

GENESIS

7:1-24

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Taught by Simeon Forder on Sunday morning, 27th August 2023 @ Deal Christian Fellowship

Reading: 2 Peter 3:1-9

Introduction

In chapter 6 of Genesis, that we studied last week, we saw Satan's attempt to destroy the line through to Christ — that we might not have a Saviour, and that *he* might not be defeated — and we also read about the world before the flood (how wickedness was everywhere), and finally God's instructions to Noah to build the ark, for a flood was coming as God's judgement on the world.

This morning, as we study chapter 7, we'll get to the flood itself. And while this is a factual account of what happened over 4000 years ago, we should also — as indeed we should with the *whole* Bible — ask ourselves, "how does this guide me in how to live *today*?". For the Bible isn't there merely for our *information*, but for our *transformation*. Let's remind ourselves of some of the things we read elsewhere in scripture... first in Romans chapter 12:

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

How does this transformation happen? But the reading and applying of God's Word to our lives. We read in Colossians chapter 3:

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Paul wrote of the willingness of the Thessalonians to accept God's Word and to let it change them:

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

And of course, we read in 2 Timothy chapter 3:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

And if *all* scripture, then that also includes what we read this morning here in Genesis chapter 7.

Overview of chapter seven

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- **v1-6** — God's instruction to Noah
- **v7-16** — Boarding the ark, the flood comes
- **v17-24** — The extent of God's judgement

As for what *happens* in this chapter, we can break it down into three sections; first, in the opening 6 verses we'll see God's instruction to Noah to enter the ark, and take animals with him. In verses 7-16 we'll see Noah follow those instructions, and the flood arrive. And from verses 17-24 we'll learn of the extent of God's judgement in sending the flood — in that *all* life that was not on the ark (except for fish and sea creatures) died.

Chapter seven

Let's get into this chapter then, beginning at verse 1:

Genesis 7:1

Then the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.

So then, God calls Noah into the ark along with his household. And Noah in particular, (though by extension here it seems his family also) God says is seen as righteous before Him. For first, we know that Noah and his family had not intermarried with the fallen angels or their offspring that we *read* about in chapter six. But secondly, they had not taken part in the wickedness that had engulfed the world — of which we *read* last week, speaking of the rest of mankind, that *every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually* and *violence filled the earth*. There's a stark contrast then, between the world at that time, and what we read *here* in verse 1 that Noah, and by implication his family, were righteous before God in their generation.

And that should give cause to us to think — to pause, and reflect; are we righteous before God in *our* generation? Are we taking part in the wickedness of the world, or are we setting ourselves apart for Christ? Have we turned to God from the *idols* of the world, to serve the living and true God as the Christians in Thessalonica did?

Of course, you can imagine the conversations Noah may have had with his sons as they said "but dad, everyone's doing it!" — and in their case, they were right — but just as we should instruct *our* children, Noah no doubt not only said *don't live like the world* "because I said so", but "because God said so". And parents — we must take note of this. Our children will not live godly lives by accident, for this world will give them every encouragement to sin, as the world around Noah's family did.

We *must* teach our children what it means to live righteously. And both dad and mum have a part to play in that. It cannot be outsourced to Sunday school. The responsibility primarily is with us as Christian parents. But one thing I feel conscious of, is that across churches and denominations, it's typically the Christian mum who teaches the Bible to her kids. Now if that's you, mums, good job. Keep doing it. But dad's; what are *you* doing? I ask this, in no small part to cause myself to think of my own responsibility with *my* son. So dads — if we are not sitting down as a godly father with our children, to teach them the Bible, to encourage them in prayer, in worship, in fellowship, and to explain what it means for them to live righteously in their generation, then we are not fulfilling our responsibility as a Christian dad.

But let's not only apply this to the family unit, but to our church family. That is, to each one of us. How we living in *our* generation? If we are living righteously, that means we will stand out like a sore thumb. We will not be drinking to excess, or taking drugs. We'll not be sleeping around, or pursuing sex outside of a monogamous heterosexual marriage. We'll not be gluttons or gamblers. We won't be telling rude jokes, or using foul language. We will not be unkind, or unloving, or hateful, or spiteful. We won't be gossiping. We won't be angry without cause. And people around us that don't know the Lord will think we're strange — especially those we used to do these things with.

We read in 1 Peter:

1 Peter 4:1-5

Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Just as those around Noah no doubt mocked him, but would soon face God as their judge, so will all those around us who refuse to come to Him. But likewise; as God said "come into the ark" to Noah, so he *continues* to say "come" to all those in this world. The door of salvation is still open. But like Noah, neither we or they can approach God thinking our works have any merit. But rather, we must approach God in faith, resting on *His* salvation — in Noah's case, by entering the ark which God had instructed him to build. In our case, by entering into a relationship with Jesus Christ, who died for us. Coming to Him in repentance and faith.

Now, continuing here in verse 2 we see God continues His instruction to Noah:

Genesis 7:2-3

You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth.

We learn here, then, that it wasn't only two of each animal that entered the ark. But you may wonder "didn't we read in chapter 6 that it was two of every animal that God would bring into the ark?". Yes we did — but not *only* 2. And here we learn that 2 was the minimum, but there would be more of some. How many? Well, perhaps more than we might first think. We read here that there was to be seven of each clean animal, and of birds. But we also read "a male and his female".

Therefore there was either 3 pairs plus one individual. Or there were 7 males plus 7 females. There are Bible scholars that take either position, but personally I believe we're talking about 7 pairs (so 14 in total) for a few reasons:

- The first is *how* this is phrased — that is, the grammar used in the Hebrew text. There is no Hebrew word for *pairs*, but the word seven is repeated twice, indicating pairs. We also see later in verse 15 that the animals entered two by two — and you can't do that with an odd number of clean animals and birds.
- The second reason, is *why* this was instructed. We read here, as far as birds go, that it was to keep the species alive on the earth. Seven pairs certainly seems more conducive to that.
- And the third reason, as mentioned last week, is that following the flood we read in chapter 8:

Genesis 8:20

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

That is, at least one animal and bird of each kind was required for sacrifice after the flood. And while some suggest this was the purpose of the seventh animal (leaving 3 pairs to reproduce), that makes the assumption that Noah only sacrificed a single animal, and not a pair — such as was later commanded in Leviticus, in certain situations. And, secondly, it would assume that Noah only offered a few sacrifices between coming off the ark and the animals or birds reproducing.

In the end, it's hard to say for certain, but I personally think it is more reasonable to conclude it was 7 pairs. But of course, this is not something we should divide over, nor get sidetracked over.

And so let's continue on:

Genesis 7:4

For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made."

So, after 100 years of building the ark it will only take a day to fill it, and then in 7 days the flood will come, destroying anything and anyone that is not in it, except for the fish and sea life of course. And we read in verse 5:

Genesis 7:5-6

And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him. Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

That is, 100 years on from when God had commanded him to build the ark, Noah *continued* to obey God in all that he said. And so let us consider; are we faithful through the years like this? You see, it's so easy to *start* something with enthusiasm, but it takes hard work, determination — and ultimately — commitment to see something through.

Don't we see this in ourselves all the time? We start a new job, or a project at work, but then our enthusiasm grinds to a halt as the new thing turns into the routine thing. We buy a new car and wash it every week (even by hand!) until the novelty wears off and we no longer give it a thought until we can't see out of the windscreen. Or we begin our marriage overjoyed at having tied the knot, and then fail to invest in each other as we did when dating. And sadly, we do this in ministry. We take on responsibility for something, then start excusing ourselves from it when we find it interferes with our plans, or when we're frustrated, or there's opposition, or when we find the routine mundane.

But that's not how it should be — in ministry, or in anything. We read in 1 Corinthians chapter 10:

1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

And we read in Colossians chapter 3:

Colossians 3:23

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

So - are you doing all God has commanded or given you to do *heartily*? Or are you doing it *begrudgingly*? Of course, we can't make up for a lack of obedience by enthusiasm. But I'm not sure we can be obedient *without* enthusiasm. Indeed we read in 2 Corinthians:

2 Corinthians 9:7

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

We read in verse 7:

Genesis 7:7

So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood.

They went in, not because of what they saw, but because of what they were told was coming. They entered by faith. Not doubt the people outside would have been laughing at them, ridiculing them. But how did that turn out? Certainly the majority can be very, very wrong. The majority were continuing on with their lives, doing what they thought was right, not for a moment anticipating the horror of what was about to come. And Jesus said this is how it would be ahead of His second coming. We read in Matthew 24:

Matthew 24:37-39

But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

This should be a reminder to us to not be discouraged by those who mock *us* for our faith in God — whether at school, at work, or on social media — for judgement is also coming to this world, even though they anticipate nothing of the sort. But, that doesn't mean we can laugh back at them saying “haha, you're all going to be judged by God!”. No, no. Rather, like Noah, we are to be preachers of righteousness. That is, we should be moved by *compassion* to share with those around us, even those who *oppose* us, that the door of God's salvation is open to them, if only they will enter into a relationship with Him through repentance and faith.

Sadly though, there will be many that will refuse to hear what we say. And we should not be surprised by that, for we read in 2 Peter chapter 3:

2 Peter 3:1-9

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

God is long-suffering, He is patient with people, that they might turn to Him. So we should be patient toward others, persisting in prayer for them, walking righteously that we might not disqualify the message we have, but being willing at all times to give a reason for the hope that is in us.

Now, it wasn't only Noah and his family that boarded the ark. We read in verses 8 and 9:

Genesis 7:8-9

Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah

That is, the animals went in of their own accord — Noah wasn't having to round them up — and they went in pair by pair. And now they would find their new, albeit temporary, homes in the rooms that God had instructed Noah to build in the ark.

Now, an unbeliever may ridicule you and I for believing that representatives of all animals and birds were able to fit onto the ark. But as is so often the case, when a skeptic tries to pick holes in the Bible, their theory gets rather brutally assaulted by the facts. And in the case of Noah's ark, that's because skeptics typically make at least 3 wrongful assumptions.

First they assume the ark was smaller than it was. Second they assume the animals were greater in number than they were. And third, they assume animals were larger in size than they were.

We looked at the size of the ark last week when considering the dimensions that God instructed Noah to build it to. It was longer than a football pitch (in fact, as long as Sutherland Road which this building is at the end of) and higher than a house with three separate decks. And that meant it had at least 97,000 square feet of space. It was not an overloaded bathtub as so many children's books suggest. In fact, by one other well considered estimate it would have been big enough to accommodate 120,000 sheep.

As for the number of animals that needed to fit on the ark, it would have been significantly less than critics would like to suggest. Let me start with this from Michael Belknap and Dr. Tim Chaffey at Answers in Genesis:

Skeptics often assert that there are millions of species in the world— far more than the number that could fit on the ark. However, according to estimates published in 2014, there are fewer than 1.8 million documented species of organisms in the world. Consider also that over 98 percent of those species are fish, invertebrates, and non-animals (like plants and bacteria). This means that there are fewer than 34,000 species of known, land-dependent vertebrates in the world today.

Michael Belknap and Dr. Tim Chaffey at Answers in Genesis



How Could All the Animals Fit on the Ark?

The estimated numbers, sizes, and types of ark animals impact nearly every aspect of the vessel's interior operations. <https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/how-could-all-animals-fit-ark/>

With the average size of an animal being that of a sheep, it's already easy to see that there is no problem fitting both the animals (and the food needed to sustain them) onto the ark. In fact, AIG estimate that there could have been fewer than 7000 animals necessary to have gone on board the ark — for while we would rule out evolution, there certainly has, is and will be variation within a species, such as we see with the breeding of dogs. Noah didn't need to take a Labradoodle onto the ark. He probably didn't even need a Labrador and Poodle either. Rather there could have been one or just a few representatives of the dog *kind* from which we get the various breeds we have today.

Now third, the skeptic often makes the assumption that full grown animals went onto the ark. But it makes sense that God would have sent younger, and therefore smaller, animals onto the ark — including younger, smaller dinosaurs. Not only would they take up less space, but they would eat less and create less waste. Plus, younger animals — like children — are generally more resilient, and of course post-flood, they would have had a longer window of fertility to reproduce.

Genesis 7:10

And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth.

So then, the flood arrived just as God promised — with Noah taken out of the way before God’s judgement was poured out, just as the church will be raptured (that is, taken to heaven) before God pours out His wrath in the Great Tribulation that is still to come.

And next, we’re give the timing of the flood:

Genesis 7:11-12

In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

From the timing recorded here and then in chapter 8, we also learn that Noah, his family, and the animals were going to be on the ark for more than a year. And after the seven days noted in verse 10, we read that it rained for forty days and forty nights. That makes this summer look a bit better than it has felt, right?! But from Noah’s perspective this wasn’t just a lot of rain, but (it seems) the first rain he had ever seen. We read in Hebrews chapter 11:

Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

What we have here is rain unlike the world has ever seen, or will indeed see again. And, pointing back to our earlier studies in Genesis, this could well have been the collapse of the water canopy that many suggest surrounded the earth from creation, when God had divided the waters above from the waters below. But there’s also a second source of water we read of here, and that are the fountains of the deep. What are these?

Well, it certainly implies subterranean water coming up to the earths surface. While there’s much we don’t know about the greatest depths of the ocean, recent research by even secular scientists suggests water may still form and become trapped in rocks deep below the seabed, and at a pressure so great it could actually trigger earthquakes deep below the earths’s surface. Such suggestions of seismic and even volcanic activity under the sea, certainly points to the Genesis record (of the fountains of the great deep being broken up) being accurate, even if that isn’t what some scientists want to admit.

Now, one extra thing I would add here is the possible theme that runs through the Bible of the number 40 — for in almost all cases it points to judgement, trials or difficulty. We have the rain here at the beginning of the flood. There is the mourning of Jacob's death. Moses at Sinai where the law was given. The Spies searching out Canaan, and the resulting 40 years Israel spent wandering in the wilderness. Moses fasting, Elijah's journey to Sinai, Ezekiel lying on his right side for Judah's sin, Nineveh's warning of judgement, and Jesus' fasting in the wilderness. However, there's at least one exception, being Christ's post-resurrection ministry, so it's not guaranteed that 40 is bad news (which those of you yet to turn 40 will be pleased to know, I'm sure!).

Now, as we read verse 13 we see that Moses is recapping what happened on the day Noah entered the ark, 7 days before the rain came. And we read:

Genesis 7:13-15

On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark—they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life.

So that is, every person, every animal, every living thing that entered the ark did so on the same day. And essentially they entered through the one door that led to salvation — just there is only one way for us to be saved, and that is through Jesus Christ.

But there's two more things to note here — the first being that Peter, when writing about these events, mentions that only eight souls were saved through water. From that, we have absolute clarity that animals do not have souls. It's not the only place we learn this in the Bible, but it's very clear there in 1 Peter 3. This is why when God restored to Job twice that which he lost, he received double the amount of animals, but only the same number of children — for his firstborn children were eternal beings. They had souls. That means we shouldn't tell our children that their recently deceased cat, or dog, or hamster, or goldfish has gone to heaven. Of course, it's sad when we lose a pet, but they are not humans. And so when the inevitable happens, we should use that as an opportunity to explain what the Bible says about life and death, and not try and comfort them with falsehoods that make heaven no more than a nice, comforting idea.

The second thing to note is the order of entry — for Noah certainly enters the ark ahead of the animals, but likely his family too. And one commentator, noting this, simply said "Get on board, and your family will follow". That might seem like a trite or unoriginal thing to say, but fathers - we really should take note of this. And unmarried ladies, should you wish to marry, you need to take note too regarding *who* you marry. For the important role of a *Christian* father cannot be overestimated.

Leadership Journal, a publication of *Christianity Today*, conducted some research that found that when the *children* in an unbelieving family came to Christ first, 3.5% of those families will follow. When the *mother* in an unbelieving family came to Christ first, 17% of those families will follow. But when the father in an unbelieving family came to Christ first, a staggering 93% of families will follow.

Now, there may be all sorts of caveats around those numbers to do with culture, and definitions. But you can't explain away the impact that truly Christian father has on his home. Men — we need to take note of that. And we need to take our walk with the Lord seriously. Because your own family is watching you and following you more than you know.

Now, in verse 16 we read:

Genesis 7:16

So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

Once again this male and female distinction that God had made was important to sustain life. Without that, there would have been no suitable mate to reproduce with after the flood.

And we also read that it was God who shut the door. And that ought to be very sobering to us — for right now, the door of salvation through Jesus Christ, and anyone may enter through faith alone, in Christ alone. But just as with the ark, that door will not remain open forever.

If you do not know Jesus as your Saviour — I beg you; come to Him today. Do not delay. Your eternity is at stake. *Nothing* is more important. If you don't come to Jesus you will perish just as those in the flood did. Not by water, but you will perish.

If you *do* know Jesus as your Saviour — I beg *you*, share Him with those you know. Whether it is friends, family, colleagues, or people you meet in the coffee shop, that you sit next to on a plane, or that you talk to at one of our outreach BBQs.

Genesis 7:17-20

Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered.

So then, this was *not* a local flood as some who try to rationalise the Bible state. But it was global. Indeed, if it had been a local flood then Noah could have saved himself 100 years of ark-building and just gone on a long holiday to another part of the world. But rather, the waters kept rising throughout these 40 days until they covered the highest mountain by more than 20 feet — both as a result of the rain, and the fountains of the deep that we read about earlier. And that's why we find such evidence as fossilised shellfish at the top of mountains.

So catastrophic was the flood, that it would never be forgotten. And indeed, we see flood legends throughout the world. From Hawaii to Peru, Scandanavia, Tanzania, Western Australia, China and more. Naturally many of these legends are distorted, attributing the flood to various causes. But some of the details are strikingly similar to the Biblical account, such as in the Babylonian *Epic of Gilgamesh* that was discovered on a clay tablet in the mid 1800's and is on display today in the British Museum.

The Epic of Gilgamesh



So numerous and widespread are these stories throughout different cultures, that there must be a common cause of them. And that cause is what Moses documents here in Genesis.

Of course, there are skeptics that question that there could have been a worldwide flood. But, to be blunt, I wouldn't waste your time listening to them for not only is there abundant fossil and geological evidence for one, but the Earth is 70% covered in water at an average of more than 2 miles deep. Yet ironically some of these same sceptics would have us believe there was a watery flood on Mars in the past, even though it has a dry surface today.

So vast was the flood that we read in verses 21-23:

Genesis 7:21-23

And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.

This is a warning to the world, that no-one can escape God's judgement. Indeed, no-one *will*. For while we'll see in chapter 9 that God promised He will never flood the earth again, He will indeed still judge it - but this time by fire.

Jon Courson puts it well:

The idea of a local flood doesn't make sense logically, culturally, paleontologically, and certainly not Scripturally. Peter wrote that, just as the world was wiped out by water in Noah's day, it will be destroyed by fire in the last day (2 Peter 3:7). Thus, if the Flood was local, the end-time fire will be local as well. And that's just not so.

Jon Courson

Many wish to deny the flood ever happened. Why? Because accepting it occurred not only would necessitate admitting the Bible is accurate, but would also mean acknowledging God judged the world once... and that He may do so again. And ever since the Garden of Eden, mankind has not been keen on accountability to Him.

Yet no matter how vigorous the denials, or how sophisticated the hiding from God, He will not let any sin go unpunished. And if we refuse to accept Jesus' sacrifice in our place, then we will have to give account for our actions, and stand as our own helpless defence. May Psalm 21 be a warning to any who think they can escape God's wrath:

Psalm 21:8-9

Your hand will find all Your enemies; Your right hand will find those who hate You. You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of Your anger; The LORD shall swallow them up in His wrath, And the fire shall devour them.

As we close this chapter, we read:

Genesis 7:24

And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

So while the rain only lasted 40 days, the waters covered the earth for 150 days — that's around 5 months. And one commentator notes, that while every creature would have surely drowned early on, the length of the flood was perhaps symbolic of how serious God's displeasure was at sin and sinners. A good reminder at least of how serious sin is.

Conclusion

As I've said before, nothing in the Bible is as trivialised as the flood. But you need not doubt what God's Word says about it here in Genesis, for Peter, Paul and Jesus Himself spoke of it as a literal event where God poured out His judgement, pointing to the very real, and very serious truth that God's judgement will once again be poured out on this Earth.

But praise God, that just as God saved Noah — He can and will save you, if you likewise come to Him in faith. Not demanding that there be many ways to be saved, but taking Him up on the only way He has provided, being thankful that there is indeed a way at all.

Application questions

As you reflect on this chapter - now, over coffee, on your way home, over the dinner table, and in the week ahead, ask yourself these questions:

- What does it mean to live righteously before God in this generation? What does the Bible say?
- Are you obeying God in all He has commanded you to do?
- When people mock your faith; are you confrontational, or are you moved with compassion?

And lastly, for fathers:

- Are you leading and teaching your children about the Lord as you ought to do?
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