on the new Supreme Court ruling that took prayer out of public schools. My professor was not the least bit disturbed about the court's ruling. He thought it was a good thing: "no law can stop you from praying. You can pray silently!" Nor, were many upset when Bible reading was taken out. We had slipped a long way in a brief period of time, and that was in what was believed, at the time, to have been a Christian nation. By 1962, some still made that claim, but look at what was happening across the nation.

Regardless of what any modern day politician may say, the Founding Fathers assured us this country was founded on New Testament principles. That is saying more than the claim that it was founded on Christian principles - it was founded on New Testament principles. There are many denominations, but there is only one Bible.

7. One week before the rain came, God instructed Noah to take his family into the ark. The humans who lived on the ark during the flood were Noah and his wife, Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their wives. God told them when to move onto the ark.

8. God instructed him to take a pair of every species of animal and put them on the ark. The Lord Himself made the animals available to them when they were on the ark and He closed the door and sealed it. Today, one might claim that it would have an impossible job bringing all these animals to the ark, let alone loading them and managing them on the ark. The simple fact is that God brought them to the ark and made sure they would enter it before He closed the door.

I have heard most arguments against the world wide flood. I well remember the first time I heard a young man claim that there was no world wide flood, but many local floods. While he considered himself an amateur geologist, he was woefully ignorant when it came to the Deluge of Noah's day. But, I will save that for later. The point here is that the animals of the field and forest had no fear of man until they came off the ark. Then, for their protection and preservation, He placed the fear of man in them. How do I know that? Because God says so: "The fear and terror of you will be in every living creature on the earth, every bird of the sky, every creature that crawls on the ground, and all the fish of the sea." (Gen 9:2)

C. When the Ark Was Completed God Sent the Rains and the Flood Increased on the Earth.

1. The Flood increased steadily for 40 days. Here is where an explanation may be needed. Do you remember what we are told in Genesis 1?

"Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water." (7) So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse." (Gen 1:6-7)

For some time, it did not rain on earth. Instead, God watered the earth with a mist rising from the earth. The vegetation God created may well have lived in an terrarium type environment in which the plants had all the moisture they needed. At the time of the flood, the water canopy above the earth, if it existed, would have collapsed and the water rained down upon the earth, even as springs of the deep gushed forth the water stored in them and the earth was totally flooded in forty days. It would take an incredible rainfall as we know it to cover the earth to fifteen feet above the highest mountain 40 days.

2. It maintained its mountain covering depth for 150 days, Gen. 7:24. Is it not amazing that there was an earth changing flood that lasted 150 days? You know, there were probably other factors not mentioned in the Bible. Not only would thee be petrified



forests in time, but Dr. Stephen Austin, who ceased to be an atheist after certain things were revealed to him, made an awesome discovery after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens in the north western part of the United States. I have a small container of ash from that eruption, and we are told that ash from the eruption circled the earth from west to east, some of the ashes settled west of Mt. St. Helens and Spirit Lake.

Dr. Austin visited Spirit lake often and dived, with others, down to see what he could find. One day, he noticed that some of the logs that once covered Spirit Lake were not floating as we would expect logs to float, but some were floating vertically, with the heavier end down and the smaller end just above the surface of the water. He and his exploration partner dived down and found that some logs had absorbed enough water to cause them to sink to the bottom and after some time the silt from the volcanic eruption settled around the logs until two or three feet were buried with the new soil that settled to the bottom. Is it possible, he wondered, that petrified logs were logs that settled this way in the decades after the flood. The logs became petrified, but where the stumps?

My good friend and church member, Jack Witcher of Forest, Louisiana, around 1985, gave me three bags of an unusual fertilizer, which had been mined from thousands of feet up in the Rocky Mountains. The owner of a ranch in Colorado discovered that runoff from the mountain above his pasture grew faster and was greener than that of his neighbors, but he had no idea why. He also observed that his cattle were healthier and had less of a problem with flies. Scientists discovered that the soil at the top of that mountain had once been a part of the ocean floor! As I remember, they said the chemicals from all the dead fish and animals were good for the crops and livestock.

The man started a mining company and began selling that soil under the name US SOILS. He challenged Jack to go out into any cotton field where commercial fertilizers were used and dig down to see how many earthworms we could find. There were none. I scattered the three bags Jack gave me in our back yard. One day, we had plumbers working in our back yard and as one man dug down near our back door I heard him call out to the other plumber, "I wish you would look at all these earthworms!" I observed over the next few years that when it rained earth worms would crawl over our small patio at the back of the house. Chemical fertilizers will kill them.

3. It was another 221 days before the floods subsided enough for Noah to leave the ark. Again, we have what I am convinced is accurate information on one of the most incredible events this world has ever seen.

4. The Ark had settled on Mt. Ararat, and there Noah and his family disembarked.

“(2) The sources of the watery depths and the floodgates of the sky were closed, and

the rain from the sky stopped. (3) The water steadily receded from the earth, and by the end of 150 days the waters had decreased significantly. (4) The ark came to rest in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat." (Gen 8:2-4, HCSB)

On the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains were visible. Noah sent out a raven and then a dove to see if the water had receded enough for him to open the door to the ark and let the animals out. He sent the dove out again and again, and finally the dove returned with a green olive leaf, and after another seven days he sent it out and it did not return.

"In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the water [that had covered] the earth was dried up. Then Noah removed the ark's cover and saw that the surface of the ground was drying. (14) By the twenty-seventh day of the second month, the earth was dry." (Gen 8:13-14)

Noah and his family, plus pairs of all the animals, had just survived the most cataclysmic event the world has ever known. Do you realize how carefully this is documented, and that someone in every generation since that time has had the documentation. Still, while the world rejects this record and denies a world wide flood, archaeologist can dig up a clay tablet with a few scratches on it about some secular happening and it is welcomed by academia. Why is it so easy to accept man's records, yet reject God's account of events? We must never forget who is identified as the ruler of this world.

5. During all this time God provided for Noah, his family, and all the animals. I have written, preached, and taught from Psalm 23 many times. The great truth is stated first, "The Lord is my Shepherd." That is what it was all about to David. Because of that, David wrote, "I shall not want." That is the message of the best known of all the Psalms. Everything else in Psalm 23 is commentary on that first verse. The same Lord who provided for, and protected David, had provided for and protected Noah, his family, and all the animals. If the hymn had been around in his day, can't you imagine this group singing, "How Great Thou Art"?

6. If you don't believe any of this, do your research.

- a. Noah's neighbors didn't believe the flood was coming until it was too late.
- b. Evolutionists today do not believe in a world wide flood.
- c. Doubters may have an opportunity to present their doubts to the Lord.
- d. God is the only One who knows all the facts.
- e. I believe it happened just as the Scripture states it.

D. The Flood Account is History, not Myth or Legend.

Let me repeat that statement: this is history, not myth or legend. Sadly, there are those who believe early believers made up the story of creation, as well as the account of the Flood. I took four classes in Archaeology under Dr. Roy Beaman when I was in seminary. Many other professors and their student followers joked about Dr Beaman. Years later I talked with Dr. David Skinner, professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis about Dr. Beaman. He and I had gone through Mississippi College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary together and I knew he was very intelligent, but I did not know that he had gone as deeply in his studies on the subject of Creation as he had. While visiting with my old friend, we recalled various things from college and seminary and at one point I mentioned Dr. Beaman. David looked at me and said, "Dr. Beaman is still teaching for us and he is still sharp as a tack." Both men had invested a life time studying Creation and evolution. Both came down strongly on the side of Creation.

### III. GOD DESTROYED MANKIND, Gen. 6:7.

#### A. He Sent a World Wide Flood to Destroy all Life on Earth.

"Then the Lord said, "I will wipe off from the face of the earth mankind, whom I created, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky – for I regret that I made them." (Gen 6:7, HCSB)

#### B. Let Us Look at Some Testimonies for the World Wide Flood.

1. Dr. Roy Beaman had led students in archaeological digs in Israel. When asked in class one day how many languages he knew, he said, "with great difficulty I work in sixteen languages. It was from him that I learned that explorers had discovered a place in Siberia where a giant ice bank had broken off, exposing giant Mammoths in ice banks with green grass between teeth and in stomachs. They were all facing north. Someone else, possibly from ICR, prosed a theory about how those giant mammoths might have been flash frozen, if indeed that happened. For that to have happened, one writer speculated that volcanic eruptions may have spewed ash into the sky, blocking out the sun. The same person suggested that in order for a giant mammoth to have been flash frozen temperatures would have needed to drop to near 200 degrees below freezing, with winds at up to 200 MPH. You talk about wind chill factor!

2. The Institute for Creation Research has been doing research around the world for decades and reporting on their discoveries. Close friend, Andy and Jan Mercer, once traveled with creation scientists from ICR, including the founder, Dr. Henry Morris, who with Dr. Duane Gish, debated evolutionists any place, any time they could schedule a debate - until many began to avoid them. Dr. Morris often answered claims by evolutionists by quoting other evolutionists who had proved why their theory

would not work. ICR has effectively debunked theistic evolution as well as the day-age theory. They stand by the Genesis account of creation.

3. David Skinner, in his lectures at our church told of a woman in Russia who picked up a piece of coal to put it into her heater, but as she picked it up she dropped it. She picked it up again and found that she was holding one piece in her hand and a second half was swinging beneath it. It was attached by a gold chain. I suppose that gold chain evolved over a period of a billion of years.

4. The late Dr. Jan Mercer and her husband Andy traveled to Australia, among many other places with creation scientists. She shared with me the findings that there were petrified trees there that were not native to Australia. She also reported that someone found a hammer handle that was beginning to turn to coal. Imagine that! A part of the hammer handle was wood and part of it had already turned to coal.

5. Dr. Bill Cooper, in his book, *The Authenticity of the Book of Genesis*, tells of various tribes around the world who have their own flood traditions. This news may be welcomed by evolutionists who try to make a case for evolution or even for theistic evolution. Dr. Cooper has found from his research that there are flood stories from people groups from all over the world. He writes of tribes all over Africa, and even in Australia (which was believed to have been uninhabited for a long time), even various Pacific islands and some tribes of American Indians. He mentions the well known Apaches, and the less well known Chitimacha Tribe in south Louisiana. The church I served for fifteen years once responded to the invitation from Dr. Leon Hyatt to become a co-sponsor of certain mission churches in south Louisiana (Cajun country). Forest Baptist Church was the co-sponsor for three small churches, one in the very heart of the Chitimacha area around Charinton.

“The Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana is the only tribe in Louisiana to still occupy a portion of their aboriginal homeland. The Chitimacha, according to oral history, “have always been here.” Unfortunately, over thousands of years the Chitimacha land base has significantly decreased. The Tribe’s lands once encompassed the entire Atchafalaya Basin, lands westward toward Lafayette, Louisiana, southward to the Gulf of Mexico and eastward to the New Orleans area. The Chitimacha Tribe currently maintains a reservation adjacent to the town of Charenton, in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana” [Google Chitimacha]

The mission pastor introduced my son John and me to Ma Faye, the widow of the last chief of the Chitimacha tribe. Ma Faye was famous for weaving baskets and teaching young women how to make them. She has baskets in the Smithsonian - and on a shelf in a book case in my bedroom! She told pastor Bobby Hodnet that she was making a basket for me and her son Nick wrapped a chain and pennant he had made and placed

it in the basket. I treasure both, as you can imagine.

The stories told by native tribes in Africa (who had no contact with each other, unless it involved war) involved stories handed down from generation to generation for centuries about an ancestor who was told by his god to build a box, fall a tree, or build some kind barge of wood on which he and his family would be spared during a world wide flood.

Incidentally, they also had their account of the confusion of (Tower of Babel) and the scattering of tribes around the world. There had to be a common source.

#### IV. NOAH STEPPED OFF THE ARK INTO A NEW WORD.

##### A. Only That Which Was on the Ark was Preserved from the Old World.

1. God spared Noah, his Wife, their sons and their wives.
2. Every animal on the ark was spared.
3. That which was outside the ark was destroyed.
4. Anyone who is outside Jesus is dead in sin and therefore without hope.
5. The only hope is in Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:20ff). As those in the ark were saved, those in Jesus Christ are saved. We are saved by that which He did for us in His death, burial, and Resurrection.

Noah built the ark as the Lord instructed him. As the hymn says, "Jesus Paid It All", and we cannot add one thing to that. All we can do is to believe in Him. The late Dr. H. R. Herrington was pastor of First Baptist Church Rayville, Louisiana many years ago. I asked him to preach a revival at the church I was serving and I always paid attention to what he said. I knew I needed to make a mental note when he said, "The only thing anyone can do to be saved is the one thing everyone can do, and that is to believe in Him."

##### B. The First Thing Noah Did Was to Build an Altar and Offer a Burnt Offering to the Lord.

1. This was characteristic of the mighty men of God (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob).
2. Noah offered one of the clean beasts which had been on the ark.
3. The evil men and women of the world has been destroyed in the Flood.
4. Man's sinful nature had been preserved. Noah and his family had been saved from the flood, secure in the Lord's safe place. Today, we must believe in His only begotten Son to be saved.

##### C. Noah Planted a Vineyard, Made Wine, and Drank Himself into a Stupor.

1. In this intoxicated state, he exposed himself shamefully.

2. Ham mocked his father and received a curse and was denied a blessing, Gen. 9:25-27.
3. Shem and Japheth showed due respect and received a blessing, 9:23.
4. Noah live another 350 years after the Flood and died at 950 years of age, Gen. 9:29.

#### D. The Account of the Flood Is Recorded that We Might Be warned.

1. It was not recorded to smear the memory of a great man of God.
2. Jesus and the Apostles believed in the Genesis account of the Flood.
3. Creation scientists have discovered an abundance of evidence for the great Flood.

#### V. AFTER THE FLOOD GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH NOAH (Gen. 9:12-17).

##### A. He Promised That the World Would Never Be Destroyed By Water Again.

1. The rainbow was given as a sign the world would not be destroyed again by water, 9:9f.
2. We are warned of another judgment at the end of the world.
3. The world will be destroyed by fire (2 Peter 3:12) .
4. All lost people will stand before Jesus Christ and be sentenced to hell (Rev. 20:10ff).
5. All Christians will be judged according to their works.
6. All who receive Jesus by grace, through faith receive eternal life (John 3:16).
7. All who believe in Jesus will spend eternity with Him in heaven (Rev. 21:1-7).
8. All who reject Him face a judgment far worse than a world wide flood (Rev. 21:8).

CONCLUSION. The Lord used many great men, and women, in ancient times to fulfill His purpose, and to preserve the covenant He made with Adam that from the Seed of the woman would come One who destroy Satan and judge the world. God's plan for the Messiah is progressively revealed as we move through the Old Testament. All of this should convince us of the wondrous, infinite love of God for the one creature He created in His image.

God might have destroyed Noah with the rest of the world and started over from scratch, but He did not do that. Instead, He used Noah and others to both reveal and fulfill His plan for mankind. Even in those days, God was making plans for His Son to come into the world to provide salvation for all who believe in Him. This plan was first announced in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:15), and it would be revealed through Abraham, the father of the faithful; Moses, the lawgiver; David the king who was a man after God's own heart; and through a host of prophets, like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Zachariah.

Those who turn to Jesus will be saved and all believers are given assurance of their salvation, if they will only accept what Jesus tells us. We are saved by God's grace, through the faith He provides for us (Eph. 2:8-9). However, those who harden their

hearts against God and continue in sin will eternal destruction (in a literal hell) just as surely as those who rebelled against God in Noah's day perished in the Flood. They are also suffering the consequences of their rejection of God in the lake of fire. Those people who mocked God will spend eternity in the bottomless pit that burns with fire and brimstone forever and ever.

This passage should show us how much God hates sin, and how determined He is to crush those who do not repent. He is a God of great mercy, but His wrath is just as great. So, with this in mind, will you repent, if you have never done so. Will you repent and live, as Noah did, an upright and righteous life. If you have already made that commitment to Jesus Christ, let me urge you to walk in righteousness, as Noah did. Why would anyone hesitate when God loves us enough to watch His only begotten Suffer, bleed, and die for us? Don't wait, this is the right time to trust the One who died for you.