

## Genesis 6: Grace and the Flood 2-18-18 PM

Genesis 6-9 record the events of the flood, when God destroyed the world and delivered Noah and his family in the ark. From a historical standpoint, the flood is the most recorded event in ancient history. There are 270 accounts from all over the world of the flood. They all share parallel details with the biblical account, supporting the accuracy of that account. In fact, this similarity and universal characteristic of the flood narrative causes problems for skeptics who deny that it happened<sup>1</sup>.

88% - There is a favored family
66% - They were forewarned
66% - The flood is due to wickedness of man
95% - Catastrophe was only a flood
95% - The flood was global
70% - Survival is due to a boat
67% - Animals were also saved
57% - Survivors landed on a mountain
35% - Birds were sent out
7% - The rainbow was mentioned
13% - Survivors offered a sacrifice
9% - Specifically eight persons saved

But the important lessons of the flood are not historical, but spiritual. They revolve around several important points: grace and destruction.

### LESSON ON GRACE

Genesis 6:8 is the first mention of Grace in the bible ("*Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD*"). We often define grace as "unmerited favor". Here grace was manifested and gives us a better insight into its meaning. God bestowed grace on Noah; the Bible states in Genesis 6:13 that God revealed His plan to Noah, and in Genesis 6:14 God gave Noah instructions (commandments) to obey to be saved. This is the ultimate, absolute description of Grace. Grace is manifested by God revealing purpose and commandment.

In the New Testament, this grace is still seen. When preached in places such as Acts 18:27 or 20:32, the concept of grace remains the same as in the time of Noah; God's grace is manifested by revealing His will and plan, and by giving us commandments to obey. In places such as Romans 3:24, 5:2, 1 Corinthians 15:10 and 2 Corinthians 1:12, the emphasis on our salvation by grace is made clear. We are saved because God revealed His will and plan, and because we obey what He told us to do.

Noah did all that God commanded Him, and he and his family were saved. In Hebrews 11:7, we are told this obedience to grace is faith that saved him (*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 and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith*). We are saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8); meaning, we are saved because we act on the grace (revelation) given by God.

Noah's life reveals that God gives Grace (Revelation and Command) and that we are then saved by Faith (Believe and Obey). Noah's obedience reveals that faith is specific adherence to God's commands.

### LESSON ON DESTRUCTION

Multiple times in the New Testament the events in Genesis 6 through 9 are referenced in regards to the end of time, and the ultimate destruction of the world. Jesus in Matthew 24:37-39 discussed the similarity in His ultimate return and the days of Noah, and paralleled the surprise nature of these two events. In 2 Peter 2:5-9 Peter compares the end of time and the flood by the similarity of God saving the

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<sup>1</sup> "Matters are complicated by similarities between old world and new world flood legends....much more difficult to explain are curious similarities of small detail.... at present the conundrum of the world's flood stories remains unsolved" James & Thorpe, Ancient Mysteries, pp 14-15

righteous and bringing to judgment the wicked. In 2 Peter 3:5-7 Peter again references the flood, this time pointing to the ultimate destructive nature. The Flood testifies that God can separate the righteous and unrighteous, that God WILL destroy the world, and that the ultimate destruction will come without warning.