

your testimony! We are looking forward to others sharing what God has done and is doing in their lives. As I mentioned last week, But GOD, occurs over 3 dozen times in the Bible and each week we will be looking at a different Scripture passage. Last week, as we celebrated communion, we looked at this phrase as it relates to Christ's death and His resurrection.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Acts 13:28–30 Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. **29** When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. **30** But God raised him from the dead,

Today we're going to look at the account of the universal flood described in Genesis 6-9. We will be reading portions of Scripture in these chapters. When we go back to our study in Genesis, we will examine it even deeper. So, let's read the following verses together.

Genesis 6:5–9 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.

Genesis 8:1-20 But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky. The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible. After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him. By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it." So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on the earth—came out of the ark, one kind after another. Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

THIS IS ABOUT WHO?

Some people believe this is a nice little story about a man named Noah, some animals, a big boat, and a lot of rain. Some don't believe that this actually happened and that it's just a story with some neat life lessons. This is about none of the above. This is all about Jehovah God. It's about His judgment, justice, grace, and mercy. This is not just a story, for it

thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

God saw how great man's wickedness had become. What was the source of man's wickedness?

Every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Where does sin originate? It begins internally: in our thoughts and in our heart.

Jesus, in explaining a parable to the disciples says this:

Matthew 15:17–20 “Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? **18** But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' **19** For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. **20** These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.' ”

How pervasive was man's sin?

Every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

This speaks of man's total depravity. In and of ourselves we do not have the power to not sin.

Martin Luther: “Without the Holy Spirit and without grace man can do nothing but sin and so goes on endlessly from sin to sin.”

Think about how far mankind had come in the ten generations from Adam to Noah. Here God saw only evil from man. Contrast that to how God created in Genesis 1.

Genesis 1:3: “God saw that the light was good”

Genesis 1:9 “God saw that it was good”

Genesis 1:12 “God saw that it was good.”

Genesis 1:18 “God saw that it was good.”

Genesis 1:25 “God saw that it was good.”

Genesis 1:31 “God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.”

What happened after the first sin? It passed down to all of mankind.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Psalms 14:3 All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

GOD'S JUDGMENT

Genesis 6:6 The LORD was grieved (repented) that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

Arnold Fruchtenbaum: “When the word, *repentance* is used in reference to God, it refers to a change in God's actions resulting from a change in the objects of His actions. Because the Bible teaches that God does not repent (1 Sam 15:29), it is only from our own perspective that he seems to repent, meaning He seems to change His mind because man has changed his attitude toward Him (1 Sam 15:11). It appears from the human perspective that God repented; He changed His mind. Actually no change has taken place. God simply responds one way to obedience, and He responds in a different way to disobedience.

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. This is the account of Noah.

“found favor.” This is the Hebrew word for grace. The word “found” points out the idea that this was of God’s doing. This is nothing for which Noah could take credit, as it was not earned.

Hebrews 11:7 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.

1 Peter 3:20 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

2 Peter 2:5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;

*Noah’s character because of God’s grace

Genesis 6:9 Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.

The order here is very important! Noah could not have been described in this way unless he had first experienced God’s grace or favor in his life. No human being can possibly live the way Noah is described in this verse without God touching their life. Note the three descriptions given to Noah:

1) A righteous man: this refers to his standing before God. As Fruchtenbaum says, “This emphasizes justification; it is inward, and it shows salvation.”

James Montgomery Boice, “Actually, Noah’s righteousness was the product of his having found favor and is therefore the proof of that favor, not its ground. If grace were based on anything in us, it would not be grace.”

2) blameless among the people of his time: He didn’t intermarry like the others of his generation. He had a good reputation among others.

Matthew 5:14–16 “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

3) he walked with God: he obeyed the commands of God. God told him to build a boat even though it had never rained up to this point. He obeyed even though he was ridiculed, and even though nobody outside his family heeded the warning. It’s the same word used to describe Enoch.

Genesis 5:22–24 And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. **23** Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. **24** Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

Henry Morris writes: Note the consistent biblical order here. First, Noah “found grace.” Then Noah was “a just man” (that is, “justified” or “declared to be righteous”). Thus, he was “perfect in his generations” (or “complete,” in so far as God’s records are concerned), and therefore he was able to “walk with God.” Salvation in any era is exactly in this way. By sovereign grace, received through faith, the believer is justified before God and declared to be complete in him. Only as a result of, and on the basis of, this glorious gift of grace, can one then “walk” in fellowship with God, showing the genuineness of his faith by his works.

Casey Lute, The flood account takes us up the mountain of God’s grace and back down, centering on this one glorious

sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.

Does this mean that God had forgotten about Noah? It would not be possible for God to forget Noah. It refers to God doing something in Noah's life. God has not forgotten Noah and He is about to show it. This is the high point of the story. Even though he was described as a righteous man, blameless among others, and one who walked with God, he was still human. I have to wonder what he was thinking as each day passed.

*And after **seven days** the waters of the flood came upon the earth and his family entered the ark (7:10). (this is 7 days after Noah)

*The flood continued **forty days** on the earth (7:17a).

*And the waters flooded the earth for **150 days** (7:24).

***But GOD remembered Noah (8:1)**

*At the end of **150 days** the waters had gone down (8:3b).

*At the end of **forty days** Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent forth a raven and then a dove (8:6-7a).

*He waited another **seven days**, and again he sent the dove from the ark (8:10).

How did God demonstrate that He remembered Noah? (some of this taken from James Montgomery Boice)

*God sent a wind over the earth and the waters receded.

This was a demonstration of the power of God! Does God still act today in the lives of His children? Sometimes it's in the midst of the storms of life that we see the greatness of God's power. I have to wonder what it was like on the ark with this great wind causing the water to go down.

*God gave Noah a sign through the dove. The second time the dove came back it had an olive branch in its mouth.

Each of these past two weeks the testimonies have shared how God reminded them He was with them. God often does this through His people. How about God doing this through you?

We saw it shown to the family of Shirley Bergenstock. We have seen it in people providing meals, sending cards, providing for people's needs. The Fellowship Fund has been able to provide for significant needs in this body. We currently have several.

Our family has seen it over and over again, many times not even knowing the source. When we first moved here we were paying on two houses for eight months before our house in the Poconos sold. Every month the money came in and often we had no idea the source. One time there was a \$1,000 money order in our PO box. There were vehicle needs met. One of our sons had to have braces and when I called to set up the payment plan, they told me I was too late. Somebody had just paid the bill in full. We have seen it through some very difficult and serious health challenges.

God gave Noah a sign of His covenant (binding promise) to never again destroy all life by a flood (Genesis 9:8-17). What was that sign? It's a rainbow. So, when you see that thank God!

*God spoke to Noah

Genesis 8:14-17 By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it."

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

*Have I come to know the God of the Bible? The God of justice, judgment, and mercy?

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.
Titus 3:3-8 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. **4** But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. **8** This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

This past Thursday we had a Celebration of Life Service for Shirely Bergenstock, a dear lady who knew and loved Jesus. One of the verses she wanted read was Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Why that verse? She wanted everyone to know that Jesus is the only way for forgiveness of sins. Two of her songs were *Amazing Grace* and *Jesus Loves Me*, both centering on what Jesus Christ has done for us.

- *How have I seen that God has indeed remembered me through the challenges and heartaches of life?
- *What Scripture has God recently used in my life to challenge, encourage, rebuke, or comfort me?
- *This coming week share with someone else what God has shown me through His Word this coming week.
- *In what ways have I shown my gratefulness to God for His working in my life?

