



The Flood - Genesis 6-9

In research done in the US back in 2003 it was discovered that 64% of the people believed they would go to heaven and only 1% would go to hell. I'd imagine that statistics would be similar for Australia. The fact that God might punish by judgment is for many people unimaginable. Even for us as Christians we can avoid this part of God's character or gloss over it. The judgment of God can be sidelined by many. It is often because we think of it like human anger which is often – vindictive, impulsive and high handed. God's anger is different. He is slow to anger and righteous. It is the expression of his love.

In the 3 points today we will see the reason for God's judgment; the nature of God's judgment and the way out of God's judgment as we look at sin, Judgment and Grace.

1. The reason for God's judgment - SIN

Read Genesis 6:1-5

What does it mean the Sons of God married the daughters of men?

In Job 1:6 the sons of God are called angels. So on this reading fallen angels are marrying humans. Or another view is that the sons of God are believers and the daughters of men are unbelievers to godly men are intermarrying with an ungodly line.

Either way what they are doing is wrong in God's eyes. It is an expression of trying to reach out and be God.

My thoughts are that it is good for us that we can't name the specific sin. Why? We think sin is doing bad things. We have a mental list we tick off and if we knew this one we'd add to the list of just another bad behaviour to avoid.

This is not the true the nature of sin. It is internal or of the heart.

See v.5. It is about your attitude and motives and can shape you and get worse even before it shows in your behaviour.

See in v.5 the people's wrong is described in terms of their hearts and minds. Something is wrong on the inside. This causes the wrong actions. The heart breaks out into action.

There are two types of sinners.

We see the 2 types in the two brothers in the story of the Prodigal son.

1. Being very bad and breaking all the rules
2. Being very good and keeping all the rules and becoming self righteous.

Either way the problem is on the inside in the heart. If you are avoiding doing the wrong thing and living morally so that God will have to bless you and save you then you have the wrong attitude. You are trusting in your own goodness rather than Jesus. It is like you are building a resume to present to God to be accepted.

The sin of the younger brother might have been more obvious because his heart has broken out into action but the older brother also had the wrong attitude. You might not have seen his

heart in his actions but he was only pleasing the Father for what he would get not because he loved and wanted to honour his father.

Every 'inclination' doesn't mean we only do bad but that even the good we do isn't as good as it could be. It means when we are doing a good thing our motives in doing it are mixed.

We see sin affects God Genesis 6:6 What makes this wrong is that is against God and causes him grief instead of bringing him glory.

When or if you are sorry for doing the wrong thing is it because of the personal consequences or because you know it grieves God?

Also sin is universal. See Genesis 6:5 and v.7 There is no exception.

I've told the story once before of the vulture who spotted the corpse of a fox on a big hunk of ice floating down the river toward Niagara Falls. He flies to the ice, lands, and begins to eat the fox. He watches the falls approaching and hears the warnings of danger, but he tells himself that he has wings and is free and does not need to pay attention to such warnings. He is destined for the sky. At the last minute he finishes his feast and spreads his wings but he can't fly because his talons have frozen in the ice and he is dragged over the falls to his destruction. And so it will be with people who have heard the warnings of Scripture to abandon their worldly lusts and pursue holiness, but who say, "I have wings, I am a Christian. I can fly anytime I want to." The day will come when they may try and will not be able to repent because they are so hardened and addicted to the world they can't even feel one genuine spiritual affection

Hear the warning that you are a sinner. It is your making the good things God has given you the ultimate. In other words you deciding how you live your life and what is important and not God. It is rejecting God.

2. The nature of God's JUDGEMENT

Read Genesis 6:7

One of the main things we learn about God's judgement is that it shows **God cannot tolerate evil**. God cannot tolerate wickedness.

Judgement is UNIVERSAL. We see that in Genesis 7:17-23 where no one escapes the flood. If everyone was wicked then everyone was to be wiped out and we God's judgement is complete. The flood wipes out everyone.

The Flood becomes a symbol of God's judgment in **2 Peter 3:3-7**.

The flood shows us that God knows how to judge. It shows he is a judge. He is grieved by human sin to the point where he does something about it.

People often say if God is a God of love why does he judge?
Our sense of justice demands there be punishment for wrong.

God saw the earth and it was corrupt or destroyed. Humans have destroyed themselves. Sin is about self. You don't want God or want to decide for yourself. You get what you decide for. The consequences of sin is self-punishment, self-judgment. God's work of judgment is giving people what they want. This life without him with themselves in destruction.

This is what **C.S Lewis** says

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it.

Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened. "

What is the opposite of love? Every parents knows that the answer to that question is INDIFFERENCE. Discipline and punishment are part of life and especially the life of a loving parent. It is never pleasant but we must show that the behaviour our children matters. We show this when we punish behaviour that is wrong. The parent who treats a disobedient child with indifference communicates a powerful message to their child: "I DO NOT CARE."

God is love and so he gets angry and he judges.

We might like to avoid the reality that God judges and will judge. He has appointed the Judge – Jesus.

How do we expect people to understand what Jesus did on the cross if people don't understand sin and the punishment for sin of God's judgement?

3. The way out of God's judgment - GRACE

Read Genesis 6:8-10

But is an important word in the Bible. It forces you to look at what comes before. God showed Noah favour. This is the word for grace. Notice what it doesn't say. It doesn't say everyone was wicked but Noah. Everyone was bad BUT Noah was good. It says everyone were sinners but God. God showed grace to Noah. It is nothing about Noah but all about God's grace. This is why v.9 follows.

The grace of God is prior to Noah being a righteous, blameless man. The grace of God is why Noah is righteous and blameless.

We see God's grace again after the flood. In Genesis 8:1 again we see the word 'but.' But God 'remembered' Noah. In the Old Testament for God to remember means that God will action behalf of his people. To remember is to see human need and to act to save. He remembers we are weak and frail made from dust and are nothing without him. God makes a Covenant. A new stage of relationship. A new stage of his plan in the form of an agreement. We see this in Genesis 8:15-17; 9:1-9 This is the renewal of God's plans for creation. It is a fresh start. This isn't just for Noah and his family for all life.

No matter what God will not give up on his purpose for creation.

What is right response?

FAITH

Hebrews 11:3 says:-

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Noah is a model for us. He heard God's warning about the coming judgement and got ready for it. He took God at his word, put his trust in him and was saved. It is obvious what our response should be.

Hear God's warning the judgment is coming. Take God at his word but getting ready. Trusting in Jesus who died the righteous for the unrighteousness to bring you to God.

THANKSGIVING

We see in Genesis 8:20 Noah's response to God's grace. He offers a burnt offering. A burnt offering is an acknowledgement that we are saved by grace and that we owe our lives to God. In thanksgiving, Romans 12:1-2 says we are to offer ourselves as living sacrifices.