

Agape's weekly devotion – Monday, 8 August 2022, "When God has had enough."

⁶ Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of water came upon the earth. ⁷ Then, Noah and his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives with him entered the ark because of the waters of the flood. ⁸ Of clean animals and animals that are not clean and birds and everything that crawls on the ground, ⁹ they *all* went into the ark to Noah by twos, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ Now, it came about after the seven days, that the waters of the flood came upon the earth. ¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day, all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. ¹² The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights. [Genesis 7:6-12]

In Genesis chapter 1, we find the pinnacle of God's creation. From verses 1-25, we learn how God created everything else in creation, but in verses 26, we learn about God's special care in creating mankind. "Then God said, let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth." However, in only a few short chapters, God was so fed up with the sinful downward spiral of humanity that He decided to wipe out humanity and start over. Genesis chapter six reveals what led to God sending the flood. "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth and that every intent of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually" (v. 5). However, in verse 8, it says, "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord." Only eight individuals that lived at that time pleased God—Noah, his wife, and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives.

God directed Noah to build an ark to preserve life, but only Noah and his family were spared, along with the animals God chose. After 120 years, which was a time of grace and also to allow Noah to build the ark, God had enough, so He took action. He invited Noah and his family into the ark, taking the animals God designated with them. Once they were inside, God sealed the ark, and the fountains of the great deep burst open as well as the floodgates of the sky. The rain fell upon the earth, and the whole earth was flooded for many days. As a result, all living things upon land—human beings and animals—perished.

One day, God will once again judge all of humanity because the wickedness of mankind remains great on the earth, and every intent of the thoughts of human hearts is still evil. However, the next time God will not judge the world with a flood, he will do so with fire—the Lake of fire (Rev. 20:15). While God delays His return, He offers mankind a limited grace period for us to repent of our sins and accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. However, just like in the days of Noah, many will run out of time because they waited too late and never took God's Word seriously.

There are six lessons we should learn from God sending the flood. 1. God must punish sin. 2. God gives warnings, but his patience eventually runs out. 3. God has always saved people the same way; by grace, through faith. 4. Genuine faith leads to genuine obedience. 5. True witness demands separation from sin. 6. God condemns sin and rebellion but rewards faithfulness to Him.

Have a blessed week in Jesus' name!!

Because of Calvary,

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