

Lesson 6: Genesis 6–11; Moses 8, “Noah Found Grace in the Eyes of the Lord”

Warning of the Flood

Noah calls the people to repent and Noah is told they don't that if the people do not repent the Lord will send a flood upon them

Moses 8:13,17-20

13 And Noah and his sons hearkened unto the Lord, and gave heed, and they were called the sons of God.

17 And the Lord said unto Noah: My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for he shall know that all flesh shall die; yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years; and if men do not repent, I will send in the floods upon them.

18 And in those days there were giants on the earth, and they sought Noah to take away his life; but the Lord was with Noah, and the power of the Lord was upon him.

19 And the Lord ordained Noah after his own order, and commanded him that he should go forth and declare his Gospel unto the children of men, even as it was given unto Enoch.

20 And it came to pass that Noah called upon the children of men that they should repent; but they hearkened not unto his words;

Noah was ordained by the Lord and preached the gospel for 120 years

Wilford Woodruff

"Noah was a preacher of righteousness. He was called of God. He was warned of God.... The world had become terribly corrupt, and it was necessary that the people be called upon to repent. To this end God Almighty raised up a prophet. That prophet was Noah. He went forth as he was commanded and preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its purity and truth.... For one hundred and twenty years he warned the inhabitants of the earth of the coming flood." (JD, 24:236)

What happens when the Spirit of the Lord no longer strives with man?

We have a great example with the Nephites

Harold B. Lee

"'For the Spirit of the Lord will not always strive with man. And when the Spirit ceaseth to strive with man then cometh speedy destruction, and this grieveth my soul' (2 Ne. 26:11.)

"Mormon described some people, his people, from whom the spirit of the Lord had departed, and when I read that and then read what I shall now read to you, it seems clear to me that what he was talking about was not merely the inability to have the companionship of or the gift of the Holy Ghost, but he was talking of that light of truth to which every one born into the world is

entitled and will never cease to strive with the individual unless he loses it through his own sinning. This is what Mormon said, 'For behold, the Spirit of the Lord hath already ceased to strive with their fathers; and they are without Christ and God in the world; and they are driven about as chaff before the wind... behold, they are led about by Satan, even as chaff is driven before the wind, or as an vessel is tossed about upon the waves, without sail or anchor, or without anything wherewith to steer her; and even as she is, so are they' (Morm. 5:16,18.)" (CR, April 1956)

Noah continues to warn and teach the people but his efforts are fruitless

Moses 8:22-26

22 And God saw that the wickedness of men had become great in the earth; and every man was lifted up in the imagination of the thoughts of his heart, being only evil continually.

23 And it came to pass that Noah continued his preaching unto the people, saying: Hearken, and give heed unto my words;

24 Believe and repent of your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, even as our fathers, and ye shall receive the Holy Ghost, that ye may have all things made manifest; and if ye do not this, the floods will come in upon you; nevertheless they hearkened not.

25 And it repented Noah, and his heart was pained that the Lord had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at the heart.

26 And the Lord said: I will destroy man whom I have created, from the face of the earth, both man and beast, and the creeping things, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth Noah that I have created them, and that I have made them; and he hath called upon me; for they have sought his life.

The people had become so wicked the Noah wish the Lord had never placed them on the earth. And Noah called on the Lord to destroy them all

Note that in Genesis it states, “And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth” (Gen 6:6)

The Flood

The Lord declares that everyone on the earth will be destroyed

Moses 8:27-30

27 And thus Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord; for Noah was a just man, and perfect in his generation; and he walked with God, as did also his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

28 The earth was corrupt before God, and it was filled with violence.

29 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth.

30 And God said unto Noah: The end of all flesh is come before me, for the earth is filled with violence, and behold I will destroy all flesh from off the earth.

Why did the Lord decided to “destroy all flesh from the earth”?

John Taylor

"He gives them fair warning, and they heed it not; but these things must and will most assuredly come.

"What next? Does he destroy them for their good sometimes? Yes. After Noah had preached the Gospel to the antediluvian world, and after their cup of iniquity was full, and Zion and her cities had fled, then followed the judgments of God; then came desolation and destruction. And why this wholesale sweeping out of existence of humanity? To stop them from propagating a corrupt species. Was not that right? Yes it was. He said, I will cut them off;... for these pure spirits in the eternal worlds shall not be contaminated with their corruptions: I will take them off the earth, and I will raise up another people. And He did do it." (JD, 20:109)

God commands Moses to build an ark so he can save the only righteous people on earth – his family

Gen 6:14-22

14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

15 And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

20 Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive.

21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Paul E. Koelliker

"We too have entered into sacred covenants with the Lord that we might be preserved from the adversary. Just as in Noah's time, we live in a day of prophetic promise and fulfillment. In the past eight years, 71 new temples have been dedicated—a feat, under the direction of the Lord's prophet, which may in some ways be like the building of the ark in Noah's day.

"Our living prophet... has invited us to come through the door of the temple, where we can enter into covenants with the Lord.

"As in Noah's day, our efforts to live these covenants may often be accompanied by a measure of sacrifice. This sacrifice, regardless of how great or small, often determines how committed in mind and heart we are to be submissive to the will of our Heavenly Father." (CR, Oct. 2005)

W. Don Ladd

"The Lord said to Noah, 'Make thee an ark' and with thee will I establish my covenant.' 'And Noah did according unto all that the Lord commanded him.'...

"We all need to build a personal ark, to fortify ourselves against this rising tide of evil, to protect ourselves and our families against the floodwaters of iniquity around us. And we shouldn't wait until it starts raining, but prepare in advance. This has been the message of all the prophets in this dispensation... as well as the prophets of old." (CR, Oct. 1994)

Noah loads the ark with the animals in preparation for the flood

Gen 7:1-10

1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.

3 Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

4 For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

5 And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.

6 And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

7 ¶ And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.

8 Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth,

9 There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah.

10 And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

What kind of animals did Noah take by sevens and what kind by twos?

(Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens
and of beasts that are not clean by two)

How much warning was Noah given to load the ark before the flood rains began to fall?

Seven days – clearly he had built the ark and gathered the animals beforehand

Wilford Woodruff

"Noah was 120 years building the ark, we are informed in the Scriptures, and during that time he preached the Gospel. How many who were willing to believe his testimony? Only eight souls in all, including himself. He was very unpopular, I presume, and had as much derision heaped upon his head, for building an ark on dry ground, as any man that ever lived on the earth. But Noah was a prophet and a messenger of God, called to warn that generation and to build an ark.... He had the Spirit of God and was willing to do as he was told, whether the doctrine he preached was popular or unpopular. He built the ark, and went into it with his family, and they were saved. The history of the flood and of the salvation of Noah and his family is well known. He performed the work assigned him to do, and was saved." (JD 11:244)

The Lord floods the earth with water

Gen 7:11-12

11 ¶ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights

Some find in against the laws of physics that the whole earth could be flooded. But God works with physical laws that we are not aware of

John Taylor

"How they could manage to get enough water out of the seas, and out of the oceans, and out of the rivers, and out of the clouds, to cover the tops of these mountains and fifteen cubits above, and let that spread all over the earth? I would like to know by what known law the immersion of the globe could be accomplished. It is explained here in a few words: 'The windows of heaven were opened' that is, the waters that exist throughout the space surrounding the earth from whence come these clouds from which the rain descends. That was one cause. Another cause was 'the fountains of the great deep were broken up' that is something beyond the oceans, something outside of the seas, some reservoirs of which we have no knowledge, were made to contribute to this event, and the waters were let loose by the hand and by the power of God; for God said He would bring a flood upon the earth and He brought it." (JD: 26:66)

Gen 7:19-24

19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered.

20 Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.

21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

Note: "the creeping things... were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive"

L. H. Read

"Bible students from many different backgrounds have seen the ark as a symbol as well as a physical reality....

"Here, then, we see a literal enactment of a great symbolic truth that affects all of us: just as God provided a means (the ark) for Noah's family to escape the waters (death), and reach a glorious promised land, he has also provided a way for us to escape spiritual and physical death and attain a land of promise." ("The Ark of the Covenant: Symbol of Triumph," Ensign, June 1980)

The Flood Recedes

Gen 8:1-5

1 And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged;

2 The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;

3 And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.

4 And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.

5 And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.

John Taylor

"When the flood commenced to subside, we are told 'that the fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained; And the waters returned from off the earth.' Where did they go to? From whence they came.... [The Bible] simply tells us that 'all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. Fifteen

cubits upwards did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.' That is, the earth was immersed. It was a period of baptism." (JD, 26:66)

Noah and his family leave the ark and establish their new home

Gen 8:13-17

13 ¶ And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry.

14 And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried.

15 ¶ And God spake unto Noah, saying,

16 Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.

17 Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.

Note that according to the Bible the flood happened before the continents were divided which happened in the days of Noah' great grandson, Peleg (Gen 10:25)

George Q. Cannon

"Men have supposed that because the ark rested on Ararat that the flood commenced there, or rather that it was from thence the Ark started to sail. But God in His revelations has informed us that it was on this choice land of Joseph where Adam was placed and the Garden of Eden was laid out." (JD, 11:337)

Gen 8:20-22

20 ¶ And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

What did the Lord promise about the fruitfulness of the earth?

(will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake
While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest)

Spencer W. Kimball

"The Lord promised after the deluge: 'While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night

shall not cease.'

"And the psalmist sang again: 'Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it; thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God...
Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers....
The pastures are clothed with flocks... they shout for joy, they also sing.'
(Ps. 65:9-10,13)

"... the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.' (Ps. 33:5.)" (CR, April 1968)

The command to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" is again emphasized to Noah's posterity. Noah lives for 350 years after the flood

Gen 9:1,28-29

1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

28 ¶ And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.

29 And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.

The Tower of Babel

In chapter 11 we have the account of Tower of Babel

Gen 11:1-9

1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

Why did the people want to build the tower?

(let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name)

Tradition tells us that the people wanted to be safe if God sent another flood
But article in the Ensign suggested another motive -

Donald W. Parry

"It is an account of some of Noah's descendants who set aside true temple worship and built a 'pagan temple,' or 'counterfeit temple,' in the form of a great tower. Two statements hint at an attempt to build a temple: 'Let us build... a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven' recalls one of the purposes of temples: to serve as places where God and man can meet. 'Let us make us a name' recalls another purpose of temples: to serve as holy places where individuals take upon themselves the name of Jesus Christ. But the rebellious people under the leadership of King Nimrod lacked real priesthood keys and the authority to build temples." ("The Flood and the Tower of Babel," Ensign, Jan. 1998)

What did the Lord do to stop the people from pursuing this wickedness?

(confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech)

Spencer W. Kimball

"The confusion of Babel is being overcome. The Finns and the Dutch and the British, the Germans and the French and the Hollanders, the Scandinavians, Italians, Austrians all meeting under one roof! All of them heard the voice of the prophet of the Lord. Everyone of them heard his message in his own tongue. Everyone of them heard the ordinances of the gospel, the ordinances of the temple, in his own tongue. The confusion of Babel is in reverse." ("Report on Europe," Improvement Era, Dec. 1955)