

The Flood Was Real — And Another One Is Coming

Genesis 6:9–8:22

On December 26, 2004, at 7:58 a.m. local time, a magnitude 9.1 earthquake struck the Indian Ocean. The seafloor lifted by 50 feet. Within minutes, a wall of water 100 feet tall began racing across the Indian Ocean at the speed of a commercial jet.

In Banda Aceh, Indonesia — the closest landfall — people walked out onto the beach to look at the strange receding water. They didn't know that the ocean pulling back like that meant a tsunami was coming. They had never been taught the warning signs. By the time they understood what was happening, the wave was on top of them.

But on a small Indonesian island called Simeulue, 10 miles from the epicenter, only 7 of the 78,000 residents died. Why? Because they had a word for it: smong. For four generations, parents had passed down a story to their children — if the ground shakes hard and the water pulls back, run to high ground and don't come down for a day.

They didn't have seismographs. They didn't have warning systems. They had a story their grandparents told them. And on December 26, when the earth shook, every grandmother and grandfather in Simeulue grabbed their grandchildren and ran. The wave came. And almost everyone was already on the mountain.

Genesis 6 is that story. For 120 years, Noah was the grandfather warning the children. For 120 years, the world listened to a different story — the ground always shakes, the water always recedes, nothing bad will actually happen. They didn't ignore Noah because they hadn't heard him. They ignored him because they didn't believe the flood was real.

God's wave of judgment is still coming. And the question Genesis 6:9–8:22 puts to every one of us is the question Simeulue answered with their lives: Will you believe the warning while there's still time to be saved?

Here are five anchors God's Word calls us to when judgment rises and our world sinks.

1. Pursue Righteousness Amidst Wickedness (v. 9-12)

Here in verse 9, Moses introduces a new family record. He says, "These are the family records of Noah."

That matters because Moses has just shown us what was wrong with the world. Genesis 6:1–8 showed us how dark things had become. Every inclination of the human heart was evil all the time.

Moses zooms in and shows us what was different about Noah. And he gives us three descriptions: Noah was righteous. Blameless among his contemporaries. He walked with God.

That is the contrast Moses wants us to see. Noah is presented as a different man. He lived in the same world as everybody else. He saw the same corruption everybody else saw. But he did not go the same way everybody else went.

But we need to tread lightly here, lest we get the wrong impression of Noah. Like we learned last week, Noah's righteousness wasn't the result of his own doing. Rather, it was the evidence of God's favor.

Verse 8 comes before verse 9. Noah found favor first. Then he was called righteous.

The order matters. Grace produces righteousness, not the other way around. You don't obey your way into God's mercy. God's mercy gets hold of you and starts producing obedience in you.

So God highlights Noah as being the only source of light in a dark world.

Some of you have been hearing this description of Noah, and you are already adding it up. He walked with God. He built an ark when there was no rain in sight. He stood apart from the world. And you are thinking, "I could never be like Noah."

Good. You cannot. Neither could Noah apart from God's grace.

If you walk away thinking the point of this text is, "Try harder so God will accept you," you've missed the whole story. God's grace enabled him to live apart from the world. And that same grace has been extended to all who believe in Jesus, so that like Noah we can live for God apart from the world.

Here's what God is showing us through Noah. Noah represents what humanity was created to be. He walks with God. He lives for God. He orders his life under God. But the rest of the world represents what humanity had become apart from God.

Verse 12 says, "God saw how corrupt the earth was, for every creature had corrupted its way on the earth."

Wickedness had become so normal that nobody flinched at it anymore. What turned heads was the person who said no. Holiness went from being the standard to being the scandal.

That's Noah. One man pursuing righteousness amongst a world pursuing wickedness.

And if you think that is ancient history, check out this 2024 report from the Pew Research Center. They found that in the U.S., adults who identify as Christian dropped from 78% in 2007 to 62% in 2024. That's a 16-point drop in 17 years.

Among Gen Z — children born between 1997 and 2012 — only 34% identify as Christian. 42% identify as religiously unaffiliated.

But here's the more sobering statistic for our context. Of the self-identified Christian Gen Zers, only 9% hold a biblical worldview as defined by belief in absolute moral truth, the authority of Scripture, the sinless life of Jesus Christ, the reality of Satan, salvation by grace alone, and the personal responsibility to share the gospel with those who don't believe in Jesus Christ.

What this means is that the corruption Genesis 6 describes is not an ancient problem. We are watching the same drift in real time. Walking with God in 2026 looks more like Noah's situation than we would care to admit.

You may not be surrounded by people building idols out of wood and stone. But you're surrounded by a world that says: Truth is subjective. Purity is outdated. Gender is self-determined. Sin is freedom. Obedience to God is a form of slavery.

That's the world we live in. And the question Genesis 6 puts in front of us is simple: Will you drift with the world, or will you walk with God?

Righteousness doesn't happen by accident. You have to pursue it amidst wickedness — lest you be corrupted.

2. Live Knowing That Judgment Is Coming (v. 13-18)

Here God speaks directly to Noah. Verse 13 says, "I have decided to put an end to every creature..." That's courtroom language. Heaven has reached a verdict. And now judgment is coming.

And I know that's hard to hear — for two reasons.

First, because none of us want to believe we deserve judgment. We want to believe we are basically good. We want to believe that whatever wrong we have done is outweighed by whatever right we've done. But Genesis 6 already settled that. "Every inclination of the human heart was evil all the time." That's not just them. That's us. Humanity deserves what the flood delivered.

Second, because we live in a culture that has decided the worst possible thing God can do is judge someone for how they live. The cardinal sin of our day is not wickedness. The cardinal sin is calling something wicked. People will tolerate almost anything except someone saying — what you are doing is wrong before God.

And yet — for a culture that hates judgment, we sure do cry out for it when evil lands on our doorstep.

Like when someone in your life hurt you — or hurt someone you love — and never faced a single consequence. They moved on. They prospered. They slept fine at night. And something in you has never been able to let it go. Not because you're bitter. But because something deep in you knows that's not how the story is supposed to end.

That's not anger. That's the image of God in you crying out for justice.

Every human society knows the universe is supposed to be moral. We all know that evil should not get the final word. The flood is not God being mean. The flood is God being just.

So first we have a guilty verdict. Second, God gives Noah a blueprint.

Verse 14 — "Make yourself an ark of gopher wood."

That's mercy.

God does not only announce judgment. He gives instructions for how to be rescued. And this is where we have to be careful — some of us are religious enough to believe in judgment, but not gracious enough to believe in rescue.

Some believe judgment is coming but only for the people out there. But the flood did not come because some people were bad and some were basically good. Genesis 6 says — "Every inclination of the human heart was evil all the time."

Judgment is a we problem.

And the only way into salvation is through the door God provides. One door on the ark.

God did not only tell Noah judgment was coming. God told Noah to build.

Genesis 6:15 tells us the ark was 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, 30 cubits high. Roughly 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, 51 feet high. That's a five-story building. One and a half football fields in length. With enough volume to hold the contents of 570 train cars.

Noah built that. On dry land. With no rain in sight. In a world that thought judgment was impossible.

He built a lifeboat on dry land while people kept eating, drinking, and assuming tomorrow would be just like yesterday. And every board he placed was a sermon — Repent.

Noah's faith looked foolish until the flood came. They thought God's silence meant they were fine. It didn't.

The flood came because the people refused to repent. But up to that point, God's door of salvation remained open to them.

Verse 18 — "But I will establish my covenant with you."

This is the first time the word covenant appears in Scripture. And it shows up as pure promise. God is binding Himself to Noah. Not because Noah earned it. But because God commits to those He rescues.

The ark was God's mercy in wood and pitch. Christ is God's mercy in flesh and blood.

Like during the construction of the ark, the door is open to you now. But it will not stay open indefinitely. Judgment is coming, so live like it.

3. Get on Board and Stay on Board with God (7:1-16)

Now we come to the moment everything has been moving toward. God has warned. Noah has built. The rain is coming.

God speaks again in verse 1: "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation."

That word enter matters. Noah is not told to admire the ark. Not told to stand near it. He's told to enter it.

Hearing must lead to obedience. Everything outside would face judgment. Everything inside was preserved.

Then verse 16 lands like a hammer: "Then the Lord shut him in."

Noah did not shut the door. God did.

For years the ark stood open — a visible invitation in a world that thought judgment would never come. Every day it stayed open was another day of mercy. But eventually God shut it. And when He did, no human hand could open it.

Then like now, the door of salvation is open to us. But it will not stay open forever. There is no guarantee your heart will be receptive later if you harden it today.

The ark saved no one who admired it from the outside. Jesus is not a theory to appreciate from a distance. He's the Savior you must come to by faith.

There are some who know enough truth to be convicted but are still negotiating with the life God is calling them to leave. They want the ark without the surrender of entering it. But you cannot have both — God plus the world. That's what keeps people standing on the dock.

What Noah left behind was judged. What entered the ark was preserved.

If you don't know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, this is your boarding call. He's calling you by name to put your faith in Him, so that you can enter His ark. Will you come?

Now to those already in Christ. The door has shut behind you — in the best possible way. You're saved. Sealed. Secure.

But here's the question: If God brought you in, why are you still living like you belong outside?

Every time you drag old-world baggage into your new life, you're smuggling contraband into God's ark. And it doesn't just cost you peace. It grieves the God who loved you enough to shut you in.

Sin does more than just break rules. It breaks fellowship. It grieves a God who loves you with everything He has.

That's why it's good to run a Spiritual TSA check on a daily basis — and unlike the airport, there is no Clear+ or Precheck. All of us must go through the same screening process.

T — Test what you're carrying. What are you holding onto that God has already told you to leave behind?

S — Surrender what God exposes. When the Holy Spirit finds something, negotiation isn't an option. Give it up — because your sin is costing you closeness with God.

A — Abide in Christ. You don't need your contraband, your sin, plus Jesus. All you need is Him.

The only truly safe place in this world is in Jesus — and everything you keep dragging in from your old life will ultimately work against you, dismantling your ark, your relationship with God board-by-board.

Run yourself through God's Spiritual TSA on a daily basis. Get on board and stay on board with Jesus.

4. Trust God Through Judgment (7:17–8:1)

Noah is inside the ark. The door is shut. He cannot control what is happening outside. He has no way to measure how long this will last or when it will end. All he has is the word God gave him before the rain started falling.

And now he has to decide — is that enough?

That's the question Genesis 7:17–8:1 puts in front of us. Not just what happened during the flood. But whether God can be trusted when you are inside the storm.

The rain fell forty days and forty nights. The water kept rising. The ark lifted off the ground. Eventually the water covered even the highest mountains. By Genesis 7:21–23, everything outside the ark is dead. Nothing escapes God's judgment.

While all of that is happening outside — Noah is safe and secure. He cannot see the ground. He cannot open the door. He has no weather report, no timeline, no confirmation that he is going to make it through. All he has is God's promise.

Then Genesis 8:1 lands: "God remembered Noah, as well as all the wildlife and all the livestock that were with him in the ark."

That one sentence carries the whole hope of this passage. God remembered His covenant.

Outside the ark — death. Destruction. Judgment running its full course. But inside the ark — God is taking care of His own. Because the God who made the promise is the same God who keeps it.

Back in Genesis 6:18, God said — "I will establish my covenant with you." Genesis 8:1 is that promise in action — right in the middle of the storm.

That's what trusting God through judgment looks like. Not that the waters stop rising the moment you believe. But that God is actively preserving you while they do.

Noah could not see what God was doing. He just had to trust that God would deliver him through the flood.

Some are doing everything right and the waters are still rising. The bills are still piling up. Gas is high. Groceries are high. Utilities keep rising. And you are doing the math every week wondering how long you can survive like this.

Others have been praying the same prayer for months. Years. You've not walked away from God, but you are tired. The promise feels distant. The silence feels loud. And you're starting to wonder if God forgot what He said He would do.

And some are living right in the middle of a situation that is not right. A marriage hanging by a thread. A prodigal child you cannot reach. A sickness that persists. You did not choose this storm — but you are in it. And the waters keep rising.

Genesis 8:1 is our truth to live on. God has not forgotten you. He remembered Noah in the middle of the flood — not after it. Not when the water receded. Not when the ground appeared. He remembered him while the storm was still raging.

Did you know that in Christ we have something better than Noah had? Noah passed through the waters of judgment in the ark. But Jesus passed through judgment itself — for us.

At the cross, the flood of God's wrath fell on Jesus. He stood in the place of sinners. He bore what we deserved. He took the judgment so that everyone who enters Him by faith would be saved.

The flood did not have the final word for Noah. And your storm does not have the final word for you.

Trust God through judgment. He has never lost anyone He promised to keep.

5. Embrace Your New Life on This Side of Judgment (8:15-22)

The waters recede. The earth dries. And God opens the door.

Genesis 8:15 says: "Come out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives with you. Bring out every living creature that is with you — and they will spread over the earth and be fruitful and multiply."

Notice what God does not say. He does not say come out and survive. He does not say come out and manage. He says come out and multiply — spread — fill the earth.

The same God who shut the door to preserve Noah's life is now throwing it open and saying — your new life begins outside the ark. Go fill the new world.

That is the God we serve. He does not save you just to keep you contained. He saves you to release you into everything He designed you for on the other side of the storm. In Noah's case, He wanted Noah's righteousness to multiply in the new world.

Some made it through, but they're still living like they are in a storm. God answered the prayer you almost stopped praying. The door opened. The situation shifted. But instead of walking through it fully — you are standing at the threshold — half in, half out — still bracing for the next disaster instead of living in the deliverance God already gave you.

That's not faith. That is fear dressed up like caution.

You can be standing on dry ground and still have an ark mentality. God dried this ground for you. He opened this door for you. He brought you into this new season so you could walk into everything He preserved you for.

Come out and step into your new season in God.

Now to those who have already stepped out. You trusted God in the storm and you are trusting Him now. You stepped off the ark. You put your feet on dry ground. You are doing the work of building and it has not been easy.

Hear the Word of the Lord in verses 21-22:

After Noah offered a burnt offering to God, God said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of human beings, even though the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth onward. And I will never again strike down every living thing as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease."

God is saying, despite the fact that every inclination of the human heart is wicked, I will not destroy every living thing. As long as the earth remains intact, they will have an environment to flourish.

What you sow in faithfulness, God will bring to harvest. Your storm has blown past. You are standing on fertile ground. God's word to you is keep planting. Keep trusting Him. Keep pushing forward.

Because as sure as you live, there will be more storms to grow through. But here's what Genesis 6 through 8 has settled for us: Every storm God allows, He carries you through. And every time He brings you out — He brings you out into something better than what you left behind.

You are not the same person who got in the ark. God has been working on you the whole time the water was rising.

Noah went into the flood as one righteous man in a wicked world. He came out as the beginning of a new one.

That's what God does with the people He preserves. He does not just save you from something. He saves you to a new and brighter future.

Conclusion

The flood was real.

Noah did not preach for 120 years because he enjoyed being laughed at. He preached because he believed what God told him — that mankind would be wiped off the face of the earth, and that the only way through it was the rescue God provided.

The world around him saw no evidence of a coming flood. The sky was the same. The ground was the same. Life looked exactly like it always had. So they ate. They drank. They built the culture they wanted. They assumed tomorrow would look just like yesterday.

And then the rain started.

Everything God said was true. Every warning Noah gave was real. And the only people who survived were the ones who believed it before they could see it.

That's still how God's judgment works.

The flood is still coming. Not water this time — fire. Final judgment. And the only ark is Christ.

You cannot see it yet. Life still looks normal. The sun came up this morning. Traffic was backed up like it always is. Groceries are still high. Everything feels like it always has.

But the ground is shaking.

For those not yet in Christ — this is mercy holding the door open one more time. You do not need to have it all figured out. You do not need to feel ready. Noah's neighbors were not ready either — and the wave did not wait for them. Enter the ark. Put your faith in Jesus. Now.

For those already in Christ — you know the wave is real because you have already been through a storm. You know what it means to trust God when you cannot see the ground. But that testimony is not just for you. Somebody in your life is standing on the beach right now watching the water pull back. They do not know what it means. They have never been taught the warning signs. And God placed you in their life for exactly this moment.

Go tell them the wave is real. Go tell them the ark is open. Go tell them there is a way through judgment — and His name is Jesus. So that like you, they can be rescued from judgment.

Judgment will come, but there's mercy inside of Jesus.

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