

=EVENTS FROM GENESIS=

Lesson 6

The Flood

AIM: to teach my pupils the spiritual significance and facts about the flood.

I. THE REASONS FOR THE FLOOD.

1. Intermarriage. The main reason for the flood is found in Genesis 6:2, 4. The sons of God were marrying the daughters of men. There are many explanations offered by Bible scholars concerning this fact. The best seems to be that this was an intermarriage between the line of Cain and the line of Seth. Bear in mind that when Cain was expelled from the Garden of Eden to the land of Nod, he built a civilization. After Cain was expelled from the Garden of Eden, Seth was born to Adam and Eve, and through Seth came the line that brought forth the Messiah. This is the line that also brought Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech and Noah. It seems to be that the descendants of Seth, or God's chosen line, began intermarrying with the descendants of Cain. This may or may not be true, but one thing we know is true, and that is that God's people were marrying Satan's people. This has always brought punishment to the people of God. (Teachers, go over this point very, very carefully in the lesson.)
2. Wickedness multiplied. In Genesis 6:5 the word "great" means "multiplied." The sins multiplied; hence, God brought the flood.
3. Men's imaginations were evil. Genesis 6:5b, "...and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." The word "imagination" here is derived from the word "embryo." The word "embryo," of course, means "beginning" or "early development." Hence, one of the great sins of Noah's day was that the things that started the imaginations were sinful. We could say that that which started every thought was a sinful thing! A picture that one looks at may start a sinful thought. The kind of television program that one watches may start a sinful thought. The kind of literature that one reads may start a sinful thought. The kind of movie one watches may start a sinful thought. The kind of companions with whom one runs may start a sinful thought. The kind of clothes that a lady wears may start a sinful thought. The word "imagination" goes way back beyond the imagination itself; it goes to the stimulus which starts the thought. If it is wrong to think bad, it is wrong to see things that make one think bad.
4. The people never did good. Read Genesis 6:5 again. Notice the word "continually" here. Men continually did bad. This implies that they never stopped doing bad or that there was nothing good about them. They were totally depraved.
5. People were corrupt. Notice Genesis 6:11a. The word "corrupt" here is a very interesting word. It is taken from a word that was used to describe "crooked merchants." In other words, the people were not only corrupt in their thinking and in their habits that started their thinking, but they were dishonest. There was a lack of character, a lack of integrity. It implies short-changing, etc.
6. Violence. Read Genesis 6:11b. The word "violence" here comes from a word which means to "shake" or to "rush on." It means attacks, assaults, rapes, etc.
Compare these things with America today: the intermarriage between the people of God and Satan's people; the multiplying sins; the hundreds of things that start wicked imaginations—things that we read, see, hear, etc.; the crookedness of the merchants, politicians, etc.; the murders, rapes, assaults, etc. Our day reminds us of Noah's day, does it not?

II. THE SAFETY THROUGH THE FLOOD. Let us notice the ark and the safety which God provided for His people through the flood.

1. The ark was made of wood. See Genesis 6:14. Of course, we know that Calvary is our ark. The fact that the ark was made of wood represents the atonement. The wood was cut down just as Christ gave His life for us. Our safety is also in Another dying for us just as the tree died for Noah's safety.
2. They were invited to come in. Read Genesis 7:1. The ark was built, safety was provided, and the invitation was, "Come." This is the same with our safety. Salvation has been prepared, and the invitation is that we simply come to Christ.

3. There was security in the ark. See Genesis 7:16. You will notice that when Noah came in, he could not get out. He was shut in the ark. There was no way he could get out. God had shut him in. God offers us the same security. When we come to Jesus Christ, we are eternally saved.
4. There was only one door in the ark. There is also only one door to salvation, John 14:6; John 10:9. There are not many ways to Heaven; there is only one way to Heaven. The door is Jesus Christ!
5. There were three stories in the ark. We read about this in Genesis 6:16. Though there was only one ark, there were three different stories or floors. These three, no doubt, represent the fact that there is one God but there are three persons in the Godhead: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
6. There was a window above in the ark. Again, read Genesis 6:16. This is very interesting. Noah was not given the opportunity to look down. It would have been discouraging to look at the ravages of the flood, but rather, he was privileged only to look up. His safety was from above; his encouragement, help and strength all came from above. May those of us who are saved take this as an admonition. May we not look down to the world and be discouraged and defeated, but may we always have the upward look of joy and optimism.
7. The ark was sealed with pitch. This pitch was the blood of a tree. An incision was made in the side of a tree. From that side there came the blood. That blood was used to seal the ark. Jesus is represented here. From His wounded side there came blood. This blood seals our salvation.

CONCLUSION: Ask the pupils if they are in the ark of safety. Notice, all Noah had to do was come in. He could have been baptized, but he would have drowned if he had not come in the ark. He could have joined the church in the local area, but he would have drowned had he not come in the ark. He could have paid his debts and been a good neighbor, a good friend and an honest man; he could have not sworn; he could have told the truth; he could have kept the Ten Commandments had they been given; he could have been a just man, a beloved man; yet he would have drowned had he not come in the ark. The same is true with salvation. We have salvation only in coming to Christ, not in our human merit outside of Christ.