

All the principles of judgement and of salvation through Jesus are to be found in these chapters.

1. The flood is a fact of history

- Records were being kept

- The known world

- Mesopotamia

2. A foretaste of God's judgement

- God will not allow sin to go on forever

- In the midst of wrath

- In Jesus

1. **The flood is a fact of history.** It actually happened, probably round about 5000 BC. It is clear that records were being kept during the flood. Genesis 7:6 says Noah was 600 years old when it happened. That either means that at that stage people lived to an old age or it means that Noah's **family** was 600 years old. But the point is that someone was taking a note of the times and the dates. Genesis 7:10 tells us that the flood came seven days after they entered the ark. Again someone, probably Noah himself, must have been keeping a diary of events. The day when the flood waters began to burst out on to the earth is carefully recorded; it was on *'the six hundredth year... the second month ... the seventeenth day'*.¹ In Genesis 8:3–4 we are told how long it took for the waters to go down again, and how on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark rested at Ararat. The mentioning of the days continues in the following verses.² This is history; dates were being kept. It actually happened. We do not know how extensive was 'the earth'. It may mean the Mesopotamian valley area. But it certainly was 'the world' so far as Noah was concerned. And certainly 'all flesh' in that world perished. When the Bible talks about 'the world' it refers to the known extent of the civilisations around the Mediterranean world. Genesis 4–11 is relating events in Mesopotamia.

¹ 7:11

² 8:5, 6, 10, 12, 13

2. **The flood was a foretaste of God's judgement.** *'As it was in the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man'* (Matthew 24:37). *The old world was destroyed by 'a flood on a world of the ungodly'*.¹ Similarly *'the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire'*. God told Noah and his family to enter in.² Then a number of days after, the flood waters came. All the springs of water beneath the land burst forth and the gates of heaven were opened.³ It rose higher and higher.⁴ Here in Genesis 7:11–24 we have God undoing what He did at creation. Sin leads to the undoing of creation. This is what God will do again. He will un-do our world. God will not allow sin to go on forever.

¹ 2 Peter 2:5; see 3:6

² 7:1–10

³ 7:11–16

⁴ 7:17–24

3. **In the middle of that judgement there was mercy.** God always shows mercy in the midst of wrath. He is not pure undiluted anger. He hates sin and judges it but that does not mean that God is wholly taken up with anger and judgement. In the middle of it there is mercy. Genesis 7:13 says *'On that very day'* – the day when waters burst forward – Noah and his sons and their wives entered the ark. They found a way of safety amidst the judgement of God all around them. It is still true that all who go in to Jesus, God's ark, find salvation, as they did in Noah's world. It is 'entered into'. We 'go in' to Jesus as they went in.¹ They simply believed!

¹ 7:13

4. Safety

• *God keeps us safe*

4. **Once Noah had entered he was safe.** The animals showed that God was starting again with a new world but that He was not starting a new creation altogether. This is God's way. He did not abandon the old world. He brought a bit of the old world through, recreated it, and started again. God's new creation is His refusal to abandon the old creation. When Noah went in *'then the LORD shut him in'*.¹ His security was God's responsibility. It was not Noah's task to keep himself in the ark. Once he was in, he was in! God keeps us safe. God closed the door. There was no possibility of Noah's falling out of that ark and not getting to the new world after all. God closes the door.

1 7:16

• *No escape except in Jesus*

The flood kept coming.¹ There was torrential downpour. There was no possibility of escape. The whole of Noah's world ended. The water went higher and soon rose above the hills. No one could get away. Judgement prevailed! So in our world, when judgement comes, the only place of safety will be in Jesus. These principles will be re-enacted all over again. All flesh died. There was universal death. The wages of sin is death. Sin brings penalty in one form or another, sooner or later. In 7:21–24 we are told how all the creatures that were in that part of the world were wiped out.

1 7:17

• *The waters subside*

The judgement of God did not go on forever. God remembered Noah,¹ and soon the waters were going down again² and the earth was getting dry.³ God was faithful to those who had put their trust in Him and His salvation and His saviour Noah. God is faithful to us. When we believe, Jesus keeps us riding above the storms of judgement. We shall come out alive the other side ready for God's new world.

1 8:1
2 8:1–5
3 8:6–14

5. Newness of Life

• *A preview of what God will do again*

5. **Salvation leads into newness of life.** Soon they receive the command to leave the ark.¹ They come out into a world that has been cleansed and washed. It has no signs of the old wicked world before the flood. Noah and the animals are the start of a new stage of history. Life begins again for Noah and for those who have trusted God's salvation. These events give us a preview of what God will do again, not with water but with fire. We shall come out into a new heaven and into a new earth, into a new world where there is righteousness.

1 8:15–19



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