



ATHLETE STUDY

WEEK 2

“HOUSTON, WE’VE HAD A PROBLEM”

The Apollo 13 mission to the moon launched from Kennedy Space Center in April of 1970. While flying to the moon faster than a bullet, a routine system check led to an explosion of an oxygen tank into space. After a few moments of confusion, the mission commander, Jim Lovell, famously called back to earth, “*Houston, we’ve had a problem.*”

At that point, no longer was the mission to land on the moon—it was a rescue operation. The brightest minds in the world worked non-stop overcoming challenges until the three astronauts of Apollo 13 safely splashed down in the south pacific.

Last Week, we saw God’s “Very Good” Creation corrupted by sin. Today, we’re skipping several chapters to look at the story of Noah. However, from Genesis 3 on, all of humanity called out like Jim Lovell, “*We’ve had a problem.*”

Practically, in a world that typically runs counter to the Christian faith, we’ll see how seriously God judges sin and esteems righteousness in those who follow him, especially when they swim upstream. Following Noah’s example, we’ll learn the value of faithful obedience, even when it comes at a cost, both for us and those we love.

GENESIS 6:9, 11–12, 17–18; 9:8–13

⁹ These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

¹⁷ For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸ 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.

^{9:8} Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm, What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease, My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

All of us have a problem called “sin.” None of us deserve the ark. And yet, in God’s grace, he gave us more than a bow of many colors. He gave his Son, the Rescuer, the Snake-Crusher. In Him, we don’t drown, we stand.



DISCUSSION

What would you be more interested in exploring, outer-space or the bottom of the ocean?

1. How does the passage describe Noah, and how does it describe the rest of the world? (6:9, 11–12)

2. What did God say He was going to do, and why? (6:17)

3. What promise did God make, and what sign did He give as its reminder? (6:18; 9:11–13)

4. How does the flood story show how seriously God views sin?

5. How does the rainbow show the goodness of God’s grace?

6. On a scale of 1 to 10, how do you align with the description of Noah as “blameless” and “walks with God”? What needs to change?

God spared Noah physically from the effects of sin. Only Christ can save us spiritually (and eternally) from sin itself—only then can we be “blameless” and “walk with God.” If you’ve never trusted Jesus, talk to your Coach!

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION



STUDY NOTES

THE REMNANT

After sin entered the world in chapter 3 and God promised an offspring to Adam and Eve, we're now on the lookout for the Snake-Crusher. In Genesis 4–6, disappointment continued starting with Cain murdering Abel, leading to Genesis 6:5–6a, *"The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord regretted that he had made man."*

Because of humanity's wickedness, God promised to blot them out. *"But,"* verse 8 records, *"Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord."* Why did Noah find favor? Unlike everyone else, **Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.** Because Noah found favor, God would preserve Noah and his family as a "remnant."

The Bible mentions several times that the Lord "preserves a remnant." As bad as the world gets, there are always some people who remain faithful. In the case of Genesis 6, the corruption of sin had taken over. The entire earth became irredeemable. But, by God's grace, Noah stood above his generation—faithful to walk with the Lord. And because of that, God would spare him and his family to start over.

GOD'S GRACE PRESERVES HIS PEOPLE

When you read the Bible, one of the things we look for is repetition. The repetition shows how important this idea is—***Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.***

Keep in mind that every sin, from murder to a little white lie, is guilty of death and eternal destruction. It's not because of the offense, but Who you're offending. Because your sin is an offense to a Holy, eternal God, that means the consequences of that sin will set you apart from him forever. And the consequences of being set apart from God forever are far worse than we can imagine.

In God's grace, he didn't destroy people immediately for their sin. He gave them time to repent. However, the clock always runs out. Nobody would be saved because nobody wanted to be saved—except for Noah. Not only was God gracious in delaying judgment as long as possible, he was also gracious to spare everyone in the world who was walking with him. Well, the one guy at least.

God told Noah, ***For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. 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.***

Keep in mind, these people had never seen rain. It's very likely that the atmosphere, climate, literally everything about the world is different than now. We simply cannot determine the catastrophic effects of a world-wide flood. But God said he would do it—and he always keeps his promises. Because of Noah's faith, he built a huge boat without ever seeing rain. Because of God's grace, he spared Noah, his family, and every kind of animal.

#2, FLOOD OUT THE WORLD, START FRESH WITH YOU

Genesis 7:24 says that everyone was aboard the ark for 150 days. After what must have felt like forever, the ark came to rest on dry land. Noah, his family, and the many animals disembarked to a new world all to themselves. It's at this point that God made a covenant with Noah. It's not every day God made a covenant like this—in fact there's only a handful in all of Scripture.

Genesis 9 records the Noahic Covenant: ***"Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."*** And God said, ***"This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."***

The rainbow in the sky is the sign that God brought destruction, but that he would never again flood the earth. Ironically, that symbol has been co-opted by a movement that opposes God's design for the family and for "filling the earth," which only happens when a man and woman love each other and—well, talk to your coach.

For now, the question is not *if* sin will be judged, it's just a matter of *when*. However, will you be counted among the faithful few in a corrupt generation? Will you stand out from the crowd?