

## TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN, PURPOSE, AND DESIGN

*"Just As" Genesis 6:9-22*

June 29, 2025

**INTRO.:** Welcome to our ongoing series, **Trusting God's Plan, Purpose, and Design**, from the book of Genesis. Last Sunday, we began looking at the times of Noah, how evil people had become (*every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time*), and God's response (*I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created*). "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8). That is, God showed His grace to Noah. There were 120 years between when Noah was commissioned by God to build the ark and the beginning of the rains. Why didn't more than eight people respond and get on the ark? Here was the opportunity to escape the judgment of God.

Noah was telling the people of his day about the only rescue. Our theme this morning is "Just As" for that is how Noah's response to God is described at the end of Genesis 6. Leading up to it we're going to look at **Noah and the People**, **God's Judgment**, **God's Instruction**, **God's Rescue**, which Pastor John is going to look at more thoroughly, and **Noah's Response**. Let's read together this account.

**Genesis 6:9–11** This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. **10** Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. **11** Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. **13** So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. **15** This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. **16** Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. **17** I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. **19** You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. **21** You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

### **NOAH AND THE PEOPLE**

**v. 9-12**

-How is Noah described?

Many times, when I'm meeting with the family, after their loved one has passed, I ask them for words that would describe the loved one. Here are the following words used for Noah:

\**Righteous*: this emphasizes the inward

\**Blameless*: (*perfect* in other translations) which emphasizes the outward. Used to describe animals for sacrifice and means *without blemish*. (Leviticus 1:3, 10; 3:1, 6) Fruchtenbaum

Arnold Fruchtenbaum: "When the two words *righteous* and *perfect* are used together, the emphasis is on being wholly righteous, a condition which is the result of having found grace in the Lord."

**Job 12:4** "I have become a laughingstock to my friends, though I called upon God and he answered— a mere laughingstock, though righteous and blameless!"

**Proverbs 11:5** The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.

\**among the people of his time*: Noah's life was a huge contrast to the lives of the others of his day. He was a light in the darkness all around him. This does not mean he wasn't a sinner. He lived in the midst of evil. Look at what Jesus prays in John 17.

**John 17:14–17** I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. **15** My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. **16** They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. **17** Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

\**and he walked with God*: this phrase was also used to describe Enoch

**Genesis 5:22–24** And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. **23** Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. **24** Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

-How are the people described?

**Genesis 6:11-12** Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. **12** God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.

*\*corrupt in God's sight*

*\*full of violence*

*\*all the people on earth had corrupted their ways*

This follows up with what we saw last week:

**Genesis 6:5** The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Believers are meant to be different than unbelievers, living among them as a light in the darkness caused by sin and separation from God. The second thing we see described is:

### **GOD'S JUDGMENT v. 13, 17**

God tells Noah what is coming. God's communication to Noah was a sign of His grace being given to Noah. There is no doubt that judgment is coming.

**Genesis 6:13** So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

God's judgment was going to affect ALL of His creation! Verse 17 describes how God is going to destroy mankind and the earth.

**Genesis 6:17** I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.

Notice the method of God's judgment:

*\*I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth*

Arnold Fruchtenbaum: The word for *flood* is only used here. Only used one other time in Psalm 29:10 showing the uniqueness of the flood, covering all the earth. The Greek word is *kataklysmos* (get English word, *cataclysm*.) It is used exclusively of the Noahic flood

**Matthew 24:39** and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

**Luke 17:27** People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

**2 Peter 2:5** if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;

**2 Peter 3:6** By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

Notice the extent of God's judgment:

*\*destroy ALL life under the heavens*

*\*every creature that has the breath of life in it*

*\*everything on earth will perish*

There was no way to escape this judgment apart from God's grace and mercy. There is no way to escape God's judgment for our sin apart from God's grace and mercy shown through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the sinless one, for our sins.

We see the great contrast between Noah and the people of the day, the means and totality of God's judgment and thirdly:

### **GOD'S INSTRUCTION v. 14-16**

**Genesis 6:14-15** So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. **15** This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high.

*\* So make yourself an ark of cypress wood*

Derek Kidner: "The *ark*'s general features and name—for it is called a 'chest', not a ship—emphasize its sole purpose, to provide shelter and orderly existence for a variety of creatures."

It is also used of what Moses' mother placed him in..

**Exodus 2:1–5** Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, **2** and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. **3** But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. **4** His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. **5** Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it.

*\*make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out*

The pitch would have made the ark waterproof which would certainly be needed with the flood waters. Some commentators draw a parallel between the word "*pitch*" (which means *covering*), and the Hebrew word for "*atonement*" (which also refers to covering). See Fruchtenbaum and Kidner)

*\*450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.* (a cubit is about 1.5 feet) It was probably more of a rectangular shape which would allow it to float easily and make it difficult to capsize.

**Genesis 6:16** Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks.

*\* Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top*

This would provide ventilation and place for the birds to go in and out. The function of this space is never specified, but it might have been used to admit light and circulate air. (Max Anders)

*\*put a door in the side of the ark*

What was the purpose of the door? Brenda and I grew up in one of the snow belts in upstate New York. I wonder if anyone else ever had their parents say, "Shut the door! We don't want to heat the outside." The purpose of a door is to provide protection from the elements, to provide some safety. The door to the ark was open for people to enter until the rain began and the door was closed.

Look at what Jesus is called in John 10.

**John 10:7–10 (NASB95)** — **7** So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. **8** "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. **9** "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. **10** "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

*\*and make lower, middle and upper decks*

You couldn't miss this boat!! It had three stories and, according to estimates, could hold over 70,000 animals and still have room left for food.

We see the great contrast between Noah and the people of the day, the means and totality of God's judgment, God's specific instructions and

## **GOD'S RESCUE** v. 18-21

**Genesis 6:18** But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.

*\*But I will establish my covenant with you*

A covenant is a binding promise, and this is the first time this word is used. This promise is made by God, and the details will be given in chapter nine. God is the one who establishes the covenant and it is referred to as the Noahic covenant.

*\*and you will enter the ark – your sons and your wife and your son's wives:* this was the only option for rescue!

**Genesis 6:19-20** You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive.

Not only are Noah and his family going to be on the ark but also two of every kind of animal, birds, and even every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to him to go on the ark. God will bring the animals to Noah.

**Genesis 6:21** You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." Noah is responsible to gather the food "*for you*" (he and his family) and "*for them*" (the animals).

We see in these verses the sovereignty of God (in bringing the animals to Noah) and the responsibility of man (gathering the food for the animals).

Pastor John will be sharing much more next week about God's rescue. God is very clear in His communication with Noah:

- \*God promises judgment is coming for all (universal flood)
- \*God gives instructions for the ark, a massive boat
- \*God established His covenant (binding promise) with Noah
- \*God tells Noah who and what will be on the ark and how

The final question is: "What will be..."

## **NOAH'S RESPONSE**

**v. 22**

**Genesis 6:22** Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

This is an ongoing response of Noah.

**Genesis 7:5** And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

**Genesis 7:9** male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah.

**Genesis 7:16** The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

When shown God's favor (grace) Noah responds in obedience. This should be the story of every believer. He did EVERYTHING **just as** God commanded. Where do you and I find God's commands? The Bible needs to be our source.

**Psalms 119:2** Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart.

**Psalms 119:10** I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.

**Psalms 119:60** I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.

**Psalms 119:89** Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

**Psalms 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

**Psalms 119:112** My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.

**Psalms 119:151** Yet you are near, O LORD, and all your commands are true.

**1 John 2:3-6** We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. **4** The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. **5** But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: **6** Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

You don't obey to gain God's grace, but, because God has shown grace to you, the response is one of obedience. Also, remember, at the point of salvation the Holy Spirit takes up residence in you and you have the power to overcome sin and obey God.

## **SO WHAT???**

I want to draw this together by sharing parallels between the ark and the cross of Christ.

\*The vast majority of people didn't understand either one (Matthew 27:39-43)

\*They were both very visible

\*There is irrefutable proof they both happened

\*Both were ignored or even ridiculed (1 Corinthians 1:18)

\*Both were a rescue from God: the ark saved physical life and cross brought eternal life

\*To ignore the warnings brings catastrophic consequences

\*Both are evidence of God's grace

\*God provided ample opportunity for repentance

So, what about me?

\*What is my response to the cross?

\*If I have come to faith in Christ is my life a growing reflection of Jesus Christ through obedience to God's Word?

\*Who am I warning about the coming judgment of God?

\*Spend some time every day this week thanking God for His grace

\*Read Psalm 119 and write out what the psalmist says about God's Word, His commands and decrees.