

AND THE WATERS PREVAILED

Text: Genesis 7:18-24

INTRO: It was in the days of Noah. Unbelief, wickedness & violence were characteristic throughout the world. Disrespect for God & His will was abundant, but when the time came for God to intervene in human affairs, He sent the waters of a universal flood--& the waters prevailed.

I. THE WATERS PREVAILED OVER BROADMINDEDNESS, Gen. 6:1-3.

A. God's people had begun to contract marriages on the basis of physical attraction alone. This had to make its impact known within a generation or so because "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

B. Most likely such broadmindedness invaded other areas of their lives as well.

C. God brought judgment on those who were too broadminded, & the waters prevailed.

II. THE WATERS PREVAILED OVER WICKEDNESS AND VIOLENCE, Gen. 6:4-8.

A. "Giants," Heb. NEPHILIM, ASV, NASB. Comes from a root meaning to fall, thus according to most scholars, either:

1. Fallen ones, those who had apostatized, or
2. Those who fall on others to do them violence.

B. "Mighty men." Paraphrase, heroes. Their heroes were wicked, violent, ungodly men. What about OUR heroes? Sports figures, movie stars, rock, pop & country music stars??? Foul language, morals of an alley cat, etc.

C. "Men of renown." Same root as in Gen. 11:4, let us make a name for ourselves.

III. THE WATERS PREVAILED OVER UNBELIEF, Gen. 6:8-10.

A. Noah had a faith that led him to practice righteousness, vs 9
By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world & became heir of righteousness which is according to faith (Heb. 11:7).

B. Noah not only practiced righteousness in his own life, but he was a preacher of righteousness, warning the ungodly even as he built the ark.

God did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of 8 people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly (2 Pet. 2:5).

READ I PETER 3:18-21

C. Note that even tho Noah found grace in the eyes of God, building the ark, preaching righteousness & gathering the animals into safety required much WORK on his part. Compare manna, Num. 11:8--gathered, ground, cooked.

D. The Heb writer (11:7) says Noah “condemned the world.”
A good example always converts or condemns, because it PROVES that it is possible to do what is right.
Noah’s faith condemned the unbelief of others & his obedience condemned their disobedience.

IV. THE WATERS PREVAILED OVER MEN’S FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY, Gen. 6:11-14.

A. Unbelievers must have scoffed as Noah built the ark & preached righteousness, just as they do today about the 2nd coming & the end of the world. (It wasn’t raining while Noah was building the ark.)

READ 2 PETER 3:3-6

1. They had never seen such a flood. They may never have seen rain. Gen 2:5-6; Heb. 11:7.

2. The impending flood must have drastically changed the perspective of Noah & his family, but for the unbelieving world, things continued as they had for ages. Matt. 24:37-39

B. But the flood DID come!

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise & the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth & the works that are in it will be burned up (2 Pet. 3:10).

V. THE FLOOD WAS NOT ONLY A JUDGMENT ON THE ANCIENT WORLD, BUT ALSO A PICTURE OF A DELIVERANCE TO COME IN A LATER AGE.

READ I PETER 3:20-21

A. As the flood waters prevailed over sin & wickedness in Noah's day, the water of NT baptism will prevail over our sins today if we will submit to God's will. MK 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16

B. If we refuse to obey God's will, we will be among those for whom a still greater judgment is yet reserved.

The heavens & the earth which now exist are kept in store... reserved for fire until the day of judgment & perdition of ungodly men (2 Pet. 3:7).

CONCLUSION: God will be victorious. You can share in that victory or you can go down to defeat. With you or without you, God will win.

La Porte, TX, September 11, 1983
Exton, PA, February 5, 1989
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, February 26, 1989
Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, May 31, 1989
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, August 11, 1996

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 11, 1998