



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

Jim Hoffman

The Journey 2018

In the Beginning

- Genesis 6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 The Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. 9 These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God. 10 Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. 11 Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth.



In the Beginning

- In the midst of all that God is seeing and feeling, we read this about Noah, “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.”
- Notice what else we read about Noah – “*Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.*”
- Please note that we do not read that Noah was sinless as though he somehow qualified himself for God’s grace.



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- So how does Noah get to be seen by God as “blameless”?
- We know from Romans that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.
- We also read this about Job – “There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; *and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.*”



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- Like Noah, Job was blameless, but not sinless.
- Psalm 19:13 Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; **Let them not rule over me; then I will be blameless**, and I shall be acquitted of great transgression.
- Titus 1:6 **An elder must be blameless**, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.



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- To be a “blameless” person, one must be free of unconfessed sin, free of obvious sin, and one who cannot be justly accused of sin.
- We can be blameless IF we keep a short account of sin with God, and behave in a way that does not discredit what we say we believe.
- It is not impossible at all to be blameless in the sight of the world and of God – *it is possible and expected of us.*



In the Beginning

- Noah was maintaining a blameless and righteous life before the flood – in a time and culture that was riddled with sin.
- Remember, things were so bad that the bible says God was sorry that He ever made man.
- Was it different than today? Probably not, but only God can make that comparison.



In the Beginning

- So how is that Noah is identified as blameless and righteous?
- There is only one way that anyone has ever been declared righteous – *through faith and by the grace of God.*
- Noah's righteousness is the same as ours – it was imputed to him by faith.



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- We also read this of Noah – “he walked with God”.
- We already know that he was counted righteous by his faith, so why note this?
- Because those who are saved (the ones with saving faith) are also sanctified and it shows in their “walk”.



In the Beginning

- I know there are death bed conversions where one is saved, but has no chance to live a sanctified life.
- I know this is not believed by all, but I happen to believe that if one has saving faith that it will manifest itself in a sanctified life.
- In other words, no change in the life, no life in the soul.



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- And then we also have this – we should remind ourselves that God was not taken by surprise when mankind fell.
- He had a plan that would be executed – His redemption plan, and nothing and no one would be able to thwart it.
- So was God just lucky that Noah was living a righteous life just when He needed to have someone survive the flood, or did God wait for a righteous man to appear before sending the flood?



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- The answer to that question is clearly “no” because God had at least Enoch, and possibly others who were righteous He could have worked with before.
- I would say the answer is “God was not lucky, He was omniscient”.
- Meaning that He knew Noah would be righteous in his time, and at the right time that God needed him.



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- And look at just how “right” God would be as history records these things in particular about Noah.
- Genesis 6:22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him.
- Genesis 7:5 And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.



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- Were Noah and his family the only righteous people on the earth at the time of the flood?
- It seems as though that was the case – *2nd Peter 2:5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;*
- What we do not know is how many, if any, repented under Noah's preaching and died before the flood.



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- When some say, “I believe in the teachings of Jesus, but I do not believe those O.T. stories like Noah’s ark” say check this out –
- Luke 17:26 And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.



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- If you believe Jesus was a great moral teacher and perhaps even know Him as savior, then it should follow that you also believe the flood of Noah's day was real because Jesus certainly did!
- In Luke's passage we also see this – “they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark”.
- Meaning that despite all of the warnings, mankind of Noah's day thought all was well – and so do the people of earth today.



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- What do you think the average man on the street thinks today when we say, “Jesus is coming back”?
- Without any statistics to back this up I believe there are two common and primary answers from the “man on the street”.
- 1) hasn't happened yet and probably won't, and 2) I don't want to talk about it.



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- 2nd Peter 3:3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” 5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, 6 through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. 7 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.



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- 2nd Peter 3:8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.



Will Jesus Return Soon?

Percent of U.S. Christians who say Jesus will return to earth in the next 40 years



Questions

