

NOAH FINDS GRACE (Gen. 6:8)

The Bible is God's Word for God's people. It is the Book which gives us hope, encouragement, direction, perfect teaching ... and so many invaluable necessities for life. ... When there was no Bible, God spoke directly ... as He did with a man called Noah, and we read about him, [Gen. 6:8 Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD](#). ... What does that mean and is it possible to emulate today? To consider the answer, we are simply going to study Noah ... his times, his testimony, and his transport.

HIS TIMES

His times were not very good. It is not that there was conflict and wars ... because there is no mention of anything like that. There is no reference to the world at that time being troubled by natural disasters, such as earthquakes, tornadoes, volcanoes, or tsunamis. In fact, life seemed to be going well, from a human perspective.

There was a certain division between two sets of people, though. One group belonged to a category known as the sons of God and the other group was known as the daughters of men.

At the conclusion of Gen. 3, Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden. They then went on to have children, - Cain was their firstborn, and Abel was their second son. When they were older, Cain murdered his brother. Then, Eve conceived again and had another child, who she named Seth. Seth took the place of Abel, - in Gen. 4:4, [the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering](#) ... and similarly, Seth and his family worshipped God also because Gen. 4:26 tells us, [then began men to call upon the name of the LORD](#). This was in contrast to Cain the murderer who [went out from the presence of the Lord \(v.16\)](#). He took with him a curse from the Lord, [12 a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth](#).

In Gen. 5 we are given the generations of Seth, and we are told, [Gen. 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; 2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created. 3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth ... This is repeated by Luke when he presented the genealogy of Jesus, Lk. 3:38 Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God. ... This explains why, by the time we come to Gen. 6:2, the sons of Seth are known as "the sons of God"](#).

In that same verse, there is also mentioned “the daughters of men”. Obviously, they are distinct from the “sons of God”. ... And since they were not the descendants of Seth, they, - ‘the daughters of men’, - were the descendants of Cain. ... Both families were to have nothing to do with each other, for that was the intention ... as Cain feared, **Gen. 4:14** Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me ... ‘everyone’, that is, from the sons of Seth.

However, there came a time when all *that* seemed to have been forgotten ... or set to the one side. Cain’s sin, - and God’s curse upon his family, - had been ‘re-assessed’ by the sons of Seth, - the ‘sons of God’, - and they had decided to lift the ban on having nothing to do with Cain’s lineage, especially his daughters, ‘the daughters of men’ ... so **Gen. 6:2** That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose ... Now, they should not have done that for it was going against God’s instruction.

So, how else could it have turned out?! ... When ‘the sons of God’, - the descendants of Seth ... those who had been brought up to call upon the name of the Lord (Gen. 4:26), - entered an unequal yoke with these ungodly and immoral ‘daughters of men’, with which they ought to have had nothing to do ... what else could they expect but a *collapse* of morality and everything decent. ... Cain, when he left the presence of the Lord, began to engage in practices and a lifestyle that were totally inconsistent with God’s order, and he introduced characteristics and behaviour which polluted and perverted society.

... And ‘the sons of God’, - the descendants of Seth, - when they ‘moved in on’ these beautiful ‘daughters of men’, - who had come from the descendants of Cain, - they got a taste of this non-restrictive manner of living ... where ‘anything goes’ ... And they quickly left behind them the ways of God which they had been taught by their grandfather Seth, and their father Enos. ... Instead of calling upon the name of the Lord (Gen. 4:26), they called on those beautiful ‘daughters of men/Cain’ ... and those ‘beautiful daughters’ introduced them to practices abhorrent to God.

This was now a generation of widespread ungodliness and unbelief! **Gen. 6:5** God saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. ... The world was out of control. Man had taken over, and God had been pushed aside.

What an awful place it would have been! What a terrible society it had become ... and it threatened to get worse! In fact, 6:4 tells us, *There were giants [Nephilim] in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.* ... What that simply means is that the children produced from the ‘sons of God’ and the ‘daughters of men’ were the absolute epitome of all you would ever have dreamed of, - mighty sons and beautiful daughters. Life was fantastic ... all their achievements were blossoming ... and you couldn’t have imagined times so good as they were in those days. ... *And they did not need God to progress! ... They ‘proved’ He could be done without!*

Those were the times in which Noah lived. He saw it all happening in front of him! He lived in an increasingly sinful society ... **His Times** ...

HIS TESTIMONY

What must it have been like for Noah living in a land like that? What kind of conversations could he have had with those people? You could imagine all they talked about was how well they were doing, and how they could possibly accrue more, through ‘foul means or fair’. ... And every day was the same ... The Sabbath was no different to any of the other days. There would have been no thoughts of God for they had moved on from ‘all that’. They didn’t miss it, and it wasn’t making one iota of a difference for, in fact, they were doing better than ever!

So, Noah was ‘out on his own’. He didn’t have their interests, or their mindset, or their values, or their behaviour ... But, notice Who He was out on His own with ... 6:9 *Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.* ... The people had no place for Noah, and neither had they any place for God! ... However, for Noah to find grace in the eyes of the Lord means that he remained faithful to the God his fathers had brought him up to worship. ... God was Noah’s priority! ... Noah was out of step with society, but he *was* in step with *God!*

Along with Noah, there was only a handful of a few others. He and his family would have been the ‘eccentrics’ ... the ‘unsociable’ ones who never ‘went with the flow’. The men in his street had long since given up on him because he ‘wasn’t normal’ ... He had no interest in ‘going for a drink’ with them, or pouring over ‘dirty stories’ and dirty pictures’ of the seductive ‘daughters of men’. They had nothing in common, - Noah was ‘peculiar’ and ‘odd’!

However, in that lay Noah's testimony. He would not be found with those people because he had no interest either to be like them or to be with them. He belonged to the 'sons of God' ... the type Abel, - if Cain had not killed him, - would have grown up to be ... and like Seth, who was born in Abel's place. Noah had a different pattern to how he lived his life. He wasn't living it 'for the moment', and chasing after the latest attractions ... Regardless of what he saw around him, he lived his life for God, and for His glory.

When Noah was born, his father gave him the name that means 'rest', *Gen. 5:29* And he [*Lamech*] called his name Noah, saying, This *same* shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed. ... It's not that Lamech saw his son in future years 'lying around doing nothing'. Instead, with the eye of faith, as Lamech saw how society was shifting away from God, he saw in Noah how Jehovah would bring about 'a new era. ... such as the psalmist envisaged when he sought to encourage his people, *37:7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him.* ... That is what Noah's name meant, - he was 'resting' in the Lord ... despite what direction his society was taking.

But the greatest expression of this true 'rest' is the one Noah points towards ... when the Lord Jesus issued the invitation, *Mt. 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* ... And the writer to the Hebrews promised, *4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.*

During the time of such prevalent ungodliness, Noah worked faithfully in the building of the ark the Lord had commanded him to construct. He assembled it in exact accordance to the measurements and detail of God. He didn't spend all his time building the ark, though, because Peter tells us he was also a preacher of righteousness (*II Pet. 2:5*). That means he would have called upon his fellow-citizens to repent of their sins and return to God.

They would not listen though! They weren't interested in 'all that old-fashioned stuff' that hankered away back to the olden times of Seth and Enos. Why should they pay any attention ... things have never been so good! ... Who needs God? We can do very well without Him, thank you! ... But they did not know God was leading up to the set of circumstances when He would say, Enough is enough! There comes a time when God is no longer prepared to accept any more of man's rebellion. If we had the time we could trace many examples throughout Scripture that shows God dealing with a continuously intractable people. ... Noah, however, is highly commended for his faithfulness, *Heb. 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear,*

prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

But, put our study into the context of today. ... I don't have to 'spell out' the similarities ... In fact, I believe we have long since surpassed the rebelliousness of the people in Noah's day. We have devised more ways to sin than ever has been the case before! Sin has truly been turned into the most attractive 'art-form'! ... Keep up, or you'll be left behind! ... And sadly, many who in the past have claimed to belong to the 'sons of God' are making new lives for themselves with the sinful 'daughters of men'. ... They have moved in!

In our United Kingdom, God's Word is presented to a people less and less interested in listening. And that was something Noah had to contend with as well. ... Noah was over five hundred years old (5:32) ... his generation was on the way out ... True religion was on the decline, and true believers were dying, and none were taking their place ... And what about the next generation ... Shem, Ham and Japheth and their children?! *It wouldn't bear thinking about!*

And yet, even in the midst of it all God kept faithful Noah and **his testimony**. ... Noah, - **his times, his testimony** ...

HIS TRANSPORT

The ark had to be built to the *exact* specifications God instructed for it would be the means by which His people would be saved. ... Did you see the space capsule Major Tim Peake and the other two astronauts were propelled into orbit? There was hardly any room in it ... It was so cramped ... and they had to sit in that for seven hours to reach the International Space Station! And when they were coming back in that same space capsule that had been parked for six months they re-entered the earth's atmosphere, with temperatures outside reaching more than 1,600C (2,910F)! ... That capsule had to be made right ... and so did the ark, otherwise the winds would have been battered it about on the waves, and it would have sunk. ... It *was* built right though, for it was built according to God's word, so that Noah was not wasting his time and effort.

When all the preparations had been completed Noah and his family, - along with the animals they were instructed to bring, - entered the ark (7:13-15). ... Meanwhile, everyone else continued about their business as usual ... not even giving a second thought or paying any attention to why this large boat was being prepared for sailing. They probably reckoned Noah was crazy!

You see, all the signs were there. The warnings had been given. The clouds were gathering. The winds were starting to increase. ... The people would have been putting on their ‘raincoats’ and ‘taking out their umbrellas’ ... the ‘forecasts’ were warning them ... but no late preparations of man were sufficient for the judgment of God when it came! They had never experienced anything like these rising waters before. Fear gripped them because they could not escape. Maybe some of them would have ran to their boats ... but the lives of all who were not in the ark came to a terrible end. ... And, this is also pointing to what awaits this world outside of Christ.

In the ark, though, was Noah with seven of his family ... Only seven out of all the population! (*Bear in mind, 6:1 when men began to multiply on the face of the earth*). ... If you want to look at it symbolically for a moment, the number seven in the Bible speaks of completion, and Noah can represent a type of the Saviour. ... And as Noah’s family of seven needed to be in the ark to escape the flood, the only way for anyone to be saved from the wrath of God is to be with the Saviour, and to know Him as Lord. ... Peter wrote about another final time of destruction which will come upon this world at the end, *II Pet. 3:12 wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat.*

Those will be terrible frightening when people will run, but there will be nowhere to hide. There will no longer be any means of escape for anyone ... except those who are safely with Christ. Everyone else had the opportunity but they wasted it ... and there will be no more opportunities left! ...

Christ is the only means by which anyone can be saved. If you are not saved, you need to trust in Him before it is too late. If you *are* His child, then look *for* Him, - and keep on looking for Him, - because He is coming back again! ... Peter continued to write, *II Pet. 3:13 we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.* ¹⁴Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

CONCLUSION

... Remember there was only one door into the ark ... and it represents the Lord Jesus Who said, *Jn. 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved.*

This is the Gospel God’s people are trusting in ... It is the Gospel of God’s grace upon which Noah depended. It is the good news that was completed when Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary and rose again for sinful men and women who turn to Him, repent of their sins, and be saved.

The ark was the only means God provided by which they would be saved from out of the flood ... and Jesus is the only means by which we can be saved from out of His fury. Grace is God's love for us demonstrated in what the Saviour did. That is the only Gospel God presents in His Word, and it is all centred upon His Son ... Look at the final verse in chapter six, v.22 [Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.](#) ... Completed according to the will of God. That is the example of a true servant. May He be able to say that of us also! Amen.