

SUNDAY CLOSEDST TO JUNE 1th

Proper 4

Genesis 6:9-22: 7:24: 8:14-19

First, the early stories in Genesis are from Mesopotamia, the "land between the rivers", present day Iraq. Most of the "land between the Rivers" is a flood plain i.e. it's flat and gets flooded. As a Geologist, it is not hard for me to imagine a super flood where there was water from horizon to horizon. But as for there being a world wide flood that destroyed all life on land, well..... What is important, in my not-very-humble opinion is what the story is telling us about God and the human condition. Chapters 1&2 are about the wonderful creation of a good Earth. Chapter 3 is the "Fall" and chapter 4 tells us of the first murder. Creation is going from good to bad to worse so by chapter 6 God is wondering if it was all such a good idea.

A cubit is generally thought to be the length of a man's forearm. This makes the size of the ark about 450 ft long 75 ft wide and 45 ft high. This is not huge by modern standards but would be impossibly huge to the writers of the text.

These are the descendants of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw that the earth was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above; and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks. For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them." Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred fifty days.

In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh-- birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth-- so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.

1. So what do you think the story means? _____

Psalm 46

This is listed as a Palm or the sons of Korah. A song.

1. God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
2. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be
moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;
3. Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
4. The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
5. There is a river whose streams make glad the
city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.
6. God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.
7. The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms
are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
8. The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
9. Come now and look upon the works of the
LORD, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.
10. It is he who makes war to cease in all the
world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.
11. "Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."
12. The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

1. Since Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians and most of the Jews were hauled off to Babylon and later, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem again the Jews were dispersed, how does this psalm ring true?
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Romans 1:616-17: 3:22b-31

Romans is the longest and weightiest of Paul's letters and was written in the full richness of his experience and the full maturity of his thought.

I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

This quote is from Habakkuk 2:4. Paul uses this quote as a scriptural basis for Paul's theme of "justification by faith".

For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine

forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

The Jews believed in the notion “eye for an eye tooth for a tooth” in that every sin had to be accounted for and paid for. So who paid the price? _____ So if the price is paid, what are we to do?

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. [Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one; and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.]

If we are justified by faith, how can we boast? We haven't done anything. We can't save ourselves by _____.

Matthew 7:21-29

Jesus has given his Sermon on the Mount (chap.5) and has given lessons in practical piety (chap. 6). In chapter 7 Jesus has just warned against false prophets – wolves in sheep's clothing.

Jesus said. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.'

Jesus is still talking about charlatans and other self-serving folk profiting from natural healing and what we now call the placebo effect.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell-- and great was its fall!"

“On Christ the solid rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand.” As a geologist, I love this parable.

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

1. So, list some of Jesus' words that we should act upon in order to build on solid rock?
