## **GENESIS STUDY: ALL ABOARD**

### **Genesis 7:1-9**

**Open:** There is a time gap of 120 years between Genesis 6 and 7.

- In Genesis 6:3, God's patience with man runs out ...
  - $\sqrt{}$  In Chapter 6, Noah is told to build the ark.
  - $\sqrt{}$  In Chapter 7, he is told to come aboard the ark.
  - √ As far as we know there had been no further word from heaven. Noah
    had proceeded steadily and faithfully with his assigned mission and
    ministry.
  - ✓ With great urgency, he worked and preached of the coming judgment
     ... but his words fell on deaf ears ... not a single convert except for his own family.
  - √ His neighbors may have thought him crazy, the butt of jokes and insults.
- → Make not your goal to be popular ... seek neither fame or fortune but do this: be faithful to God's call on your life.
  - Finally the ark was completed ... the last tree cut, boards nailed and pitch applied.
    - √ The animals were assembling, grandfather Methuselah (whose name means: "when he dies it shall come") was on his deathbed.
    - $\sqrt{}$  After a century of silence, God would speak again.

Genesis 7:1-9 NKJV <sup>1</sup> Then the Lord said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. <sup>2</sup> You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; <sup>3</sup> also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. <sup>4</sup> For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made." <sup>5</sup> And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him. <sup>6</sup> Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

<sup>7</sup> So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. <sup>8</sup> Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, <sup>9</sup> two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.

### (1) God's Invitation: Vs. 1 Come

- Noah was invited by God Himself to join Him in the boat.
  - $\sqrt{\phantom{0}}$  This is the first time the word "come" is found in Scripture. It occurs 500 times after this.
  - √ This must have been reassuring ... wherever the boat was going God would be there.
  - √ Though the waters would be unleashed upon the earth, God would be aboard the boat and all would be safe.
  - $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$  The word "come" is a word of comfort ... like a father calling his children in when he sees a storm approaching.
- This word pictures the Gospel invitation.
  - **Isaiah 1:18 NKJV** <u>Come</u> now, and let us reason together, says the Lord, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.
  - **Isaiah 55:1 NKJV** Ho! (listen up) Everyone who thirsts, <u>come</u> to the waters ...
  - Matthew 11:28 NKJV <u>Come</u> to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden (weary and carrying heavy burdens), and I will give you rest.
  - Matthew 22:4 NKJV Again, he sent out other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, see, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed and all things are ready (steaks on the grill). Come to the wedding.
  - The final words of Scripture say: **Revelation 22:17 NKJV** And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" and let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

- √ There is a balance between man's free choice and God's electing grace ... you cannot dismiss one for the other.
  - In Chapter 6 God promised Noah and his family they would be saved.
  - In Chapter 7 they had to voluntarily choose to enter the ark.
- Noah was the leader (head) of his family. God saw his faith ... it was demonstrated in obedience.
  - ✓ Each member of his household would choose to voluntarily enter as well ...
  - ✓ In climbing on board the boat, they would be leaving the world as they knew it behind.

**Acts 16:31 NKJV** ... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.

- → The family often follows dad, but each must exercise individual faith.
  - √ Had Noah's sons and their wives not been followers of God, it is doubtful they would have entered the ark.
- → As parents we have a responsibility to show our family what it looks like to love, respect and follow God.
  - $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$  Watch me ... this is what it looks like to follow God.
  - √ Let's do it together ... on-the-job training, instruction, exercise patience ... you are not simply accomplishing a task, you are developing a servant of God.
  - $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$  Cheer them on ... pray for them and applaud their efforts.

# (2) Words of explanation: Vs. 2-4

- Anytime you take a trip, there is packing to do.
  - 120 years ago God had told Noah (Genesis 6:19) that he would take two of every species of animal (male and female).

- $\sqrt{\phantom{0}}$  Why the switch to 7 clean animals and birds?
- $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$  The first instructions were general and sufficient for the time but now the details.
- √ The "clean" animals would include beast and birds and would be used for food and worship later.
- $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$  We think these to be animals that would become domesticated.
- √ Since there were no categories of clean and unclean animals (this would come later, in Leviticus) God must have revealed this to Noah.
- ✓ Some for food: **Genesis 9:3** Every moving thing shall be food for you ... others for worship: **Genesis 8:20** Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.
- Why male and female?
- The animals came, directed by God and were placed in their stalls and prepared for the journey.
  - √ Vs. 4 indicates God gave them one more week. 7 days before judgment begins.
  - ✓ In addition to "ark preparation" it would allow Noah to preach one more time ... final chance to repent ... days of grace were coming to an end.
    - His message fell on deaf ears.
  - √ Some have suggested this allowed for Methuselah's burial and period of mourning.
    - In Genesis 50:10 the people mourned for 7 days for Joseph after his death.
  - $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$  Whatever the case, the sand in the hourglass was running out.
- \* To the skeptic, we would agree: a worldwide rain lasting 40 days is not possible under current atmospheric conditions ...

- V However, prior to the flood (Genesis 1:6) a thermal blanket of water, sometimes called a canopy, circled the earth and created the perfect climate that allowed man to live so long ... this canopy burst and it rained for 40 days.
  - The number 40 is significant in Scripture ... it symbolizes a great period of trial that ends in great victory.
    - V Israel wandered for 40 years in the wilderness prior to entering the Promised Land. (Numbers 14:33)
    - ∇ Moses was on the mountain receiving the law of God 40 days. (Exodus 24:18)
    - $\nabla$  Nineveh was given 40 days to repent. (Jonah 3:4)
    - V Jesus fasted 40 days and had a "face off" with Satan before beginning His ministry. (Matthew 4:2)
    - V Jesus hung around on earth after the resurrection 40 days before He ascended. (Acts 1:3)
- \* Though they were warned, they chose not to believe ... as then, so now!
- \* We have God's invitation, a few words of explanation ...

## (3) Let's make an observation: Vs. 5-9

- Noah did everything God told him to do.
  - √ Not a drop of rain had ever fallen ... Noah was a man of faith ... he obeyed and did as God told him.
- Scripture indicates he was 600 years old at the time of the flood. According to **Genesis 9:29** he would live 350 years after this and die at 950 years of age.
  - √ If we scale this back to our life expectancy ... we would say he was in his 50s and 60s when he accomplished the project for which he is remembered. Be productive!

- \* Too many have accomplished great things at the expense of their family.
  - Unlike Lot who had a hard time convincing his family to get out of "Dodge"
     ... Noah's family willingly entered the ark.
  - 8 were saved that day ... it may seem to be a small number in light of the cost and time it took to build the ark ... but what it meant in terms of impact is immeasurable.
    - $\sqrt{}$  Humanity would have ceased to exist.
- → Never underestimate the importance of faithful obedience.
  - √ One soul here, one soul there rescued from the flames of hell for all eternity ... meaningful work!

## Close with a few applications:

- God says, "Come!" I want you with me where it is safe. The ark became their deliverer ... Jesus is yours. Receive Him as your Savior.
- Men, are you leading your family as you should? Do your children have a daddy that walks with God? Does your wife see you obeying God?
- The clock of prophecy is ticking ... we are entering the final stretch ... no time for indifference or complacency ... the flood of judgment is coming.
- If you are going through a time of testing, remain faithful ... victory is coming!
- Whatever God asks you to do, do it with the best of your ability.

Next Week: Genesis 7:10-16 Storm Stories

Message Notes
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April 28, 2013