

A Flood of Evidence for Faith

Genesis 7:1-8:22

According to Wikipedia, the five worst recorded floods in the world, aside from the Bible, all happened in China. It's estimated that the combined death toll was anywhere from 2.4 – 7.2 million people. That doesn't include those who were displaced by the flooding.

From the World Atlas most of the flooding in US history has been caused by poor engineering practices of its dams.

The worst US flood occurred in Johnstown, PA and is known as the Johnstown flood. This happened when the South Fork Dam failed after 10 inches of heavy rain swelled the river upstream causing the dam to collapse. The death toll was 2,209 people.

In 1926 the St. Francis dam failed in Los Angeles County resulting in 431 deaths. 12.4 billion gallons of water were released when the dam broke carrying 10,000 tons of fragments 3/4's of a mile down river.

In 1937 the Ohio River flood brought water levels in Cincinnati to a record 80'. On January 27 70% of Louisville was flooded with an estimated \$8.7 billion dollars in damages. 385 people perished.

A floods destructive force can be catastrophic. Whether it is caused by torrential rain, rapid snow melt from mountain ranges, tornado or hurricane activity or earthquakes causing tsunamis or mechanical failure when dams or levies break, one thing is clear the damage is swift and destructive. It can take a long time to recover in terms of both the economics and the displacement of people. Just by these few photos we can see that the force of flood waters moves most anything in its path.

When the New Testament speaks about the flood of Noah's day it uses the word kataklusmos from which we get our English word cataclysm rather than the words potamos or pleimmura both which describe a river or stream or sea flooding.

Our message today will take a look at the worst flood ever in the history of the world. If you haven't already turned there, it's found starting in **Genesis 7**. While I want to address the flood itself, we aren't going to take a long look at it. I will point out several key items about it as we go along. Instead I want to consider Noah. Once again we get a good glimpse at his faith. This is not a Father's Day message per se, but Fathers can take a page out of Noah's life and emulate his example. As a matter of fact, everyone this morning can learn some valuable lessons from our passage. There's more to this passage than just having knowledge of the global impact of this flood. We have considered Noah's faith before the flood. This passage today helps us to see Noah's faith during and after the flood. It stands in stark contrast to the unbelief of everyone else who lived at that time.

Our message last week ended with an important note. Noah's obedience was immediate. We read in **verse 22** that Noah did everything the Lord had told him. We talked about the fact that when it comes to obedient faith, there is no delay, there are no excuses, no questions, no alterations because it's too hard or too time consuming or too costly or you don't like some of the steps, and there is no complacency. What God asked Noah to do in building the ark and then in stocking the ark weren't suggestions and wasn't open for interpretation. Obedience is a walk of faith that acts immediately because you trust the one who is giving the command that He knows what is best even when what He asks doesn't make sense to us.

A good example is when Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land. They had crossed the Jordan River, which incidentally was at flood stage. The first obstacle was Jericho. Israel's army was enormous and ready to conquer the land. Just give the word. God said march around the city each day for seven days and on the seventh day march around it seven times. Any military leader will tell you that's a crazy idea. You don't fully expose yourself

to the enemy. You don't let them see how many soldiers you have or the kinds of weapons you're toting. God gave them a command that didn't make sense. Joshua didn't debate military strategy with God. He simply obeyed.

As we reflect on the previous passages about Noah and begin in **chapter 7 and 8** I want us to see that Noah's walk with God was consistent.

I. NOAH'S WALK WITH GOD WAS CONSISTENT – 7:1

I want to read this verse from the KJV because I believe it more accurately depicts the intent of the verse.

“And the Lord said unto Noah, ‘come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before Me in this generation.’”

C. I. Scofield writes that “This is the first occurrence of the word ‘come’ in the Bible and embraces the basic meanings of this gracious invitation occurring again and again in the Scriptures, even down to the last page (Revelation 22:17). This invitation (1) is extended by God to man; (2) urges him to avail himself of the perfect provision God has made for his preservation; and (3) is given in a time of overwhelming judgment and doom.”

There are some scholars who suggest that this is the first time God has spoken to Noah since the initial instruction given him to build the ark a century earlier. We can't verify that for sure, but think about that if it were true. Noah was busy with this massive construction project that took 100 years to complete (and we thought the Zilwaukee Bridge took a long time). The last nail was set, the last basket of food stored and the last jug of water carried aboard and a voice spoke to Noah. “Come with your family into the ark. “

When we would travel from Michigan to New York to visit my Grandma it was an all day trip. When we pulled into the driveway, got out and knocked she

would throw open the door and welcome us in. We never had to wonder if she would let us in. She never turned us away. After a long journey she invited us to come into her home.

For a moment get a mental picture of the scene in **Genesis 7** and put yourselves in Noah's sandals. Your task has taken 100 years to complete. You've chopped down trees, sawed and planed them into planks, followed blueprints, prepared cages and living quarters and hauled grain and carried water. Everything is ready. You're putting your tools away and you hear a voice calling down to you. It's coming from the open door. God is standing there. He's waving his arm in a motion that is calling you up to where He is and you hear Him say “you and your family come on in.” What welcoming words. They are words of reassurance and comfort.

It is now decision time. You have been preparing for this moment for a long time. **Are you willing to leave what you have known all your life or are you willing to go where it will be uncertain?** Your next step will determine your destiny.

Back in the very beginning of this project God had promised Noah protection for him and his family. Noah had been consistent in his walk of faith. We learned that he was righteous and blameless. Every day he had trusted God with all his heart, no matter all the ridicule or threats he may have received, a consistent walk trusts God regardless. A consistent faith acknowledges God and believes that He will make paths straight.

Here are a few verses to ponder. Had they been written in Noah's day, they would have been underlined in his Bible, carved in the doorposts and on every deck of the ark.

Psalm 27:5 “For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling; He will hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle.”

Psalm 33:18-22 “But the eyes of the Lord are on

those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name. May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You.”

II Peter 2:9 “If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.”

To come into God’s presence is an invitation of rest and protection. Jesus offers us a similar invitation, one in which He bids us to come and experience His rest for our weary souls.

Matthew 11:28 “Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

The word ‘weary’ means to be overwhelmed while the word ‘rest’ means to be refreshed. This is His personal invitation to come in faith. It is a personal commitment to follow Him, to believe in Him by submitting to His lordship. It is believing that He is the living water, the bread of life, the only gate by which we can enter.

In **John 6:35** Jesus says “**I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes shall never thirst.**” Just as hunger and thirst are parallel thoughts so are coming and believing. Coming to Jesus as Savior is the same as believing on Him.

In God’s invitation to Noah, He is bidding the patriarch the opportunity to come and experience protection and rest, not just protection from the flood and pending judgment, but most importantly, to experience the joy of resting by faith in the promise of the coming redeemer.

It is the Master saying to His worker, well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master. The invitation to Noah is an affirmation that His work is done and he has been faithful. God had

found Noah to be righteous among all that generation of people. As his name indicates he was deserving of the eternal rest God was offering him because of his righteousness.

The same invitation is extended to everyone, even to those living at the time of Noah. Sadly they chose to ignore it, too busy in the everyday affairs of life eating, drinking, and marrying to heed the warning, too busy to ask if it was really true. They were either unwilling to listen or didn’t care, more concerned about the thrill of the day than about pending judgment, too busy thinking about the temporary than the eternal. They were unconcerned about something that had never happened so didn’t even give it a second thought. **How many people today have spurned the warnings and like Noah’s day, when judgment comes it will be too late?**

But there was Noah, who in spite of how everyone else lived, he was consistent in his walk with God. **Does that describe you?**

You have heard of the great commission to go into all the world and teach the gospel (**Matthew 28:19-20**).

You have heard of the great commandment to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and your neighbor as yourself (**Mark 12:30-31**). Noah believed in and practiced the great commitment from **Luke 9:23 “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Me.”** It is denying self to follow the Lord.

That was Noah. Think for a moment what they had to deny in order to obey God. Think for a moment about what they had to give up to follow Him. But that’s obedience, walking by faith. You give up your will and desire to follow the Lord. Jesus said “**what is it to gain the whole world and yet forfeit your soul in hell.**”

Noah had a walk with God that was consistent that resulted in God’s invitation to come in.

Have you accepted that invitation from Him?

Because His walk with God was consistent his work for God was careful.

II. NOAH'S WORK FOR GOD WAS CAREFUL – 7:2-5

I want to say here that this passage in no way contradicts God's instructions back in **6:20** where Noah was told to take two animals of every kind where here he is told bring in two of some kinds of animals and seven of other kinds of animals because they were clean. That doesn't mean they had better hygiene. They were clean because they would be acceptable for sacrifices. We discover in Leviticus what the clean and unclean animals were. Having clean animals was in order to necessary to make sacrifices after the flood.

If there had only been two animals of every kind, the first sacrifice would have made one kind extinct. Seven clean animals were necessary for sacrifices in order to perpetuate that kind.

The point to all this is seen in **verse 5** where once again we read that "**Noah did everything the Lord had commanded him.**"

The Lord told Saul to attack and kill all the Amalekites (men, women, children, cattle, sheep, etc.) because of how they treated Israel when they were in the wilderness. Nothing was to be spared. Saul gathered his army and went on the offense and had a rousing defeat, but he spared King Agag and some of the best of the flocks and herds.

Did he obey God in everything?

Daniel resolved not to defile himself.

Did he obey God in everything?

Jesus prayed in the garden declaring that He would do the Father's will not His will.

Did He obey the Father in everything?

Noah was told to build an ark – he did.

He was told how to build the ark – he did.

He was told what to put in the ark – he did.

Here are some phrases you didn't hear Noah speak.
I don't feel like it today.

I'm too tired.

The job is too big.

Ok, I'll do it, but I have some conditions.

Hi God, this is Noah. I'm calling in sick.

Is there a vacation plan with this job?

I can't, which is the same as saying I won't.

Can we wait until tomorrow?

Why not do it this way?

When will all this take place?

You may add to that list as well.

He was careful to do it exactly as the Lord commanded him.

Again, I ask you the same question posed earlier:
does that describe you?

Whether at home, school, job, or volunteer work do we do all as commanded? Remember all our work is to be to God.

A walk with God is always done carefully with an attention to detail, doing one's best. When it says God required, now it was time to wait on God and that's just what we see in our next point. When it comes to a walk with God there are times we must wait on God in confidence.

III. NOAH'S WAIT ON GOD WAS CONFIDENT – 7:6-8:14

You have all heard this account so we won't take time to read it. It's a chunk. Noah and his family accepted God's invitation to enter the ark and take with them all the animals that God had brought to them. No, I don't believe that Noah had to go on a hunting expedition to gather all the kinds, sort of in a catch and release trip. I believe God directed them to the ark and Noah had to put them on the ark.

Here's an important point not to overlook in **verse 16 – God closed the door.** He is our only security in salvation. They came through the only access

into or out of the ark and God moved the door sealing them in. They were inside for the duration. There wasn't going back out to get a forgotten toothbrush. They couldn't worry about leaving the iron on. God shut them in. He was their protection and provider. Faith rests confidently in the promises of God, no matter what the uncertainties are. ***If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.*** Have faith in God, faith that gives you confidence even in the unknown.

When we are confident in God, there is no need for fear.

When we have faith in God, there is no need to be anxious.

When we trust in God, there is no need to be worried.

We don't need to be frightened, nervous, uneasy, fretful, restless, apprehensive.

Have faith in God tho' all else fail about you.

Have faith in God; He provides for His own.

He cannot fail tho' all kingdoms shall perish;

He rules, He reigns upon His throne.

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The same God who promised to destroy everything outside the ark in a flood is the same God who promised protection for Noah and his family inside the ark. They entered in confident faith. But sometimes that means waiting.

They entered the ark, God closed the door and they waited seven days before the floods began. Some scholars suggest that according to Jewish tradition seven days was a period of mourning. They further suggest that Methuselah who lived to be 969 years old had died just before the flood waters came so out of respect there was this seven day wait. That's speculation. But wait for seven days they did.

The Israelites waited 400 years before God delivered them from Egypt.

They were told to wait at the edge of the Red Sea to see the salvation of God.

They waited 40 years before entering the Promised Land.

It was about 4000 years for the Messiah. We are told to wait and watch for the coming of the Lord.

We are told in **Psalm 27:14** to be of good cheer while we wait on the Lord.

Verse 17 says that the flood kept coming for 40 days and as the waters increased the ark was lifted high above the earth. Now the passage describes two sources of the water that caused the flood. There were waters from below and waters from above. Back in **Genesis 1** we learned that God separated the waters below from the waters above. The waters below not only comprised the sea, but there were great water reservoirs below the earth's crust, giant storehouses of water. We are told back in **verse 11** that the springs of the great deep burst forth. That word '**burst**' refers to something violent causing the deep to break open.

Imagine tremendous earthquakes and volcanic eruptions causing the crust to break and spew out the contents of those reservoirs, just like a dam bursting. It would have explosive force behind it. Some Christian scientists even suggest that the belching of volcanic ash affected the outer atmosphere causing the second source of water, the waters above, which was probably a vapor canopy that surrounded the earth, to condense and form into the rain that then pummeled the earth. Both sources caused the flood waters to rise covering the entire earth exceeding the highest mountain by 20 feet.

Through the ages all kinds of reasons have been given to explain the flood from the reasonable to the ridiculous: the tilting of the earth's axis changed, a bombardment of the earth by asteroids or meteorites, a sudden slipping of the earth's crust, nuclear explosions detonated by extraterrestrial space invaders (my favorite), or gravitational and electromagnetic forces resulting from a near miss of the earth by a wandering planet or comet.

This was not a local flood. As I said last week, if it

had been then they could have just walked to safety. The animals could have migrated out of harm's way. If it was local the promise of God to destroy everything living was a false claim or the promise not destroy by a flood again was untrue.

From the Grand Canyon we can see evidence for a global flood, evidence that evolutionary scientists choose to deny or ignore. Answers in Genesis gives five simple reasons for a global flood.

First, the entire series of sedimentary layers were made in rapid succession. These layers are nearly a mile deep. You can see places where the rock folded, sometimes at 90 degree angles without fracturing. This could only be possible if the flood laid down these layers in rapid succession and folded quickly while still soft and pliable.

Second, fossils of sea creatures have been found far above the sea level. Secular scientists will argue that all land was covered by water at one time or another. The changing topography due to volcanic eruptions or earthquakes changed the landscape allowing water to ebb or flow onto or off of land. We say, well duh, all the land was once covered by water in a global flood at the same time. As the waters began to recede or as the sediment quickly settled some animals were trapped and buried to fossilize on what now are mountain ranges.

Third, Geologists have traced sand and limestone deposits seen in the Grand Canyon to places as far away as the Appalachian Mountains. Only a global flood could strip sand like that and move it that far.

Fourth, many of the rock layers at the Grand Canyon can be found over vast regions of North America, Europe and the Middle East.

Fifth, there is no evidence of a slow and gradual erosion of rock layers. The only explanation is a worldwide catastrophe that stripped away vast surface areas and then deposited new layers so rapidly that had little time for erosion.

Henry Morris concludes that both "the biblical and

scientific data, rightly understood, show that the earth's great fossil graveyards must for the most part have been buried by the flood and its after-effects. The record in the rocks is not a testimony to evolution, but rather to God's sovereign power and judgment on sin."

The waters increased sufficiently enough to cause this massive vessel to be lifted off the ground or above the earth and increased so much that the hull of the ark would not drag on any mountain top.

In **verse 24** we read that the flood was on the earth for 150 days. Through it all Noah and his family are in the ark waiting on God.

We read in **Psalm 31:14-16** what waiting on God looks like, what it must have been like for Noah to wait on God in faith.

"But I trust in You, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in Your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let Your face shine on Your servant; save me in Your faithfulness."

Does that describe your waiting? Do you believe your times are in God's hands?

It can be easy to feel forsaken when we are in the storm, but when we walk with God, our wait is in confidence. God has promised that He will not leave or forsake you (**Hebrews 13:5**). He told you He would walk with you in your valleys (**Psalms 23:4**). Don't be anxious because He is with you (**Isaiah 41:10**).

But there waiting wasn't over. It took another 150 for it to recede. It was a full year of waiting before the boat rested. Some people want to know where all that water went. **Psalm 104:6-9** gives an answer.

Now, if it isn't, mark this next verse in your Bible. We read in **8:1 "But God remembered Noah."**

"But God remembered Noah."

Put your name in there and repeat it.

Say it out loud with your name inserted.

Say it again with more confidence.

But God remembered...

Do you believe it?

When going through the storm and there's uncertainty about how much longer you're going to be in it, do you believe that God remembers you?

The person waiting on God in faith will have that confidence in Him.

Now here's what I want to say about God remembering. It doesn't mean He had forgotten, that somehow He had amnesia during the year. In the Bible, especially when it says God remembered it means to express concern for someone, to act with loving care for them, to fulfill a promise or to act on behalf of another.

God remembered Sarah when she was barren.

God remembered Hannah when she was barren.

God remembered Israel when they were in bondage.

One author writes that "**when God remembers His people, He does so with favor.**"

God remembers His promises and remembers those to whom that promise was made because the Bible tells us the One who made the promise is faithful. So when you feel abandoned or alone or forsaken remember to wait on God in confidence.

Isaiah 40:25-31

Faith helps you wait in confidence. That brings us to our final point. Noah's worship of God was complete.

IV. NOAH'S WORSHIP OF GOD WAS COMPLETE – 8:15-22

From the KJV **verse 16** says "**Go forth from the ark.**"

It was time for all the residents to leave the ark. The long ordeal was over. They could leave, stretch their legs, kick up their heels, roll in the grass, walk the dry earth once more. A walk of faith always leads to worship that is complete by giving thanks

to the one who was with you all the way through the storm.

We read in **verse 20** that after they left the ark Noah built an altar to the Lord. It's the first mention of an altar, a place specifically designated for sacrificing to God. It is in **verse 21** that we see his offering, his worship was complete: The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma of Noah's sacrifice as he led his family in worship and it pleased Him. That means it was accepted by Him and God made the promise never to destroy the world again with a flood.

In any of the storms God has brought you through, have you taken the time to pause and worship Him? He deserves it. He's been with you through it all. Through it all, have you learned to trust in God?

We go back to where we began with Noah. He found favor with God. He had a tremendous faith, a faith that was evident in his character. He walked with God and did everything God asked. His walk of faith was consistent, his work in faith was careful, his wait by faith was with confidence and his worship through faith was complete. There is a flood of evidence for Noah's faith.

Can that be said of us?