Sermon Questions for PCC Small Groups

**Title: The Gospel According to Noah**

**Genesis 5-9**

**Series:** Genesis

**Date Preached:** October 20, 2017

**Questions:**

1. Here’s a quick recap from my notes (for my Young Adult friends!)

1. **Biblical Story**.
* **In Genesis 5…**

The story begins with the genealogy from Adam to Noah. With Cain banished, and Abel dead, Seth is conceived. *His* family tree becomes the royal line from which Jesus comes. The most famous person in the Seth’s lineage, up until Noah is Enoch (vs. 21-24). It’s only after Enoch is gifted with a son that he chooses to walk with God. Is there a connection there; between the overwhelming responsibility a man feels when he becomes a Parent and sensing his need of God? Perhaps. Parenthood has a way of wooing us to God. It was Enoch’s grandson, Lamech, that named his son Noah, meaning “rest” or “comfort”, “He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the Lord has cursed.” (vs. 29). Ah yes, we can’t forget the curse caused by the rebellion in the garden.

* **In** **Genesis 6…**

human rebellion had reached such epic proportions that God decided to destroy the world he had created in order to re-create it again. Something very strange is communicated in vs. 1-4. Sons of God procreated with the daughters of men, with the result that the Nephilim arrived on the earth; heroes of old men of renown. (Jude 5?) Read vs. 5-8. So God commands Noah to build an ark, and he does. Vs. 22, “Noah did everything just as God commanded him.”

* **In Genesis 7…**

the various pairs of animals “came to Noah and entered the ark” (vs. 15). So much for Noah chasing an unwilling ostrich around the farm! No, it says that the animals came to him (movie!). And it rained for 40 days and 40 nights, and every living person and animal was destroyed except for those on the ark. Vs. 24, “the waters covered the earth for 140 days” (4.6 months).

* **In Genesis 8…**

The rain stops and the ark lands on the top of Mt. Ararat. After a painfully long wait ( whole year in total), Noah, his family, and the animals exited the ark in response to the Lord’s command, “Come out of the ark!” (vs. 15). And they were very happy to do so! Read vs. 18-21. Somehow, Noah understands sacrifice. God loves his worship.

* **In Genesis 9…**

God blesses Noah and his family and reiterates the command to be fruitful and multiply. God establishes his covenant with Noah, promising to never again destroy the world in a flood, a provides the rainbow as a reminder not so much for Noah’s sake but for God’s (vs. 16). The story ends with Noah getting drunk from his newly made wine and exposing himself naked in his tent. Shem and Japheth modestly cover their dad up while shielding their eyes from seeing their dad’s nakedness. When Noah sobers up he curses Ham’s descendants as a result of the way he dealt with his father’s nakedness (there’s much mystery about this scene); and he blesses Shem and Japheth. After all this, you’d think Noah would be tired out; but no, he lives another 350 years! Noah’s life in summed up in the NT like this, “By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.” (Hebrews 11:7).

1. In chapter 6:1-4, something very strange is happening that appears to be the tipping point for God. Discuss what you might think is happening here between the “Sons of God and the daughters of men”. How does Jude 6 possibly provide helpful commentary on why God was so outraged? Are there any present contemporary realities that mimic what was going on back then?
2. In what ways is Noah the second Adam? In what ways is he an OT type of Christ who is called “the last Adam”?
3. Discuss the following sermon quote while answering this question: Is it possible to hold to a high view of scripture (biblical inerrancy) while questioning some of the historicity of the Flood Story? If so, why, or why not? (Be kind with each other.)

It’s best we be honest about it. Here’s the challenge we face. How much of the story is intended by the authors to be taken literally? Evangelical Christians believe the bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit and completely trustworthy. God’s Word is completely true in everything it intends to teach. As my professor used to say, “Genre triggers reading strategy” and helps us see what message the author wants us to learn from his words.

1. Does it trouble you or encourage you that there are 500 flood stories originating from 68 ancient people groups? Though the bible’s version of the flood story has many similarities with the Epic of Gilgamesh, it’s the differences that profoundly affect our worldview and theology. How so? How is our God different from the gods of ancient Mesopotamia?
2. Discuss how the Noah story teaches the following essential Christian truths:
* “The wages of sin is death”
* “But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
* The flood waters symbolize baptism. See 2 Peter 3:21 below:

”For Christ died for our sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It (baptism) saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

* In the story of Noah we anticipate the Final Judgement

 Finally, right before His death, Jesus tells His disciples key details about His return saying: “For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.” ([Matthew 24:37-39](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2024.37-39%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))

“By water also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”