

Water, Water Everywhere II Peter 2:5

Floods have been around for a long time. It may just be me but it seems that they are becoming more destructive. We could speculate on the reasons. Some in recorded history are catastrophic.

In the summer of 1931 heavy snowmelt and torrential rain swelled several rivers in China. Dikes gave way and flooded the region. It's estimated that in total 3.7 million people died, thousands from the initial flooding and millions more because of famine and disease due to the flood.

What is considered the worst flood in US history happened in 1927 when unrelenting rains swelled the Mississippi River. The flood swamped about 16 million acres from New Orleans north to Cairo, IL. It created a temporary lake 75 miles wide and displaced 1 million people.

In 1938 Chinese Nationalist troops intentionally destroyed dikes along the Yellow River in an effort to thwart the advancing Japanese Army. It flooded 21,000 square miles of land. 800,000 people died from drowning disease or famine as a result and displaced an estimated 4 million people.

There have always been floods around the world and we mourn the results of their destruction. The Bible though, gives us the account of the most devastating flood ever recorded. Though many discount its magnitude there is plenty of geological and paleontological evidence to support that it in fact was global and not local as many want to claim. If you really want to dig into the evidence I suggest you pick up a copy of *The Genesis Flood* by John Whitcomb and Henry Morris which is unparalleled in its research and evidence for a global flood or get a copy of *A Flood of Evidence* by Ken Ham and Hodie Bodge.

We are in II Peter 2:5 this morning. I'm electing to

break this verse into two messages. Today I want to talk about the retribution in the flood. Next week we'll consider the rescue through the flood. Both are important enough to look at separately.

Let's recap for a moment. Chapter 2 is about the judgment that will come on false teachers because of their heresy that is leading people astray from the truth. In the verses we are discussing, Peter provides several examples from history of what God's judgment is like. The point is that false teachers will receive the same kind of judgment. They will not escape. We considered the judgment of angels and today will be the judgment of the flood.

Our verse begins by saying that "If He [God] did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people..."

Let's talk first about the scope of the deluge.

I. THE SCOPE OF THE DELUGE – v. 5a

From these words alone penned by the Apostle Peter by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit we come to understand and infer that the destruction of the flood was worldwide, global in scope. God did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood.

A. It Was Global – Genesis 7:6, 11-12, 17-20

To understand the flood better we need to back to the book of Genesis where the actual event occurred. Now, there are no eyewitnesses still around who can attest to the scope of the flood so we can only rely on written records. We do that for things like the Revolutionary War. Historians sift through mounds of written documents from eyewitnesses of that time period that help them piece together the sequence of events and the reasoning behind those events. Then they write their conclusions giving us a window into events that happened when no one is around to corroborate

the summary. There is a lot of fact checking. When it comes to the record of the flood there is only one source - the Bible. It's an accurate source given to us by one who does not lie so its account can be trusted. God was there as an eyewitness giving us an accounting of what happened. Through the administration of the Holy Spirit Moses wrote down the events of the flood recorded for us in Genesis to help us understand not only what was happening historically during that time but the reason behind it. We have every reason to believe it happened just as it did and not as evolutionists believe who claim it was merely a localized flood.

About the flood Bill Nye the Science Guy has stated "That there was a flood 4,000 years ago is not probable. In fact, the evidence, for me at least, as a reasonable man, is overwhelming that it couldn't possibly have happened; there's no evidence for it." I want to say it's not a lack of evidence but rather looking at the evidence through a different set of lenses.

According to Bill Nye anyone who considers the flood to be global is an unreasonable person. That means he thinks we are both blind and stupid to what he considers overwhelming facts to the contrary of a global flood. To him, the evidence seems clear. It's really all about your worldview. On the other hand the creationist would say the evidence is clear that it did happen just by the very nature of what is found in the rock layers around the world. Anyone who believes in an evolutionary view of the world has to conclude that the flood was local. Their view of rock formations and paleontological evidence of dinosaur bones can only lead them to that conclusion. Rock layers, say in the Grand Canyon for example, had to be laid down over millions of years. That's the only way they can explain the various rock formations. Creationists who hold to a one time catastrophic event that was global that it happened in a very short time. It's what we find recorded in Genesis.

From desert valleys to the tallest mountain peaks anywhere you go in the world you can dig up evidence of a global flood. Buried in the layers are fossils of marine life that could only have been deposited there through a global flood. And only in a global catastrophic flood is it possible to find the same type of sediment in different parts of the globe.

Along with the physical evidence from geology and paleontology about a global flood there are over 300 flood legends that refer to it being global and about a man and a large boat. After the flood and the repopulation of the world leading up to the tower of Babel where God dispersed people throughout the earth, they took with them the story of the flood and the ark and created their own version of those events that have been passed on to this day. Missionaries report having gone into the regions of the Aborigines in Australia or the Amazon jungle and heard from them legends of a global flood.

But in our own country we are witnessing a disbelief in a global flood led by the indoctrination that rock layers weren't laid down by a quick global event like a flood, but rather those layers were laid down over millions of years.

The American Research Group asked this question in a poll of the general public: "Do you believe Noah's ark was actually built or only a legend?"

60s	– 86%
50s	– 74%
40s	– 81%
30s	– 81%
20s	– 52%

What's even more staggering is that 1 in 4 evangelical churches do not believe it.

I think the evidence for a global flood is overwhelming and I don't have time to go into any of the scientific evidence of why I believe it. That's why I encourage you to get a copy of either of those

books. Ham's book is an easier read, while Morris's book is more technical.

A few pictures of rock formations speak for themselves about a global event in history. After seeing them tell me how they can be formed over millions of years. Rock is brittle and will break when bending it. So how is it possible that they could bend over millions of years? Evolutionists claim it happened because of the heat and pressure caused by the layers that formed over the lower layers. I believe these were formed when the rock was soft caused by a cataclysmic event where lava heated up the rock making it soft and under the violent pressure of earthquakes and the rapid moving of the tectonic plates in the subterranean level broke up the land and formed it into the land masses we have today. After the single continent of the original creation broke up, the rapid shifting back of the plates caused a collision forming the mountain ranges that we have today after they pulled apart. It's like two cars colliding where the crumpling effect is most evident at the point of impact. All this took place in the space of about 150 days.

This picture is a cut away of the Grand Canyon. Notice that the lighter layer is called the Tapeats Sandstone layer. This layer covers most of United States. The deposit of this sandstone over such a vast area couldn't have occurred over millions of years but in fact happened by a quick mass of water covering the entire region.

Dr. Snelling of Answers in Genesis says: "What solution do old-earth advocates suggest? Heat and pressure can make hard rock layers pliable, so they claim this must be what happened in the eastern Grand Canyon, as the sequence of many layers above pressed down and heated up these rocks. Just one problem. The heat and pressure would have transformed these layers into quartzite, marble, and other metamorphic rocks. Yet Tapeats Sandstone is still sandstone, a sedimentary rock!"

Here is the Biblical evidence that the flood was global.

Genesis 7:6, 11-12, 17-20; 8:8-9

Just think of it, water was everywhere covering at that time whatever the highest mountain peak happened to be. The Bible says that water exceeded the highest peak by over 20 feet, high enough so the ark could safely float over. Great pools of water that were below the surface came up forcing the rock layers to shift and break apart. There were violent earthquakes. Joining the waters that were coming from below were waters from above that came down described in the text as the great floodgates of heaven (Genesis 1:6). You don't have to agree with me but I believe there was a canopy of water surrounding the earth's atmosphere at that time that pommelled the earth. All that water caused a global flood.

The scope of the deluge was not only global it was also God-ordained.

B. It Was God-ordained – Genesis 6:7

Ponder that for a moment. God not only allowed it, He caused it. That may seem a bit hard to swallow, that God would destroy what He had created.

Imagine Michelangelo taking a wrecking ball to the Sistine Chapel after it took him four years to paint.

God had created the world and at its conclusion He said it was very good. Now He was taking a wrecking ball to it in the form of a flood. It wasn't just His permissive will where He was allowing it to happen, it was His sovereign will. It's what He wanted, what He willed. Permissive will is God letting something take its natural course. He could stop it if He chose but He allows it to happen. The 2011 Tsunami off the Japanese coast
The massive wild fires in Greece this past week
The floods I spoke about at the beginning
I don't know nor should I even try to guess the mind of God, but I have to believe God allowed

them to happen by His permissive will.
 His sovereign will is what He declares will happen
 and then makes it happen. They are God-ordained.
 The 10 plagues in Egypt
 The famine in Egypt during the life of Joseph
 The crucifixion
 This global flood was God-ordained.
 And it was gruesome

C. It Was Gruesome – II Peter 2:5; Genesis 7:21-24

“He brought the flood on the whole earth.”

In describing end time events Jesus likens that day in the future to a day in the past. It will be just like the days of Noah. Matthew 24:37-39 records His words: “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away.”

Life was normal. People got up to go to work
 punched their time clock and started their jobs.
 They chopped wood and made planks.
 They tilled and planted.
 They tended herds or sheep.
 They spun yarn and made clothes.
 They made bread or bricks.
 They gathered for parties.
 There was the revelry of wedding music and the dirge of funerals.
 It was just another ordinary day for them.
 But one day the calm serenity of their peaceful, profitable and profane existence came to a screeching halt.
 Instead of calm there was chaos and confusion.
 Instead of the sound of glee there was the sight of ghastly and gruesome evidence that the prophecy of the old kook building a boat hundreds of miles from the nearest sea was actually coming true. The violence of the earth beginning to pitch and heave

added to the almost instantaneous gurgling of the deep as it belched out the waters from below coupled with the pelting rain from above. The rain lasted for 40 days until as we read “Every living thing that moved on the earth perished – birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth...The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.”

Imagine the chaos of this cataclysmic event that resulted in every living thing outside the ark dying. Imagine people scrambling to reach higher ground only to eventually succumb to the rapidly moving and rising waters. Imagine others clinging to anything that might float only to be overwhelmed by the crashing waves. Imagine the horrified screams that were heard from outside the ark. Imagine people beating and clawing at the door trying to get in. One moment they were all footloose and fancy free and the next minute they feared for their lives. They would all die. It was a gruesome scene ordained by God through a global catastrophe.

The Bible is clear in its scope. It was global not local. If it were local, Noah and all the others would only have had to escape to some other part of the region to escape. Most of the animals could have done the same. Noah wouldn't have needed a boat or for that matter the need to collect two of every kind of animal and bird.

The scope was global, but why?
 Consider the seriousness of the depravity.

II. THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE DEPRAVITY – v. 5b

“He brought the flood on its ungodly people.

We have to believe according to Romans 8:28 that God does things for a purpose. He has a reason. II Peter 2:5 gives us a clue as to the reason for this catastrophic event. Peter says the people were “ungodly”. Webster’s dictionary defines ungodly as those who are sinful or wicked. They didn’t obey God. Genesis 6 gives us more insight into their character and why God brought global destruction on everything living.

Verses 1-4 describe a dangerous marriage.

A. A Dangerous Marriage – Genesis 6:1-4

Verse 1 says they were doing what they were supposed to be doing. They were populating the earth. That was God’s command from the beginning. But when sin entered the picture things went haywire. Notice that the Sons of God began to marry the daughters of men because they were beautiful. Now there isn’t anything wrong with marrying a beautiful woman. But the natural physical attraction of these beautiful women mixed with the unbridled passion of these sons of God led to unspeakable and despicable acts. They became ungodly.

We touched on this a few weeks ago but let’s come back to it for a moment or two. Let me again stress as I did then that there are good and godly pastors and scholars who hold varying views on this. As I did then I will do now and give you my opinion.

There are those who believe this verse is speaking merely of the natural union of two people who got married but who were unequally yoked. Paul talks about that to the Corinthians saying that a person who is godly is not to marry a person who is ungodly. A Christian should never marry a non-Christian. The same was true in the Old Testament Law where a Jew was not to marry a non-Jew. That is what some scholars believe is happening here. Men who were godly saw these beautiful ungodly women and overcome with passion married them.

Other scholars believe that this passage is about angels who came down to earth and saw these beautiful women and decided to leave their angelic state and take on a human form to marry them resulting in a hybrid half angel, half man offspring. They contend that if they can eat, as in the case when Abraham fed two of them, they could also then perform other human functions like procreation. My thought is this: If the demonic realm led some to leave their natural state and take on the form of man in order to marry women leading to their imprisonment by God until the Day of Judgment what is keeping other demonic angels from doing the same today?

In any case those who hold this view believe that the resulting union created the giants or Nephilim which means fallen. They believe it refers to the fallen angels. For a moment let’s talk about fossil records. Many of today’s animals had larger ancestors represented in the ancient animal kingdom. Mammoths are the ancestor of elephants. There are fossils of giant dragonflies and roaches and the Saber toothed tiger. Isn’t it conceivable that man’s ancestors may also have been larger than we are? When I compare myself to basketball star Shaquille O’Neil, he’s a giant. Our genetic make-up consists of dormant and dominant genes. The complexity of our DNA can allow for an unlimited variation in physical features that don’t have to be mutated by co-habitation of a fallen angel with a human. How else can I attribute that David will be near 6’5” when his Dad is short by comparison?

My personal belief is that fallen angels were involved, but not by taking on human form. Instead I believe that at the least demon activity influenced this union of godly with the ungodly in an attempt to disrupt and interfere with the godly line so that the godly line would become tainted and the Messiah could then not come to redeem man from sin. It’s my belief that whether these demons possessed some or just influenced this unholy

union, these are the ones held in prison by God until their judgment.

As a result of man's increased wickedness, God said His Spirit would not always strive with man. God said that man's years would be 120. That doesn't mean that man's life span would be that long but rather that there would be 120 years before He would bring judgment. That seems to be evident in the name Methuselah which means it shall be sent referring to judgment.

Whatever your position is on who the sons of God and daughters of men were, know that it was a dangerous marriage that resulted in a depraved mentality.

B. A Depraved Mentality – Genesis 6:5

There are two ungodly traits prevalent in man at that time. It's very similar to today.
We see man's immoral actions.
We see man's immoral attitudes.

Man's actions are described as wicked. The tense of the word indicates that these actions were constant. He was continually acting wickedly. How do we know that? We see it in his attitudes. Jesus said that whatever a man thinks in his heart is what he is, meaning whatever he thinks about he's going to do. His wicked actions stem from a wicked heart. The text says that "every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time." Doing wicked stuff was all he thought about and what he thought about was what he did all the time. Whatever evil he could think up he did. He invented new ways to become more depraved. If that doesn't describe today I don't know what does. We hear some pretty despicable stuff on the news that people are doing and shake our heads and wonder who would think something like that up. But then like the people in Noah's day the thoughts of their imagination was only evil all the time.

Columnist George Will has put his finger on how far our society has gone in terms of being morally bankrupt when he wrote "There is nothing so vulgar left in the human experience for which we cannot fly some professor from somewhere to justify it." What he is saying is that no matter what immoral thing someone does there will always be someone who will come along and condone it and say it's ok. We might describe that kind of person today as a narcissist, someone who is self-absorbed in their own pleasure doing whatever they want. Some may even describe the people in Noah's day as true narcissists, but as one author wrote, "the term narcissism doesn't deliver the full impact of the evil they truly are. Let's call it what it truly is – moral depravity." Whatever evil they thought up they did. They had a depraved mentality.

Now just for a moment put yourself in Noah's sandals. He was surrounded by a world saturated in moral corruption and spiritual darkness. What do you suppose Noah was thinking? What do you suppose God was thinking? We don't have Noah's thoughts, but we do have his actions. We'll see next week that he obeyed God. So we can make some assumptions about what he was thinking. But we do know what God was thinking and what His actions were as a result.

C. A Distressed Master – Genesis 6:6

God had taken great efforts to reach man, but they continually turned their back on Him and became more wicked in the process. God must and will punish sin. He said so in the Garden of Eden. If man disobeyed, he would die. In this passage we read that "The Lord was grieved that He had made man on the earth, and His heart was filled with pain."

Your Bible may say that He repented that He had made man. This is a whole message in itself, but let me see if I can summarize it for you. The NIV provides some insight into what it means. The sin

of mankind pained God. God is pained by our sin. Are you aware of that? Do we understand that when we sin God is grieved, that He is hurt by it?

There were things I didn't do growing up because I knew it would hurt my parents tremendously. But there were things I did that I know deeply grieved them.

Exponentially magnify that with a God who is holy. When we sin He is deeply grieved. That God repented does not mean He changed His mind. The Bible says that God does not change. Instead it means that He was deeply sorrowful. When a parent sees his or her child do something he or she doesn't like you as the parent don't wish the child had never been born. Instead you are deeply hurt by their wrong decisions. In this case it means that God's attitude was changed toward them because their attitude had been changed toward Him. The Master/Creator was distressed by their sin.

If we left it right there we would leave with a heavy heart knowing that God was judging the entire world because of its depravity. We might leave wondering if there is any hope and of course because we know the story we know there is. I want to conclude this morning talking about the senselessness of the destruction.

III. THE SENSELESSNESS OF THE DESTRUCTION

I want to suggest that the judgment didn't have to happen. It didn't have to happen if man had been obedient to God. But the fact of the matter is that it did happen because of man's growing wickedness. In the same way man's ongoing wickedness will result in another judgment that is yet to come. Every generation has been given a light, a voice pointing men, calling men to repent and turn to God. Consider for a moment the genealogy of Adam to Noah.

Adam had Seth who had Enos who had Cainan who had Mahalaleel who had Jared who had Enoch who

had Methuselah who had Lamech who had Noah. Adam was still alive when Lamech was born. Methuselah died the year the flood came.

Think about what Adam must have passed on about what it was like to walk with God in the garden and about God's forgiveness and grace. That knowledge went all the way down to Noah.

Our world today is very depraved. How can we stand? How can we endure through all the immorality when everything around us seems to be trying to pull us away from following God? I want to take a page out of the life of Enoch. We'll get to Noah next week.

Genesis 5:22-24 "Enoch walked with God."

That's an important clue for us to follow if we don't want to get led astray by the wickedness around us. He must have listened with great interest to the stories about what it was like to walk with God and then did it.

Hebrews 11:5-6 gives us some additional insight into his life that is most helpful. The author speaks about Enoch's faith and how he was taken by God and didn't see death. Verse 5 ends by saying that Enoch was commended because God was pleased with him. Enoch pleased God. Can that be said about us, that we please God? So why would God be pleased with Enoch or with anyone for that matter? Verse 6 gives the answer.

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." That was Enoch.

What pleased God about Enoch's life? It was his faith, a faith that believed God existed and that He rewarded those who earnestly sought Him. So the question remains: does your faith please God?

Had they believed God existed and sought Him by faith, they would have pleased God and they would have been spared. Their destruction was senseless when the means of their salvation was so near.

Even though Enoch only lived 365 years, relatively short compared to others at the same time, his character and conduct were a distinct rebuke against their immoral behavior, calling them to repent.

Jude says that he was a prophet declaring God's judgment on the unrighteous.

There are four things that made Enoch stand out. He walked with God. Amos 3:3 "Can two walk together unless they are agreed?"

He talked with God. They enjoyed communion.
Psalm 1:1-3

He separated himself from the world.
Romans 12:2
I John 1:15-16

His life was one of progress. Walking implies moving forward. That he walked with God suggests that each day he grew closer to God and closer to his eternal goal. He made no attempt to walk alone to heaven.

What are you doing each day to bring you closer in your walk with God?

He fixed his eyes on the Lord.
Hebrews 12:1-3

Enoch had his eyes fixed on the Lord at all times. He didn't take his eyes off God. We are teaching Blaze to hunt birds, part of which entails teaching him to point, to stay fixed on the target. Now he can stand still, but he still lets his eyes wander off target.

If you want to walk with God, keep your eyes fixed on Him. Spend time with Him each day through His Word and in prayer.

Those in Noah's day had wandered far from being fixed on the Lord. Where is your gaze fixed today? What steps will you take this week to walk with God?