

BEGIN WITH GOD

Week 8

A study of Genesis 1–12

SKYCAM

Football has always been exciting to watch, but in the last 15-20 years, the NFL perfected a technology that has revolutionized the viewing experience—SkyCam. If you've never seen the live use of SkyCam, it zips this way and that. It shoots up high, and it will drop so low it looks like the players could reach around and tap it.

Back in the day, the only top-down view of a game came from a Goodyear blimp. Now, we're looking over a QB's shoulder like a video game. This coverage allows broadcasters the opportunity every week to create the most excited and compelling replays in sports.

In today's study, we're returning the story of Noah. In Genesis 7, we're going to see some repetition of the details. So, was Moses confused? He was 80+ years old and maybe had a hard time keeping the train on the tracks. No. First, Genesis was written for public reading, which requires repetition for listeners. Second, like an NFL replay, each angle captures a little more of the story. In fact, we'll see the original Sky Cam as we get some of the heavenly perspective on the story as God speaks of Noah's life and faith.

GENESIS 7 (SELECTED)

¹ The Lord said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, for I consider you godly among this generation.

⁵ And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.

⁶ Noah was 600 years old when the floodwaters engulfed the earth. ⁷ Noah entered the ark along with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives because of the floodwaters. ⁸ Pairs of clean animals, of unclean animals, of birds, and of everything that creeps along the ground, ⁹ male and female, came into the ark to Noah, just as God had commanded him. ¹⁰ And after seven days the floodwaters engulfed the earth.

¹⁵ Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life came into the ark to Noah. ¹⁶ Those that entered were male and female, just as God commanded him. Then the Lord shut him in.

¹⁷ The flood engulfed the earth for forty days. As the waters increased, they lifted the ark and raised it above the earth.

²³ So the Lord destroyed every living thing that was on the surface of the ground, including people, animals, creatures that creep along the ground, and birds of the sky. They were wiped off the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark survived. ²⁴ The waters prevailed over the earth for 150 days.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Noah boarded two of every kind of animal onto the Ark. That's a lot of animals. This begs several interesting questions. If you've never heard of it, the Ark Encounter attempts to answer many of the mysteries surrounding Noah's Ark. However, a relatively new study has come from the University of Leicester in which a group of students made an unexpected discovery. After considering all the factors, they concluded that the Ark, fully loaded with animals, would have indeed floated.



DISCUSSION

What would be your most and least favorite animal to be stuck on a boat with for any length of time?

1. What was God's summary of Noah after the command to "Come into the ark..."? (1)

2. What phrase gets repeated illustrating Noah's faithful obedience? (5, 9, 16)

3. To what extent did the flood rise, and what was its outcome? (17, 23)

4. How does the phrase "the LORD shut him in"? illustrate God's authority over both salvation and judgment? (16b, 23)

5. In what ways do you allow others to define who you are as opposed to trusting who God says you are?



6. Scan the QR code to the left and consider the lyrics of this song. What line(s) stand out and why?

Who does God say I am? Sinner or saint? We've mentioned a lot that the most important opinion on your life is God's, but you might not know what that is. Talk to your coach today.

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

A study of Genesis 1–12

STUDY NOTES

AUDIENCE OF ONE

Sean Parker, Facebook's founding president said from the beginning the Facebook team was asking, "How do we consume as much of your time and conscious attention as possible?" He referred to the "vulnerability in human psychology," which he defined as a "social-validation feedback loop." Our brains get a little shot of dopamine as we endlessly scroll, find what we like, or whenever somebody *likes* or *thumbs up* our post.

Our brains produce dopamine naturally, which creates a sense of pleasure for a variety of things in our lives. Social media literally hijacks our brain. It floods it with the pleasurable effect of dopamine, and keeps us coming back to scroll endlessly, finding things we like, and earning validation through what we share.

God has designed us to be like this. Let that sink in. We're designed for social interaction. We're designed for affirmation and validation. We're designed for pleasure. The problem comes when we're seeking these things from an online audience of hundreds or thousands instead of finding those things from an audience of One.

GOD IS JUST

We studied last Week, that often our call for *justice* is really a call for *judgment*. Sin cannot go unpunished, but the Bible records multiple instances of God withholding judgment until an invisible threshold is reached. Noah's generation had reached this threshold and judgment was literally falling from the sky. Tiny water droplets, like small, "inconsequential" sins, gathered into a big problem for a wicked generation.

In Week 6, we discussed the generations from Adam to Noah. Within these generations we met Enoch and his son, Methuselah. We know that Enoch walked with God and was taken up without dying. Methuselah lived so long, he probably got to see the Ark that Noah built, but died just before the flood.

It's quite possible that Noah mourned the death of his grandfather, Methuselah, in the days or weeks leading up to the point when **the LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, for I consider you godly among this generation."** Methuselah's name meant "when he dies, judgment."

Interestingly, all three men were spared of the consequences of the flood, but only one was called to ride the waves. We rarely think of death as a part of either God's justice or his grace, and yet, the Bible often associates it with both. It's a terrible thing, but not the most terrible.

What's worse than death? The eternal separation from God faced by those who die apart from a relationship with God. Although God's justice demands death for sin, and condemnation in Hell. Like Noah escaping the flood, God provided an Ark through Jesus Christ.

The Good News of the Gospel states that if we have faith in God's provision, like Noah, we may not be spared the storm, but we can be spared the consequences of our own sins. For Noah, faith was expressed in taking God at his word and building an Ark (Hebrews 11:7). Yet, *God had provided something better for us... Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith* (Hebrews 11:40, 12:2). Faith is the key, and faith is what Noah had. How do we know? Look at God's perspective on Noah.

Repeatedly we read that **Noah did all that the LORD commanded him**. Noah's faith saved him from God's judgment that **engulfed the earth**. In order that Creation might not be completely undone, **Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life came into the ark to Noah**. Not only were pairs necessary, but they needed to multiply after the floodwaters receded. That only happens one way according to God's design, which is why **those that entered were male and female**. And because both judgment and salvation are from the Lord, when it was time for Noah, his family, and the animals to be sealed, it was **the LORD** that **shut him in**.

GOD'S JUSTICE IS SELECTIVE

In his justice, **the LORD destroyed every living thing. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark survived**. In the same way that salvation came only to a few in Noah's time, salvation through Christ remains just as exclusive. When Jesus said, "**No one comes to the Father except through me**" (John 14:6), he made the most inclusively exclusive statement ever. It's *exclusive* in that there is only *one* way. However, it's *inclusive* in that whosoever will may come (Revelation 22:17). The question is, will we believe God about who we are?

Social media exemplifies that we give too much power to our family and peers to change our moods and behaviors through what we and others post online. We care more about what others think about who we are than what God thinks. We must believe who he says we are as we seek him. We must pursue relationships as he prescribes them in his Word (see Titus 2–3:7). Instead of handing over the control of your life to temporary pleasures, temporary people, or temporary success, surrender it fully to the only eternal God. We must only and always seek to please the Audience of One.