

“THE Righteous Man”

Scripture: Genesis 5:28-6:8

Graphic: world, darkness, creation, joy

Key Verse: 7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth-- men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air-- for I am grieved that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

1) Introduction –

- a) summer series, 8-9 weeks, “NOAH: THE STORY” (like Noah: The Movie).
Read the story at home in Genesis 6-11...it may not be that what you think is true about the story of Noah is actually true...so many ideas about this story from our children’s bibles miss many of the grand themes of this story...some wonderful, some painful for God and for humans...
- b) grand imagery – ark...rain...flood...animals...dove...olive branch...rainbow...we’ll study all of that...but there’s more...sin...evil...destruction... grieving...family...repopulation...
- c) this story begins with creation, actually, not with God calling Noah to the Ark...God created...perfect...”very good” (DRAW THE EARTH)
- d) Many of you have children and grandchildren (maybe even great-grandchildren)...bring joy into our lives...when they do they that we know are wrong or destructive, our hearts grieve...it’s a pain that is hard to describe...we want our children to be joy-filled, to be healthy, to know right from wrong...and we’ll do just about anything to help them be righteous.
- e) The word righteous means having a right standing with God...to be forgiven...to be walking with God...to worship and obey God...in many ways, when we are righteous...we are joy-filled b/c we are walking in God’s plan for our lives...
- f) Unfortunately...because of the original sin of Adam and Eve...people found it more and more difficult to be righteous...(DRAW APPLE/SNAKE)
- g) Noah was the only one left...not that he was without sin...but that he was seeking after God, worshipping Him, trying to be faithful...
- h) Adam/Adamah – The Fall – Corruption/Wickedness – Noah
- i) Let’s pick it up there...open your Bibles to Genesis 6 (please bring your Bibles to worship...let’s make that a habit)...back up to 5:28

2) Genesis 5:28-6:8

- a) Now, the first thing we notice about the genealogy of Noah is that these people lived a really long time...777 years...500 years...and this makes perfect sense because God’s plan for humans at the time of creation was to live forever...sin caused life spans to decrease b/c sin destroys the flesh...

- b) We are suffering the effects of sin...and one indicator is a decrease in lifespan...what is it today...like 75 years? And only increasing b/c of medical science...not b/c of a decrease in sin...
- c) Noah is born into a time when the whole world was suffering the effects of sin...
- d) 6:1 - Refer back to creation...Humans were carrying out God's plan to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:28)...to be filled with JOY and be connected with God in every way (DRAW TREE, PEOPLE, WATER) yet sin had entered into the picture with Adam and Eve, and was now distorting God's plan for humanity (adam) and for creation (adamah)...
- e) 6:2 – curious references here to the sons of God and the daughters of man...we're not sure exactly what this means, but most likely refers to beings in the heavenly realm that took the initiative to break down the barrier that exists between earth and heaven and marry human women... and procreate. (DRAW HEAVENS and INTERFACE)
- f) Now this may seem fantastical...but if you remember the creation story, God was not alone at creation...the text refers to making man in OUR image...but that not really the point here...look at the language used here – the sons of God **saw** that the daughters were **beautiful**, and they **married** them (or a better translation is **took** them in marriage)...
- g) Now, if you remember back to your story of Eve in the garden (turn to Genesis 3:6) – Eve **saw** the apple, it was **pleasing to the eye**, and so she, what?...**took** it and ate it. Now, we know that this story conveys something that is totally inappropriate...something wicked that Eve did...and this parallel language in verse 6:2 conveys the same designation of inappropriateness. Heavenly beings breaking through the God-created barrier in order to marry and have children with human women was completely inappropriate, it was a misuse of women, it was sinful and wicked, against God's plan...and so the author here is showing us just how bad it had gotten. Even the separation b/t the heavens and earth had broken down, the orders of creation were confused...
- h) And it pained God to no end...***this was his creation!*** So we have verse 6:3, God will **not** put up with His pain any longer. Notice I said, HIS pain. God was not an aloof parent, idly standing by and watching His creation literally go to Hell...just as each of us would never, ever want to stand by

and watch our children self-destruct, even though they sometimes do and we can't do anything about it. Our pain is real for them, as much as we know their pain is real...God's pain was unbearable to God...

- i) And so he does what he knows he has to do...he has been patient...he has been nurturing and guiding...but everything was chaos and wickedness...
- j) And so he gives the world 120 years more. Now, He could have just wiped everything clean in a day...but because God loves the world so much, he was willing to be just a little more patient...let 5-6 generations grow up and maybe, just maybe, there will be some that turn to him...to worship and serve faithfully...
- k) He had made up his mind...now, to God, 120 years was nothing...to us, 120 years is many generations...
- l) The author then talks about the Nephilim...giants...these people may have been the product of the sons of God and the daughters of man...Goliath (in the David and Goliath story) was believed to be a Nephilim...9-10 feet tall...things had really gotten out of whack because these giants were battle tanks...killing machines...and the only reason you would need killing machines is in a world filled with hate and wickedness...a broken world where...
- m) The Lord saw how great this wickedness had become...in verse 5..."that **every** inclination of the thoughts of his heart was **only** evil **all** the time." Let that sink in...take a look at the scope of this...how complete this is...every...only ...all...these are words of completeness!
- n) So much so that the Lord was grieved that he had made man...ouch! God was grieved so much that he resented the fact that he even made us!
- o) One of my great fears is that something I do will cause one of my kids, or my wife, or anyone else to resent me. Resentment is a powerful emotion driven by being hurt by something that can't be undone...and it can be long-term...and God resented ever making humans in the first place...
- p) And b/c you can't undo what has already been done, the solution was to "wipe mankind, WHOM I HAVE CREATED (note the claiming of authority over this creation), wipe them from the face of the earth – men, women, animals, birds...everything. Not because they are wicked so much, but because God was grieved by their wickedness..."

- q) Judgment relates, here, more to the problem than the product. God didn't decide to wipe the earth clean b/c of the result of the sin in the world...but precisely because of the fact that there IS sin in the world right from the beginning...and the fact that THAT grieved God...
- r) At this point, we're not told how God intends to do this...only that God's rationale for doing this is that humans were ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY.
- s) God has been patient, but this has come to an end...God is grieving and pained...humans have selfishly and wickedly ruined what God made...and God's heart was filled with pain...
- t) And not simply because of the current state of wickedness...oh no...God knew the plan to destroy the inhabitants of the earth would cause even more pain and suffering...but he enters into this plan as a participants who is grieving and pained right along side creation...but for different reasons...
- u) Humans – suffering b/c of the results of sin/wickedness...God – suffering b/c of the sin itself and the destruction of creation by humans.

3) Conclusion

- a) So God enters into the pain and the brokenness and works on the problem from within His creation. He doesn't coldly wipe it clean, but feels the pain and the hurt on all levels...the anguish...
- b) Men and women...we are here today, worshipping the creator God, b/c God chose to enter into the pain and the hurt and the brokenness, to continue love the creation which is pained by sin and wickedness, and chose to re-create the world through one man and his family....Noah
- c) In verse 6:8 – Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. In the midst of all the brokenness...God chose Noah.
- d) Now, God's actions do not depend on Noah or his character, as if this wouldn't have taken place had it not been for Noah...yet, b/c of the sin and wickedness, b/c God's grieving and pained heart, b/c of God's agony of what to do w/ creation, God graciously chose Noah b/c of Noah's potential for righteousness.
- e) And Noah's subsequent faithfulness is a consequence of God's prior action of choosing him... Was Noah a sinner like you? Of course. Did Noah seek

forgiveness from God? We can only assume he did. Are you any different from Noah? Yes and no.

- f) If you have gotten caught up in the world so much that God doesn't matter...if you find yourself buying into the relativism of our day, where anything goes and whatever you believe is OK b/c it's only personal anyway...if you are trying to be your own creator, crossing barriers that God put in place in your life for your own good...then you are more like the world than like Noah...yet Noah was here too, and all of us are in this category in one degree or another...we are all sinners...it about our willingness to give faith a try...
- g) But if you are walking with God in the midst of the wickedness and sin of this world and your life, knowing that the Lord is Lord over all aspects of your life...if you, as a person of the New Testament, are seeking God's forgiveness through the redeeming blood of Jesus shed for you...if you are righteous in response to God choosing you...if you are loving others and loving God by serving them...then you are much like Noah...**YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR BEING A TRANSFORMING AGENT IN THE WORLD...**God is choosing you to be an agent for re-creation in this world.
- h) Being righteous isn't about being perfect. Noah wasn't perfect...but he was **THE** only righteous man of his day. Being righteous is about faithfully following God's commands from the Old and New Testaments in your daily life, by allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you and by the salvation that you claim in Jesus Christ to allow God to forgive you today for your sin...
- i) That's what Noah did when he was 600 years old...that's why God chose him...and that's why God has chosen you this very day, to give you His joy...if you will allow him...are you willing to say yes?
- j) Maybe you are willing in your heart, but in your mind it seems so impossible for God to truly forgive all the wickedness in your heart...all that you've done and said...well, as we sing this song, right where you are in your seat, God will make a way where there seems to be no way if you want him to...redemption and re-creation comes when we say yes to the Lord who loves us and wants to follow Jesus into eternity today...
- k) Next week, we'll see that Noah will build a big boat because the flood is coming...your ark is Jesus...and the flood is coming...
- l) Let's pray...