



Overview of Noah's Ark

- Passages of focus today: Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17
- Genesis:
 - Part 2: chapters 12-50: Abraham cycle
 - Part 1: chapters 1-11: series of stories
 - God gives humans an opportunity for good, humans choose to define good and evil for themselves

Overview of Noah's Ark

- Genesis 6:
 - v.5: Yahweh surveys the earth, human race is wicked
 - Makes the decision to wipe out creation
 - v.8: Noah has found favour in God's eyes
 - All creatures, the whole earth

Overview of Noah's Ark

- Genesis 6:
 - Destroy with a flood (v.17)
 - Two of all living creatures, male and female, will be spared
 - Noah is to build an ark (vv.15-17)
 - v.22: "Noah did everything just as God commanded him."

Overview of Noah's Ark

- Genesis 7:
 - Noah was obedient (v.5), the ark was indeed built and Noah's family entered it (v.7), pairs of animals, male and female, also entered the ark (v.8), and then the floodwaters rise (v.10)

Overview of Noah's Ark

- Genesis 7:
 - Reversal of creation
 - Genesis 1:1: "the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep"
 - Hebrew: *tohu va-bohu* – wild and waste, unordered and uninhabited
 - Creation - ordering of the chaos

Overview of Noah's Ark

- Genesis 7:
 - Chaos is unleashed upon the earth

Overview of Noah's Ark

- Genesis 8: God remembered Noah
- v.1: God sends a wind over the earth - *a ruah*
- Pulling back the chaos
- vv.6-12: Noah is seeking dry land
- The inhabitants can return to the earth
- Noah builds a pleasing altar (vv.20-21)

Overview of Noah's Ark

- Genesis 9:
 - God blesses Noah and his sons, "be fruitful and multiply" (v.1; creation - Genesis 1:28)
 - "Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything." (9:3)
 - Flourishing life: Chaos has subsided - *Tov* is apparent

Overview of Noah's Ark

- Genesis 9:
 - Vv. 8-17: God promises to never destroy the earth again
 - "Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth..."

Overview of Noah's Ark

- Genesis 9:
 - Vv. 8-17: God promises to never destroy the earth again
 - "...I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."
 - Sign - rainbow (v.13)

Overview of Noah's Ark

- Genesis 9:
 - Vv. 8-17: God promises to never destroy the earth again
 - Covenant with Noah and all of life on earth (v.17)

Notes...

- There are other flood stories
 - Discern what the writer of scripture is trying to tell us about God
- Scripture is not a science textbook

Things to focus on

- God's heart
 - 6:6: "...his heart was deeply troubled"
 - Hebrew root word: "grieved," "pained"
 - Eve's pain in child birth (3:16) and Adam's pain in tilling the earth (3:17)
 - Physically pained over humanity's corruption

Things to focus on

- God's heart
 - 8:21: "The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures as I have done."

Things to focus on

- God's heart
 - A sign God's heart is with humanity - a rainbow
 - God hangs up his weapon
 - The flood has no effect on humanity (8:21)
 - The flood has effected an irreversible change in God

Things to focus on

- God's heart
 - Isaiah 43:2,5: "When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze...
Do not be afraid, for I am with you..."

Things to focus on

- God's heart
 - "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands..." (Exodus 34:6-7)

Things to focus on

- How great God's promise is
 - God's promise is to all the world – all people, animals, and all of creation
 - Not dependent on any action from us
 - 8:21: God promises to never again to curse the ground
 - v.22: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

Things to focus on

- The story of Noah's Ark tells us that God's heart remains for all people regardless of anything we say or do
- Jesus Christ continues to reveal God's heart for all people

Takeaways

- Align our heart with God's heart for creation
- Draw great comfort from what we have learned about God's faithful, patient heart for all people