

BEING A MAN OF THE FLOOD, PART 4
Scriptures from the Life of Noah by Justin Schefcik

We are in our fourth and final study on the life of Noah and the main idea again is how Noah was a man of the flood. Everything he did in life revolved around a prophetic warning from God about a coming judgment on the world. God, in His preservative grace, was going to send a flood upon the entire earth to wipe the slate clean and get a fresh start because the whole world had reached the point where in His eyes, it was necessary to do so. The wickedness had reached its limit and God's grace period ran out. The only survivors out of the multitudes living at the time was Noah and his family, who floated safely in an ark on top of the water, along with 2 of every kind of animal and a few extra 'clean' animals for offerings of worship afterward. And this idea of living in light of a coming judgment is nothing strange to us. We need to be men and women of the flood like Noah. From studying Noah's life, so far we've seen how:

1. A MAN OF THE FLOOD WALKS WITH GOD
2. A MAN OF THE FLOOD WORKS FOR GOD
3. A MAN OF THE FLOOD WITNESSES FOR GOD
4. A MAN OF THE FLOOD TRUSTS THE LORD.
5. A MAN OF THE FLOOD WAITS ON GOD.
6. A MAN OF THE FLOOD WORSHIPS GOD.

VII. MARK #7 – A MAN OF THE FLOOD IS BLESSED BY GOD. (9:1-17)

Though men of the flood will experience many storms, they will also experience many blessings like Noah. The Lord blesses His people who listen to Him and obey Him.

A. Blessing #1 – Government is a minister of God for good.

You wouldn't think this is a blessing if all you did was read the headlines today but that's the biblical testimony about government. Is any government perfect? No. But humanity does need it and God has instituted it (Romans 13). Here we get the first taste of government in this dispensation just beginning. We need a system of checks and balances to punish evil and especially those murderous men who take the life of someone made in the image of God. Can you imagine how terrible the world or our nation would be if there was no consequence for murder or theft? It would be a lot like the Ante-Diluvian world of Noah! What a refreshing new rule this has to be for Noah and his family to know that they can take out a murderous man with God's authority to do so. It is needed for the overall good and order. Christian are to be subject to the governing authorities as long as it doesn't make them disobey God.

B. Blessing #2 – Man can eat meat!

This is the moment where salad and fruit and vegetable went from main dish to side dish! Before the flood, men didn't eat meat but now God says it okay. The evolutionary idea has many consequences and one of them is that it has deceived many into thinking that they can't eat meat because they think the beast is on the same level as a human, since we "all evolved from the same origin". Man and beast have the same equal rights according to animal activists, maybe even more rights than man! We abort babies with no penalty but you go to prison or are fined severely for killing a mountain lion! But it was **man was made in the image of God and not beast**. Man is distinct from beast, as beast is distinct from plant. Man has been given **dominion** over the beast (Gen. 1:26). Man, not beast, was the pinnacle of God's creative work (Gen 1:31). There's a lot of deceitful people out there prompted by demonic spirits that are teaching you can't eat certain foods

like meat (1 Tim. 4:1-4) but 1 Timothy 4:5 says, “For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; for it is sanctified by the means of the word of God and prayer.” Basically, it’s okay because God said it’s okay, and we pray on top of it and give thanks for His generosity, providing us with all things to enjoy. We can even eat bacon and other things the Law said Israelites couldn’t eat.

One of the things I want you see from this passage is that just because God wiped out the life on earth, doesn’t mean He doesn’t love life. Remember the flood is a work of God’s preserving grace. He created life and loves life. Even animal life.

C. The covenant is with all of creation.

It is made with man and beast and they are to be fruitful and multiply. Also notice that God puts a fear of man into the animals. This was very gracious on God’s part, for the animals themselves likely didn’t eat meat before the flood and the fear of man was needed now. The animal is not above man nor equal to him, but subordinate to man. This is a covenant blessing with all of creation.

Notice that from building the ark, to riding out the storm, to exiting the ark at the right time – God was with him through it all. He’s the one who shut the door on the ark. He protected Noah.

D. You can always trust god to be near you through the storms of life.

Even if it feels like he’s miles away, He’s with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you. And you can also expect a rainbow on the other side. The storms of life are the times that if we let them push us towards God, become the most blessed moments in our life and the ones God uses the most. Be thankful for the storms of life, for you know God is at work.

❖ **Storms are temporary.**

It’s been said that as “Mark Twain and his friend William Dean Howells stepped out of church just as a violent rainstorm began. Howells said, ‘I wonder if it will stop,’ and Mark Twain replied, ‘It always has.’ Isn’t that awesome? It always has. We all tend to think in the craziness of a storm that’s it’s never going to end and we can become frantic, but they do end. They’re temporary. Psalm 30:5 says, “His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.” Judgment is temporary. His Favor, His grace, is everlasting. Keep that in mind in the storm.

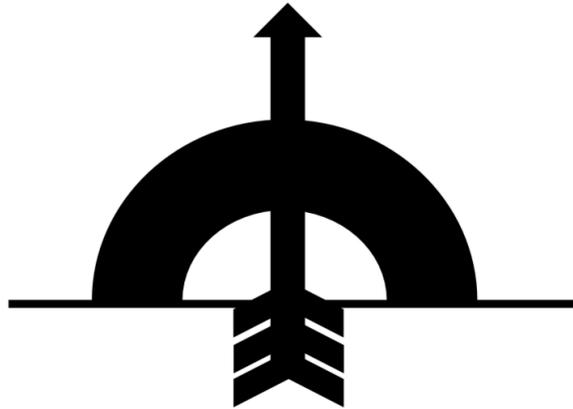
What a blessing it would be to be an eternal blessing to the whole world like Noah is. We don’t have to worry about a flood again because of the faith of Noah. All of us have descended from Noah because of his faith and all of us can remember his faith when we see the rainbow. We’re results of his faith. His faith impacts more people than he could ever imagine and so does ours, though like him we won’t likely see it in this life. Always trust God and always be looking for the rainbow in the storms of life. God has assured us the storms are temporary and should be faced with joy – an opportunity to bring God glory.

Now we see God’s blessing’s in the Noahic covenant where God says He will never flood the world again, with the sign of the covenant - the rainbow.

E. God’s battle bow is hung up on the garage wall of heaven.

One thing I always like to point out when I speak of the rainbow is this: You can really take away from the rainbow by calling it a rainbow. In verse 13, God says, “I set My bow in the cloud”. Half the translations use rainbow and half use bow; the **literal translation is bow**. It’s his **bow of judgment**. Battle bow or weapon of war. And if you were to use the horizon to sort of make the bowstring line and load it, which direction would God’s bow be facing? Up, right? Away from the

earth. His battle bow of flooding judgment is no longer aimed at us. He hung it up on the garage wall of the heavens.



What an incredible sign God gave us! Make sure you teach others what the bow means. I wish I'd have known earlier in life. It's there to keep us worshipping Him for His great mercy and faithfulness.

Men of the flood are often blessed of God, but there's one more mark we need to learn from Noah. And it's not the prettiest but it's honest.

VIII. MARK #8 – A MAN OF THE FLOOD SHOULD FINISH WELL. (9:18-28)

There are **four different types of produce** I want us to examine from this last portion.

A. The produce of wine.

The Bible is quite graphic like this at times. Unfortunately, this is last we hear of Noah. And unfortunately, God's purpose of the flood wasn't to eradicate sin. Genesis 6 says Noah was blameless, but it's pretty clear from last part of chapter 9 that he wasn't perfectly sinless. He falls short of the glory of God just like the rest of us. The first mention of alcohol in the Bible is not a pretty one. Noah gets drunk off of the wine he has made from the abundant produce of his farming. Maybe too much rest and too much relaxation got to him – just like it did David when he cheated with Bathsheba – normally kings would've been out to war at that time. When sin abounded around Noah before the flood, he walked with God. But it's here, after the work, where men tend to fall. And we should let that be a warning to us. Places of rest and relaxation are very dangerous places to be.

To take away from the account of Noah's life only the honorable things about his character and to leave out the shameful would be to make him out to be something he wasn't. To leave out or skip over this sinful story of Noah would be like canonizing him into some unrelatable, perfect saint, taking away any encouragement it would be for sinners like us today trying to serve God and it would take away from the glory of God as we see Him lavish His graces upon redeemed sinners. This has been an *encouraging* and *exhorting* portion of Scripture for the God's people throughout the centuries. In order to finish the race with joy and hear well done good and faithful servant, we need to finish well. And there's a temptation to begin taking sin lighter and lighter the longer we're a Christian or make lighter and lighter of sacred things and it's not healthy spiritually.

B. The produce of gossip.

That's exactly what I think this is: Ham's sin was most likely just the sin of gossip. He found some weird pleasure in seeing his father, who was a great man of God, fall in sin. And I agree with Pastor David Thompson when he suggests that the main point of this passage is not a warning against the godly falling into sin but that of how WE should respond to the godly people when they've blown it. Whenever a Christian leader falls, the news makes a big deal over it! The media attacks that man and make a mockery of Christianity because of it. But the same thing can happen in Christian circles, not by announcing it, but by gossip. Christians are not to be known for stirring up gossip, but for putting it out. Walk away. Proverbs 17:9 suggest the latter: "He who conceals a transgression seeks love."

C. The produce of dishonor.

Ham should have had some respect for his father in this moment. If you want God to bless you, **honor your parents throughout your life**. This is something that God takes so seriously that under the Law it said if you were to strike or curse your father or mother you were to be put to death. Shem and Japheth are blessed because they honored their dad even though he wasn't a perfect individual. God didn't say, "honor your parents if they deserve it." He just says, "honor your parents." I've had to learn since my dad's passing that we can and should honor them even after they're gone. We honor them by properly handling their leftover belongings and honor them by caring for their living spouse. The only reason these kids are alive is because of their dad's faithfulness to God and he was a unique man of God. When the mighty men of God fall, don't forget their previous faithfulness to God and that God is still covenantally faithful to them. If we at times are faithless, He remains faithful, because He is a covenant-keeping God. Noah didn't "lose his salvation" when he sinned and neither do we. We are eternally secure (John 10:27-30; 1 John 5:11-13).

D. The produce of God: Perfect Righteousness Unconditionally Maintained (9:23)

Remember from this episode that it wasn't Noah's goodness that made him righteous, but his faith. He was blessed by God with a perfect righteousness that comes from God and is required by God on the basis of faith. Just like you and me are saved by grace when we place our faith in Christ's sacrifice on the cross as the payment for our sin, Noah was saved by his faith in God. He wasn't living under some legalistic relationship with God where he had to perform perfectly in order to be saved. Heaven isn't earned by good works, religious works or even by being good enough. It is a free gift from God (Rom. 6:23), and nothing could take that from Noah, not even his own sin after the flood. Keith Brooks made a wonderful illustration when he said that just like his two sons took a garment and laid it upon their shoulders and walked backward and covered their father's nakedness, so "God turns His back upon the sin of the [believer] and covers the sin with the robe divine righteousness." How great is that. The perfect righteous covering required to get into heaven is only found through faith in Christ (Rom. 1:16-17).

IX. FINAL APPLICATION: NOW IS THE TIME TO BUILD THE ARK!

Now is the time to build the ark. **Now is the time to build the ark of the body of Christ** by living as a man of the flood, introducing others to Christ. **Just like Noah was placed into the ark and saved from the storm of judgment, so we need to be placed into Christ by putting our faith, our trust, in Him as the One who paid for our sins in full on the cross.** We have an opportunity to build the ark by introducing people to Jesus Christ through the proclamation of the gospel and the way we live our lives in light of the

coming flood of judgment. We shouldn't want to see anybody go through any of the future judgments, and that means we'll have to be like Noah and tell people about the coming judgments and how judgment can be avoided by placing our faith in Christ. We may end up a lot like Noah – being ridiculed and laughed at and mocked while we do it – but we will also find God's blessing and praise for it and our hard work with Him extending for generations and into eternity for the glory of God. **Now is the time to build the ark.**

Our last passage in 2 Peter 3:3. It sums up the final point, illustrating further how important the Noachic flood is for us today in regard to how we think about the future judgments. It says, "In the last days, mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was since the beginning of creation." They have a **uniformitarian** mindset that disregards the flood and thinks that God has never interacted in any **catastrophic** way. He continues, "For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment of ungodly men. But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." People have this idea that all is well – nature's laws haven't ever changed so why should I? I got nothing to worry about. They look into the past and don't recognize (rather, are **willfully ignorant** of) any God-given or supernaturally cataclysmic events destroying all life (Though the evidence is clear) so they assume that nothing supernaturally cataclysmic will ever happen in the future. They think all will continue on like it always has and won't heed the prophetic warnings seriously. They think Christ's never coming back to fulfill His promise that He'll return. But they mistake His patience for a lie. When He comes back His name is called Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11).

Based on the past global flood, Peter wants us to know more judgment is coming and we need to listen up. In verse 10, "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation." Peter here seems to be summing up major future judgments: the Great Tribulation and the day at the end of the Millennium where the Earth and Heavens are totally done away with.

The Great Tribulation we read about in the book Revelation can begin at any moment and you want to be prepared by placing your faith in Christ. The Bible clearly teaches over and over that Christ can return for His bride, the Church, at any moment and then judgment will set in. His appearing is imminent. We need to be prepared and desire to see others prepared for that judgment, whether they'll listen or not. The Bible reveals that the fiery, Great Tribulation judgment to come will be terrible:

...worldwide war, famine, drought, pestilence, an increase in natural disasters, the light of the sun and stars intermittently removed, the moon turned to blood, and mountains being rearranged as people cry out to them to fall on them because it's better to die than live through those days and yet death will sovereignly flee from people. Think of 100 lb. hail stones, literal fireballs from the heavens, 1/3 of the grass and trees burned up, 1/3 of all creatures dying, 1/3 of all ocean liners destroyed, 1/3 of all waters made bitter, and 1/3 of the stars blackened. The fear animals have of humans is going to be removed. Demons will be

released from their prison to torture man and preventing man from rest. Think of Satan himself ruling over the world politically. Men being cursed with malignant sores, all the sea creatures laid waste, the heat of sun being increased to scorch men, and great cities going up in smoke. Of this judgment, Jesus said that nothing has ever occurred like it since the world began nor ever will (Matt. 24:21). Just as the flood was global, so will the fiery tribulation be. And if that's not bad enough, God's Word says He is going to come back and destroy the wicked with a word from His mouth and the unbelievers will be hurled headlong into the lake of fire to be punished for their sin forever and ever. Any moment the Lord could appear and the door of the ark would shut again and His divine wrath would once again be poured out.

Also notice that having a knowledge of what's to come isn't just to peak our curiosity. It's great to know the future and that God wins but remember that **prophecy should push us towards purity!** Knowing these things should make us live like men and women of the flood who do all those things we talked about: walk with God, work for God, witness for God by sharing the gospel, waiting on Him, worshipping Him, trusting Him and finishing well. Men of the flood are blessed to be lifted up above the coming judgment.

In conclusion, let's remember that we need to be a men or women of the flood like Noah because the story of Noah and the flood isn't much different than what is going on in the world today. Man's heart is still evil continually. Society is morally corrupt, rejecting God and striving against His Spirit's convicting work in them. The earth is full of violence and one day God's patience is going to run out. And about the only thing that is going to be different is the method of judgment. God has promised us that He won't send a flood in judgment again but He has said that the next judgment will ultimately come with fire, for the world and for the heavens and for fallen angels and for the men who failed to trust Christ as Savior. Let's be men and women of the flood and live in light of these things. Praise the Lord for His great mercy which He has shown us in our sin-bearer Christ, the One who took our wrath. We look forward to a New Heaven and New Earth, one in which righteousness dwells.