



CORE STUDY #3

God Remembered Noah

Passage: Genesis 6:5-22; 8:1-5; 8:20-9:3

Themes: Society's propensity toward corruption; God's judgment; God's promise to Noah; God's remembering gives hope for a new humanity

Summary: As we leap forward in God's story, we see that the world has spiraled into utter corruption and violence – a world dominated by the descendants of the “serpent's seed” (sin and evil). Grieved, God takes action to annihilate the serpent's kingdom by way of a cataclysmic flood. God preserves the righteous (the seed of the woman) by means of an ark, through Noah and his family, and they emerge to a renewed earth. In this story we see God's grace and mercy threaded throughout his justice as he brings creation out of the chaos that man has brought to the world. We see God's intimate relationship with Noah as he deals personally with him, covenants with him and brings salvation to the world through him.

Introductory Question:

- What are some countries you are aware of that are struggling with extreme turmoil, violence and political unrest? Imagine for a moment if the entire world as we know it was in that same state? What must the world have looked like - where “every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.” (6:5)?

Discussion Questions (selection to choose from):

1. What does it say about God that he grieves due to the wickedness of man (“The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain” 6:6)? *
2. What made Noah different from all those who were evil around him (6:5-12)? Why did Noah find favor with God? *
3. Reflect on the statement that “Noah did everything just as God commanded him” (6:22, 7:5). What does this say about Noah's relationship with God? *
4. God was so grieved about the state of humanity that he was about to destroy it - yet he provided one man who served him to be the means of salvation for God's family. Who is this God? Name some characteristics about who God is.
5. What does it mean that God “remembered” Noah (8:1)? Did God forget his people? *
6. What does Noah's first action after emptying the ark (8:20) reveal about his priorities?
7. How does the Lord respond to Noah's sacrifice (8:21-22)? *
8. Why is God's promise especially remarkable in view of the continuing sinfulness of human nature?
9. How does God continue to bless Noah and his family (9:1-3)?

* See commentary notes below.



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Response: (Choose one question that follows the tone your study has taken)

- One man's obedience affected all of creation. How could your obedience affect the UBC campus?
- How have you seen God's grace at work within your own life?

Spend some time in prayer being thankful for all of God's grace and mercy that he has given to us who don't deserve it, yet need it desperately.

Commentary Supplements to the Discussion Questions:

1. *"...about the risk God took in creating this world with its freedom. Here we see God's vulnerability. Here is the pain of creative love. Here is the wounded spirit of the artist whose work is rejected, the broken heart of the lover whose love is not returned. God makes himself vulnerable. God empties himself in love. God himself enters the world of brokenness and pain. Genesis 6 points to the suffering God. 'The tears of God are the meaning of history' (The Message of Genesis 1-11). Notice how far creation has fallen since God created it. In what way has God's stance toward the creation changed since the beginning (vs 1:1-31 vs 6: 6-7, 11-13, 17)?*
2. *"God's initiative of grace towards Noah is mentioned before there is any reference to Noah's faith and righteousness. And that is important. Between the two - the reference to grace and the reference to righteousness - the editor has given another formula to indicate a development of the story. Could it be that the author is seeking to highlight the fact that the public life of Noah - who walked before God who had a family, and who built an ark - emerges out of the secret story of Noah as a recipient of God's grace?" (Ibid.)*
3. Noah has been heralded throughout time as a man of faith. It is inspiring and encouraging to see Noah's faithful obedience to God as he "does everything God commanded him to do."
5. In the Old Testament, God's "remembering" is more than mental recall. It always emphasizes his movement toward what he remembers in faithful love and timely intervention. (Genesis, God's Creative Call)
7. *"'Smells the pleasing aroma' is a figurative way of saying that God delights in his children's worship. Jurgen Moltmann writes, 'The promise never again to destroy all flesh because of its wickedness is an unconditional promise on God's part. It is God's indestructible Yes to his creation ... Not even human wickedness can thwart the Creator's will toward his creation ... God remains true to the earth for God remains true to himself'" (Ibid.)*