

• **Judgement and mercy**

Uninhibited sin gets progressively worse until it brings down God's judgement. Genesis 6–9 tells us something of what that judgement is like, and lets us know that in the midst of judgement God is merciful and sends a way of salvation.

1. Noah

• **Believed God**

1. Consider, first, **God's saviour, Noah**. Noah was a righteous man, by means of his faith. *'By faith Noah being warned by God... prepared an ark... He became an heir of the righteousness which is by faith'*. ^{¶1} God's Word came to him. God told Noah about the coming judgement and how Noah himself should make a way of rescue for all who would have faith. Noah believed God. That is what faith is; it is believing God. So Noah was right with God by faith.

¶1 Hebrews 11:7

• **Blameless**

He was *'blameless in his generation'*. ^{¶1} He lived in terrible days. The world around him was degraded and depraved, yet Noah was blameless in the midst of it all. Despite the corrupt society all around him he remained clean and upright.

¶1 6:9

• **Fellowship with God**

He had fellowship with God. He *'walked with God'*, says the Bible. ^{¶1} This means that he had daily step-by-step fellowship with God. He had God as his companion as he walked through life.

¶1 6:9

• **A family man**

Noah was also a family man. He had three sons. ^{¶1} So Noah's godliness was the godliness of a man who was involved in ordinary life. He did not withdraw from society. Real godliness is not like that. Noah was out and about in God's world. He had the responsibilities of looking after a family.

¶1 6:10

• **Noah like Jesus**

This was the man that God used. It all started with the sheer grace of God. Noah is like Jesus. Jesus made a way of salvation by His perfect righteousness. Noah's godliness was not perfect, but Jesus lived a life of total sinlessness. God uses godly people, and the greatest of His servants was Jesus, His own Son. He had to be entirely sinless, in order to be our Saviour. Noah was the temporary saviour who kept his civilisation going until the final saviour should come.

2. God's judgement

• **A time limit**

2. Consider, next, **God's judgement**. God decided to give the human race another 120 years, giving humankind one last opportunity. God is slow to judge. His judgement comes at the end of a time-limit. The earth had become corrupt and violent. ^{¶1} It affected the entire human race (although our story probably focuses on the Mesopotamian civilisation). The race had corrupted its way ^{¶2}; the world had come to an end-point. Sin could get no worse. God resolved to annihilate almost all of that world. ^{¶3}

¶1 6:11

¶2 6:12

¶3 6:13

• **Judgement on man and his environment**

God tolerated the sin of the human race for a long time. While the ark was being built Noah was telling the people of what God thought about sin. He was a *'preacher of righteousness'*. ^{¶1} So God decided to judge 'the earth' or 'the land' (the Hebrew can be translated either way). Noah was told to make an ark ^{¶2} because God would make a covenant promising to preserve Noah's descendants. ^{¶3} Yet the entire world of that time, in the area where 'the world' was, was corrupted to the point where it could not be

¶1 2 Peter 2:5

¶2 6:14-17

¶3 6:18

allowed to survive any longer.

When man sins, the world falls with him. When man is judged, his environment is judged also. So 'Every living thing of all flesh' ^{☞1} would perish. No doubt the fish survived, and probably only the Mesopotamian world was involved, but God would bring universal judgement.

☞1 6:19-20

God still is a holy God. He still hates sin. He still is slow to judge. He watches the sin of man and warns that it will not be allowed to go on forever. God tells the world what He will do. Our world will also come to an end. We have prior notice that the judgement of God is on its way.

3. God's amazing grace

• The ark a place of security

• Salvation by faith

3. Consider, thirdly, **God's amazing grace in the midst of judgement.** God told Noah to make a way of salvation, the ark. Noah is told to have food ready ^{☞1} so as to live in it with a sample of the animals of his world. All who came into the ark would be kept safe.

☞1 6:21

And this is what happened. ^{☞1} It was a thorough provision. There were to be little rooms in it. ^{☞2} It was to be a place which would give security when God's waters of destruction came.

☞1 6:22

☞2 6:14

This salvation was by faith. You had to enter it. ^{☞1} That was all that had to happen for Noah and his family and a sample of his world to be kept safe. ^{☞2} They were told what would happen ^{☞3} and what they should do. If they believed there was safety. Noah did what he was told and so he and all who went with him – seven other people – were brought safely through the judgement of God.

☞1 7:1

☞2 7:1-3

☞3 7:4

• Jesus – God's ark for us

God has appointed a Saviour, the man Jesus Christ, who never sinned. Jesus was given instructions. On the cross He made a way of salvation. Salvation is still by taking a step of faith. At the end of the flood Noah's people would emerge into a new world. They had provision to keep them alive until they came through. We too take one step into Jesus, God's ark.

Noah had to tell others of what would happen. ^{☞1} I suppose he was ridiculed, but he saved his family. 'By faith ... he built an ark for the salvation of his household'. ^{☞2} You may not be able to persuade many, but if you can persuade those near you to enter into God's ark, the Lord Jesus Christ, you have done something wonderful.

☞1 2 Peter

2:5

☞2 Hebrews

11:7



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