

February 21, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
GENESIS : Behind The Curtain
Episode 5 : STORM CLOUDS
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Gen 7:6-12

⁶ Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. ⁷ And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸ Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, ⁹ male and female, **came to Noah and entered the ark**, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth. ¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹² And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

Key New Testament verse: *By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*

1. **Spiritual new beginnings start in the place where our old ways die.**
2. **Preservation is often a result of preparation.**

1. A spiritual new beginning starts in the place where old ways die.

This is not the record, merely, of God's warning of a great natural disaster, which Noah heeded, **but it is an account of divine punishment sent upon mankind for willful wickedness**, a punishment nevertheless tempered with mercy in that God did preserve the seed, both of men and of the lower creations, for a new beginning.

- **God judges and punishes wickedness. If He did not, He would not be just.**
- **God desires repentance over punishment.**
 - 1 Tim 2:3-4 *This is good, and pleases God our Savior, **who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.***
 - **God's patience is reflected in his warnings**
 - **Shortened life before the flood: Genesis 6:3** *"My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be **a hundred and twenty years.**"*
 - **Psalm 32:8-10** *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.⁸ **Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.**¹⁰ Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.*

Sin is destroyed in two ways, you vanquish it or it destroys you.

2. Preservation is often a result of preparation. Vs. 7 *And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.*

God prefers arks of salvation over life vest of desperation.

- **Noah built a place of salvation before the hour of need.**
 - **Preparation is a major and recurring theme in scripture - even God prepares.**
 - **The Promised Land was prepared: Ex 23:30** *“Behold, I am going to send an angel before you to guard you along the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.*
 - **Heaven is prepared for us: John 14:3** *I go and prepare a place for you.*
 - **Christ's entry into ministry was prepared Mark 1:2** *“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”*
 - **Christ's parable of the 10 virgins tells us to be prepared.** (Mt. 25)

The theme of preparation is found throughout the bible in preparing for the Sabbath, the people of Israel preparing to leave Egypt, Jesus preparing for the last supper, preparation for the end times and many more places in the word of God.

Tools of preparation: Prayer/Meditation/Receiving Counsel/Prudence/Thrift/God's Word

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. The first point of the message was that a new beginning starts in the place where old ways die. Is it possible to have a new beginning while holding on to our old ways?
2. Does God discipline his people/believers for their disobedience? What would God's discipline look like?
3. How does God warn us? Can you think of any time God has warned you? What did that look like?
4. Preservation is often a result of preparation. How do we build arks of shelter for ourselves in today's world?
5. What areas of your life could use more preparation?

¹ <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Preparation>