

But Noah Found Grace

Genesis 6:8 (Context Chapters 6-8)



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FOCAL Read Together **Genesis 6:8** But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

The Bible says that “all these things {reported in the Old Testament} happened unto THEM for examples; and they are written for OUR admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (1 Corinthians 10:11). When the Lord wrote the Old Testament He did not write down every insignificant detail of man from the day of his creation. The Lord wrote *specifically to THEM*, the Old Testament Saints, for **EXAMPLES**. That word “**examples**” is the Greek (τυπος pronounced: *too'-pos*) which means “a TYPE, and ANALOGY, or a FIGURE of something that is to come. The account of Noah and the Ark is recorded in Scripture *for the Old Testament Saint* because the Ark represented the Messiah *Who had not yet come*. The Ark is a TYPE of the Christ. Jesus illustrated that when He preached:

Matthew 24:37-39 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Jesus tied His Second Coming to the Ark of Noah. If I were to paraphrase Jesus' Sermon I could say: “**just as it was with Noah, so shall it be when I come again. The people were eating, and drinking, and marrying, and giving in marriage – and these are not sinful things.**”

But as they went about their *everyday lives* they had no focus on the Lord Who made them. Then the Flood came, and with it Judgment. When I come, just as it was with Noah, I will save My people – but those who reject Me shall be under the judgment of God.”

The Ark represents or is a TYPE of the Grace of God in Christ. The Flood is a TYPE of the certain coming Judgment of God. The two groups of people – those on the Ark and those not on the Ark – represent those saved *by Grace* and those who reject the Grace of God in Christ. The Old Testament Saint, looking forward to Coming Messiah, saw in the account of Noah both the **“goodness and severity of God” (Romans 11:22)**. His Grace is offered to *whosoever will accept it*, but His judgment will certainly fall on those who turn away from His Ark.

God wrote the account of Noah for *us*, His Church, as an **“admonition”**. The Greek for **“admonition”** is (νουθεσια pronounced: *noo-thes-ee'-ah*), which means **“to call the attention to so as to encourage or even rebuke”**. The Lord wants His New Testament Saints to realize that *the Judgment of God is sure*. What He has said He will do. The Lord has promised that those who accept Jesus Christ as Savior will **“not come into condemnation, but will pass from death unto life” (John 5:24)**. The Bible clearly promises that **“whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13)**. The unbeliever must get on the Ark. He must repent, turn from his old way of life, and *get on the Ark*. If he does not get on the Ark then – like it was in the days of Noah – he will be going

about his everyday business when the Judgment of God suddenly falls. When you turn away from self and step **into Christ just as you would step into the Ark** you surrender your life to the Ark. The Ark keeps you above the Judgment of God. The Ark is not a pleasure cruise that you take, nor is it a motel that you check into when you feel like it and check out when you feel like it. When you step in the Ark you step away from the world. Your life becomes surrounded by the Ark. You go where the Ark goes, you move when the Ark moves, you rest when the Ark rests. In short, your life dramatically changes when you come to Christ. This is why the Bible says:

Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

If you are in Christ, your walk changes. You do not come to Christ an addict and leave Christ an addict. God the Holy Spirit changes the surrendered life. You do not come to Christ sexually immoral and leave Christ sexually immoral. God the Holy Spirit changes the surrendered life. You do not come to Christ a thief, a murderer, a false witness, a hater, a fornicator, or a worldling and leave His presence unchanged. In Jesus is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance – against such there is no law.**

Question: What Causes The Death Of Civilization
Answer: Believers Not Living For The Lord

In case you just fell off the turnip truck, can I tell you

that there is a great war going on all around us. This war is the battle between good and evil. The Bible says:

Ephesians 6:12 For we {who believe} wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Satan started this war in the Garden of Eden, and has been fighting ever since to lead as man as he can to certain destruction. Satan has those who follow him, and the Lord God has those who follow Him. When God's people do as God says then **as the light of the world we repel the darkness (Matthew 5:14)**. But Lot cannot sit in the gates of Sodom (Genesis 19:1) blending in with the worldling and expect to change the world. God's people are commanded to **“come out from among the lost and the worldling and be separate, says the Lord” (2 Corinthians 6:17)**. We who have accepted Christ as Savior are:

Philippians 2:15-16 blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; **16** Holding forth the word of life;

If you are born again you stand in the gap, a soldier of Christ, light in darkness, *representing* Jesus to a lost and dying world.

Understanding that great truth I want you to look at the first few verses of Genesis chapter 6:

CONTEXT **Genesis 6:1-3** And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, **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. **3** And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years.

What caused When civilization dies it does so because God's people *slide* in their faith, *blending* with the world. The great preacher C.H. Spurgeon called this **“The Down-Grade”**. The Down-Grade is a dangerous place, where Biblical truth no longer matters, and where all is “light” regardless as to whether it is right in the eyes of God or not. Look at the Down-Grade in our Genesis text. The **sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair, and they took wives of all which they chose**. God's people – **the sons of God** – began to unequally yoke themselves with the unsaved – the daughters of men. Matthew Henry said:

“When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth. The more sinners the more sin; and the multitude of offenders emboldens men. Infectious diseases are most destructive in populous cities; and sin is a spreading leprosy.”

The Lord wants His people to BE His people. The Scripture warns the believer:

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? **15** And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

Light and dark cannot be blended. Even in a natural family there is a separation between the **sons of God** and the **sons of Adam**. A son of God is always distinctly different from a son of Adam. As **Francis Schaeffer** once said:

“A Christian's first call is to step from the line of Cain into the line of Abel” (from *Genesis in Space and Time*)

Remember that it was **Cain who killed his believing brother Abel (Genesis 4:8)**. Light cannot *blend* with darkness.

Righteous cannot *blend* with unrighteousness. Death cannot *blend* with life. Where Cain and Abel meet, Abel will always die. The **sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair, and they took wives of all which they chose. David looked on another man's wife, and ended up murdering Uriah (2 Samuel 11:3). Solomon made an agreement with Pharaoh the King of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter as his wife. He then began to sacrifice and burn incense in high places to false gods (1 Kings 3:1, 3).**

Isaiah 5:20-21 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! **21** Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

When God's people blend with Adam's people, the Lord starts a countdown to destruction.

God Is Gracious And Longsuffering

CONTEXT Genesis 6:3 And the LORD said, **My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years.**

In **Genesis 6:3** we see that the Lord set **man's days to be a hundred and twenty years**. The countdown began. God is gracious, and a fount of mercy – but something had to be done. The Bible says:

CONTEXT Genesis 6:5-7 And **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. 6** And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. **7** And the LORD said, **I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.**

Every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was

only evil continually. If God did not intervene then Satan would win.

If God did not intervene all of civilization would become *engulfed in evil*. The promised Messiah of **Genesis 3:15** could not come to make payment for man's sin if there were no lovers of God left on the earth.

CONTEXT **Genesis 6:8** **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.**

There was one man who “**found Grace in the eyes of the Lord**”. Noah believed in the Lord. He lived for the Lord.

When God saves a person, He equips that person – then puts them to work for His glory! Noah was to build a boat – a BIG boat.

ILLUSTRATE Noah was to build a big boat. **Genesis 6:15** says that the Ark:

Genesis 6:15 **The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.**

Since we don't understand what “**cubits**” are, let's put the size of the Ark into modern terms. The Ark was to be **450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet tall**. If you were to **lift a 40 story building from its foundation**

and turn it sideways, it would lay down inside of the Ark. The Ark had an estimated **1.4 million cubic feet** of space. If you took one of every animal we know of today – even the extinct species – and multiplied them by 2 (male and female) and put them on the Ark, you would **only use 60% of it's storage capacity.**

There was plenty of room for all to come into the Ark, if they would come.

No one was drowned because the Lord didn't leave room in the Ark for them. People drowned because they didn't leave room for God in their lives.

Time was not an issue, either. It took Noah 120 years to build this Ark. For 120 years people had the opportunity to repent. When people abuse the Grace of God the Lord often gives them *more time* to accept His Grace. How marvelous the Grace of God is!

ILLUSTRATE **Voltaire**, the French Philosopher, often went about France disputing the existence of God. He would stand out in the city square and yell out, “**All right God, I'm here. If You're there, prove it by killing me. You've got one minute. Now thirty second. Time's up! See, I told you there is no God!**” Neither Voltaire nor any who follow this foolish line of reasoning disprove the existence of God. God has, from the very beginning of mankind, proven Himself to be *longsuffering* and full of Grace. *If I were God* (and thankfully, I'm not!) when Adam and Eve fell I would have wiped everything out and started fresh. God didn't

do that! The Bible says that He patiently listened while Adam and Eve played *the Blame Game* – then He took their ragged fig leaf clothes off of them and, killing an animal, gave them decent clothing. God is gracious. When Cain killed Abel the Lord let that murderous fool live as an example for all others not to engage in murder. When

CONTEXT Genesis 6:12 ... God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

God didn't purge the earth right away. It was a mess, but God in Grace gave man 120 years to repent. God is gracious. He is **the God of all grace (1 Peter 5:10)**.

God was gracious when He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. He would not destroy the righteous with the wicked, but said **“I will not destroy it for ten person's sake” (Genesis 18:32)**. If there were but *ten* righteous people in Sodom God would have allowed it to remain.

Psalms 86:15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

How longsuffering our God is! If He were not, America would have been destroyed fifty years ago. If God were not merciful He would have destroyed us for the innocent blood of babies aborted – millions of lives taken in hospital rooms – for the sake of a sensual and self pleasing generation.

When the Ark was completed the Lord told Noah to **“come”** into the Ark, not **“go”**. Look in Genesis 7:1

CONTEXT Genesis 7:1 And the LORD said unto Noah, COME thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before Me in this generation.

God would be in the Ark with His people – but God's *Judgment* would be with the people who stayed outside of the Ark.

God didn't say **“go into the Ark”**, but **“come into the Ark”**. God is with His people, but the Judgment of God is with the unrighteous. Once Noah and his family, along with all the animals, came into the Ark *God was still longsuffering*. The Bible says:

CONTEXT Genesis 7:4 For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

ILLUSTRATE The Door Is Still Open! Noah and his family were on the Ark. The animals were on the Ark. *But the door of the Ark was still open*. Oh how longsuffering and gracious our Lord is! Someone once asked me if I believed someone could be saved just before they died. I believe they can. The thief who hung at the side of Christ who asked **“Lord, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom (Luke 23:42)**.

Jesus said **“Today you shall be with Me in Paradise”**. God does not want to close the door of the Ark. He waits, and waits, and waits. **God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)**. If you go to hell – and you WILL go to hell and burn in torment forever without Jesus – then you will go there *in spite of God's efforts*.

Someone might ask **“Why didn't Noah shut the door?”** Because Noah *can't* shut the door. The door of the Ark is huge, large enough for elephants and giraffes the walk through. God would have to shut the door.

Dear friends, can I say this? Just as the Ark was made to handle all creatures *both small and great*, the Cross of Christ is able to make payment for any size of sinner. Jesus Christ died for all men.

1 Timothy 2:3-6 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; **4** Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. **5** For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; **6** Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

There was room in the Ark for all to be saved. There is room at the Cross for you. Will you not come to Jesus while you can? Dear friends, God promises to save all who will come to Him – but He also promises that **My Spirit will not always strive with man (Genesis 6:3)**.

What God has promised is certain. The old song **“Brethren We Have Met To Worship”** says:

“Brethren, see poor sinners round you slumbering on the brink of woe;
Death is coming, hell is moving, can you bear to let them go?
See our fathers and our mothers, and our children sinking down;
Brethren, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.”

Then God Shut The Door

Oh, that everyone in this audience – both believer and unbeliever – would understand the certain nature of God. **God is not a man that He should lie, neither the son of man, that He should repent (Numbers 23:19)**. He promised to destroy the world by Flood, and had Noah witness daily for **120 years**. For **43,800 days** Noah preached the coming Judgment of God. Noah **began preaching when he was a young man, only 480 years old**. The Bible says:

CONTEXT **Genesis 7:11** In the **six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.**

ILLUSTRATE When the **windows of Heaven were opened** God shut the doors of the Ark. We can only imagine what happened next, for the Bible doesn't dwell on the drowning of creation. Rain begins to fall, and at first the people pay it little attention. But as the water gathers and begins to pool around people's feet and ankles perhaps some come to the Ark and bang on the door. “Let us in, Noah, now we believe!” Dear friends,

Noah didn't shut the door, and Noah can't open the door. It is interesting that so many nurseries have pictures of Noah's Ark – complete with animals – painted on the walls. I can only imagine the horror of a whole world of people dying by drowning, screaming and beating on the door of the Ark. God our Savior shut the door of the Ark. It is the Son of God, Jesus Christ,

Revelation 3:7 ... He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Had they got on the Ark when Noah preached they would have been saved. But they rejected the offer of salvation, and now the door of the Ark is closed. Again, we can only imagine the horror of those who died by drowning. The Bible says:

CONTEXT Genesis 7:21-23 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: 22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. 23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

Consider the destruction. People who were born when Noah began preaching were now old people with children of their own. Though they heard him preaching

the coming Judgment of God, they also heard their parents treat Noah with contempt, and they in turn taught their children contempt. Old men, old women, young men, young women, children, infants, pregnant women – the Judgment of God did not discriminate. The Bible teaches that God is no respecter of persons:

Romans 2:8-11 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; 10 But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: 11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

He offers salvation freely to *whosoever will*, but promises certain judgment to *whosoever won't*. **God's Grace has limits. There is a fixed date on God's Grace.** You must accept it within the parameters that God offers it. If you reject His salvation, then you will receive His judgment.

The Basis of Noah's Salvation

Noah was not sinless. **All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).** But Noah – in faith – responded to God's offer of salvation. The Bible says:

Hebrews 11:6-7 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. 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.

Noah found Grace in the eyes of the Lord. He heard God's promise of coming judgment. He focused on God. He believed God. He surrendered to the Lordship of God. When a person believes on the Lord Jesus Christ God changes them. He moves in their lives, and the become born again (1 Peter 1:23) by the incorruptible seed of the Word of God. The Bible says that the Spirit quickeneth, it is God Who gives life (John 6:63; John 5:21).

Noah's faith came *before* his work, and his work for God came *out of* his faith. Those who are saved are saved by *faith alone in Christ alone*, but once saved *serve the Lord Who saved them!*

You want to tell others about Jesus. You know that the Judgment of God is certain, and know that hell is certain for those who do not believe.

When God opened the door of the Ark the Lord told him:

CONTEXT Genesis 8:16-17 Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. 17 Bring forth with thee every living thing that *is* with thee, of all flesh, *both* of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the

earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.

What was the first thing Noah did when he got off of the Ark? The Bible says:

CONTEXT Genesis 8:20-21 ... Noah built an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savor;....

When Noah and his family boarded the Ark the Lord sent 2 of every animal male and female, but *seven of every clean animal*. This was so Noah could offer a burnt offering to God when he worshiped the Lord on dry land. As Noah offered burnt offerings on the altar ... the Lord smelled a sweet savor.

Why would burning flesh be pleasing to the Lord? Because the burnt offering looked forward to the First Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:6-10).

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God Who taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29). It is by His sacrifice on Calvary that:

Hebrews 10:10, 12 ... we {who believe in Him} are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. ... 12 But {Jesus}, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;

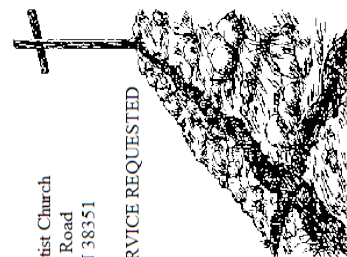
The **Burnt Offering that Noah made** looked forward to the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Jesus would come to this earth through the virgin Mary. He would live a perfect and sinless life. At the appointed time Jesus would go to Calvary and – like a burnt offering – die for our sins. But unlike the burnt offering Jesus would rise again.

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore {Jesus} is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Oh glorious Savior! How we adore You! Noah was saved by looking forward unto the Coming Christ. We today are saved by looking backward at the Christ Who came and gave Himself for us. Believing in Him we, too, find **grace in the eyes of the Lord**. Believing in Him we are **indwelt by the Spirit of God, adopted into the Family of God, and serve as faithful children of God**.

May God lead you to come unto Jesus Christ. May God lead you, like Noah, to *get on the Ark by faith*.

Romans 10:9-13 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **11** For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. **12** For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. **13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FOCAL Read Together **Genesis 6:8** But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

1 Corinthians 10:11; Matthew 24:37-39; Romans 11:22; John 5:24; Romans 10:13; Romans 8:1

Question: What Causes The Death Of Civilization
Answer: Believers Not Living For The Lord

Ephesians 6:12; Matthew 5:14; Genesis 19:1; 2 Corinthians 6:17; Philippians 2:15-16; Genesis 6:1-3; 2 Corinthians 6:14-15; 2 Samuel 11:3; 1 Kings 3:1, 3; Isaiah 5:20-21

a. Remember that it was _____ who killed his believing brother Abel (Genesis 4:8). Light cannot blend with _____.

God Is Gracious And Longsuffering

Genesis 6:3; Genesis 6:5-7; Genesis 6:8; Genesis 6:15; Genesis 6:12; 1 Peter 5:10; Genesis 18:32; Psalms 86:15; Genesis 7:1; Genesis 7:4; Luke 23:42; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; Genesis 6:3

b. When God saves a person, He equips that person – _____

c. No one was drowned because the Lord didn't leave room in the Ark for them. People drowned because they _____

d. God would be in the Ark with His people – but God's _____ would be with the people who stayed outside of the Ark.

Then God Shut The Door

Genesis 7:11; Revelation 3:7; Genesis 7:21-23; Romans 2:8-11

The Basis of Noah's Salvation

Romans 3:23; Hebrews 11:6-7; 1 Peter 1:23; John 6:63; John 5:21; Genesis 8:16-17; Genesis 8:20-21; Hebrews 10:6-10; John 1:29; Hebrews 10:10, 12; Hebrews 7:25; Romans 10:9-13

e. Noah's faith came _____ his work, and his work for God came _____ his faith. Those who are saved are saved by *faith alone in Christ alone*, but once saved *serve the Lord Who saved them!*

d. Why would burning flesh be pleasing to the Lord?
