



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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The Journey 2018

In the Beginning

- Genesis 5:28 When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. 29 He named him Noah and said, “He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the Lord has cursed.”
- Noah is the 10th generation from Adam and also happens to be the one with the name that means rest and comfort.
- In the world in which he was born, there was little rest and little comfort – God will use him to meet that need in a strange way.



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- 1st Peter 3:18 Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. 19 So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— 20 those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood.



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- Now I would bet that some of you have been taught that when Jesus died He went and preached the gospel to lost people in Hades so that they could be saved.
- But I want you to think about that in light of the text in Genesis 6 coupled with 1st Peter.
- Who are the “spirits in prison” and what time period are they associated with?



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- What time period are they associated with? We are told in the text.
- 1st Peter 3:20 “those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat.”
- And who are the spirits? They are not lost people shut up in Hades – they are the foul demonic spirits that overstepped their bounds by corrupting the human race in the days of Noah.



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- Jude 1:5 So I want to remind you, though you already know these things, that Jesus first rescued the nation of Israel from Egypt, but later he destroyed those who did not remain faithful. 6 *And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment.*



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- You've probably heard me say that some of the 1/3 of the angels who rebelled with Lucifer are chained up and some are loose and roaming the earth.
- Well now we know why – the ones that attacked the human race by marrying into it, have been chained up in the pit ever since the flood came and took away the bodies they were using.
- And others, though still evil and foul, have been let free to roam the earth For now.



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- So when Jesus goes and “preaches to the spirits in prison” He is not going to lost people – he is going to address the demons from Noah’s day.
- No doubt that when news reached the pit that Jesus had died on the cross there was a huge celebration in the pit – the One who put them there “got his”.
- Instead, they see a living Jesus coming to claim victory of sin, death, and the grave. 😊



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- Of special interest in the Genesis 6 text – when God brings about special judgment, He announces it as a warning, He is patient in His delivery, and He is certain in His execution.
- When He announced the coming judgment (“I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land”) He preceded that announcement with one that allowed for 120 years in which mankind could repent.



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- As it turns out, the flood of Noah's day served not only to judge the world at that time, but also to foreshadow the time when God will deal with sin one last time for all time.
- Matt 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. 37 For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be."



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- God was patient in Noah's day and withheld His judgment for 120 years.
- In that period of patience, the doors of repentance were open to all, perhaps even entered by some, but just as promised, the flood came.
- We live in a day of patience as well where all are invited to repent, but just as in Noah's day few there be that believe the gospel.



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- When God is bringing a great judgment like the flood of Noah's day, He warns and He waits.
- Peter tells us why God is waiting – just like in Noah's day, He was giving time for repentance, so He is in our day as well.
- He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.



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- Let's tie this now to the Genesis 6 phrase, "The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart."
- God did not make a mistake in creation as some seem to think the verse tells us, but rather He is sorry that He will have to judge so harshly, and so thoroughly.
- Ezek 18:23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live? KJV



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- There is devastating judgment coming, God is warning the world through Noah, He will wait and give space for repentance, but He will not wait forever.
- There is at least a vague principle in scripture that God waits for sin to be “full”.
- Gen 15:16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, *for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.*



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- We talked about this in our last lesson and I believe that the idea of “full” when speaking of when God will move to judge sin is not to say it is “complete”.
- I believe it is more like saying, “sin has run its course far enough and long enough to where God will tolerate it no more.”
- In other words, the people have reached a point of no return and God, in His mercy, will step in and judge them.



Questions

