

Genesis 6:9-22 – The Promised Seed in A Corrupted World

I. God Continues the Seed's Line Through Noah (9-10)

A. The Faithfulness of Noah (9)

1. The basis and source of Noah's righteousness is Grace
 - a. It is not just because he was better than others
 - b. Noah found grace in the eyes of God (see v. 8)
 - c. Noah is a sinner (we will see this after the flood) – but he righteous (just) in God's sight and blameless (perfect) in the eyes of men because he found transforming grace.
2. Noah walked with God
 - a. Adam and Enoch were also said to have walked with God – Noah is here identified with the "seed of the woman" promised in the garden.
 - b. Walking with God means Noah's whole life was an expression of his faith and relationship with God.

B. The Sons of Noah (10)

1. The line of the "Seed" will continue through Noah's sons (although not all three of Noah's sons)
2. Noah's three sons may be listed here in parallel to Lamech's three wicked sons in chapter 4.

II. God Prepares Noah For the Coming Destruction (11-17)

A. God Decrees the Corrupt World's Destruction (11-13)

1. The Earth is Corrupt and Filled With Violence (11)

- a. Corruption – שָׁחַת (*shahat*) means defiled, ruined, or destroyed
 - i. It is interesting that the word corrupt (*shahat*) is repeated several times and the word translated "destroy" in v. 13 is the same word.
 - ii. Because man has "ruined" the earth, God will "ruin" man
 - iii. Victor Hamilton translates the progression this way, "gone to ruin was the earth...indeed it had gone to ruin...all flesh had ruined its way...I will ruin them." (NICOT)
- b. Violence – חָמָס (*hamas*) – means physical violence or wrongdoing.
 - i. Notice that violence began with Cain who killed his brother, then Lamech boasted about his murder. Now the earth is filled with it.
 - ii. Man was supposed to "fill" the earth with God's image. Instead the earth is filled with violence.
 - iii. There is no written law and the early dawnings of civilizations – it is the wild wild west.

- iv. After the flood, God will give the lex talionis (law of retaliation) – “Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.” Gen. 9:6
- 2. God Sees Man’s Guilt in Corrupting the Earth (12)
 - a. The guild of the corruption lies at the foot of mankind
 - b. However, the violence and corruption in creation also presented itself is “all” flesh – which refers to the animals as well in 6:17, 19; 7:15, 16, 21; 8:17)
- 3. God Reveals His Judgment to Noah (13)
 - a. Noah is given divine revelation concerning the coming judgment of the world
 - b. It is a wonderful grace to be warned of judgment and exhorted to flee from it.
 - c. God provides Grace before Judgment
 - i. He clothed Adam before casting Him out of the garden
 - ii. He marked Cain for protection before exiling him
 - iii. He warns and protects Noah before the Flood
- B. God Instructs Noah For The Coming Judgment (14-17)
 - 1. God Gives Noah The Ark’s Specifications (14-16)
 - a. The Structure of the Ark (14)
 - i. Made from Gopher Wood – possibly Cyprus, we don’t know
 - ii. Made “rooms” (lit. nests) inside it
 - iii. Cover it with pitch inside and out (waterproofing)
 - b. The Dimensions of the Ark (15)
 - i. 300 cubits long (app. 450 ft.)
 - A cubit is roughly 18 inches
 - Usually measured by the length of a man’s forearm
 - ii. 50 cubits wide (app. 75 ft.)
 - iii. 30 cubits tall (app. 45 ft.)
 - c. The Details of the Ark (16)
 - i. The Window and the Door
 - The word translated “window” is only found here in the Hebrew Bible. Debates abound as to whether it refers to a window, a skylight, or the roof of the ark.
 - The door was set in the side of the ark
 - ii. The Three Decks
 - The ark was built with three levels inside
 - iii. Notice there is no rudder on the ark – it is not meant to be navigated. Noah will simply float and trust in God.

2. God Warns Noah of The Coming Flood (17)
 - a. Here Noah is told why the ark will be built
 - i. God decrees to bring a flood and kill every living thing on the earth
 - ii. Everything in the earth will die
 - b. God will wipe the slate clean and begin a new creation with Noah and the occupants of the ark

III. God Will Use Noah For Creation's Salvation (18-21)

- A. God Will Establish His Covenant With Noah (18a)
 1. The First Time the Word Covenant is Used in The Bible
 2. The Covenant will Be Made After the Flood (9:9)
 - a. Bears the Promise of Salvation Through the Flood
 - b. Bears the Promise of the "Seed" Coming Through Noah's Line
- B. God Will Save Noah's Family Through Him (18b)
 1. God Uses a Single Man (by Grace) To Deliver the Line Through Which His Promise Would Be fulfilled
 2. Noah's Family is "Saved" by The Faithfulness of One Man (Picture of Jesus?)
- C. God Will Save Creation Through Noah (19-21)
 1. Noah will bring two of every kind of animal (20)
 - a. The animals will come to Noah in Pairs (Male and Female)
 - b. This is a General Statement – Later God will Specify that Noah will take 1 Pair of the unclean animals and 7 pairs of the clean animals (intended for sacrifice to God) (See 7:2-3)
 2. Noah will bring them "to keep them alive"
 - a. God intends that creation will also be saved through Noah
 - b. By Noah's faithfulness (by God's grace) creation itself will survive judgment and be remade
 3. Noah will gather food for the ark (21)

IV. God's Instructions Are Faithfully Obeyed (22)

- A. Noah obeyed God's instructions by Faith
 1. Hebrews 11:7 - By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.
 2. What does it mean that Noah was "moved with fear"
- B. Noah puts all his trust in God
 1. Imagine the labor it took to prepare and build the ark
 - a. He must actually cut and prepare the lumber
 - b. He must fashion the "nails" or connections
 2. Imagine the temptations Noah faced
 - a. The task is too big to undertake

- i. How will the animals come?
 - ii. How can I gather enough food?
 - iii. It would have taken at least several decades to build the ark, if not longer.
 - b. The opposition and ridicule he would have suffered. (Remember he was a “preacher of righteousness”)
 - c. Also remember that he is the ONLY man of faith in the generation of the flood.
- C. Noah is a “Type” of Christ
 - 1. Noah is a picture of the true seed who is to come
 - 2. Noah is not the fulfillment of that seed (we will see that in Noah’s sin after the flood)
 - 3. Noah exhibited striking faithfulness and obedience in a time when he was the ONLY person on the planet doing so and creation itself is “saved” because of Him
 - a. This is a picture of the true seed’s work in salvation of the new creation promised by God.
 - b. God remains faithful to His promise, even when the whole world has turned against Him.