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Genesis 6:5-9:17

The Genesis of God's People: Noah's Story. Our Story.

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Introduction: (S1—slides available on website)

1. What is the story of Noah and the flood supposed to teach us?
2. Many children's books and toys tell us Noah's flood was a fun, colorful, day at the zoo.
3. Two by Two by Barbara Reid is a happy kids book illustrated using claymation. (S2)
4. Noah's Ark by Lucy Cousins tells the colorful story of Noah and his animals. (S3)
5. You can buy a Noah's ark bath toy, wall print, 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle, and pewter coin bank. (S4)
6. A more accurate picture of this story is a wood engraving by Gustave Doré in 1866. (S5)
7. "The Dove Sent Forth From The Ark" depicts two elements I want us to think about.
8. Noah's ark is a story of God's judgment and grace and that's our story.

(Noah's ark is a story of God's judgment and grace and that's our story.) (S6)

(We're going to examine this one big truth through lots of different angles or smaller truths—like diamond.)

I. Everyone is wicked. (6:5) (S7)

A. Everyone is wicked in Noah's day.

1. "Wicked" is not a common word; it means evil or morally wrong and misery/disaster/calamity.
2. In Adam and Eve, everyone disobeyed God, which was the first sin, and we keep getting worse.
3. This sin is so deep God says "every inclination ... of the human heart was only evil all the time."
4. **We're also wicked in our day**—every inclination of our hearts, at its core, is not good.
5. The enlightenment taught us we can solve our issues with science and logic, but it's not working.
6. The more technologically we get, the more selfish we become—we're not evolving, we're dying.

II. God judges everyone. (6:6-7) (S8)

A. God decides to judge all the wicked of Noah's day. (S9↓)

1. v6ESV And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.
2. Evil doesn't take God by surprise, but it doesn't mean it doesn't sadden him.
3. If the heart is evil, there's only two options to fix it: 1) transplant, or 2) destruction.
4. Jesus promises that one day he will judge the wickedness of our day like a flood. (S10↓)

Matthew 24:37–39a As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away... (NIV®)

(One day Jesus will judge the living and dead, but there's hope.)

(Noah's ark is a story of God's judgment... and grace.)

III. God gives grace to the undeserving. (6:8-9) (S11)

A. Noah is wicked, but God gives him grace.

Two by Two says... Way back in the olden days People turned to evil ways. They spoiled the world with greedy plots, Dirty deeds and nasty thoughts. God was mad, and with a frown, Said, "Wash it clean! Let them drown!" There were some things God thought to save, He'd need the help of someone brave. "*Noah!* You're both good and kind, I'll tell you what I have in mind . . ."

1. This says Noah was a good person, so God saves him, so we should be good (cf. Mk 10:17-18).
2. But v.5 tells us everyone was wicked, including Noah, but God chose to save Noah by His grace.
3. This grace so transforms Noah that by the end of his life he's counted as one who is blameless.
4. V9 is a summary of Noah's life, not who he was at the beginning (Enoch also walked w/ God).
5. No matter how bad you are, God can also transform your life by His grace.

B. Charles "Chuck" Wendell Colson served President Richard Nixon from 1969 to 1973. (S12)

1. He was known as Nixon's "hatchet man" and was involved in the watergate scandal.
2. He went to prison for seven months for obstructing justice.
3. Just before he went to prison, a friend gave him a copy of *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis.
4. He became Christian, founded Prison Fellowship to reach inmates and families, GCTS board.
5. Jesus saves sinners, not the righteous, but people who see their need for him.

(Noah's ark is a story of God's judgment and grace and that's our story.)
(What does grace do?)

IV. God's grace produces lasting change. (6:13-16, 22) (S13)

A. God gives Noah instructions for building the ark before the flood.

1. Noah has a choice, he can either doubt and not obey, or believe and obey.
2. The story says four times Noah obeys God's commands (Gen 6:22, 5, 9, 16), and it's not easy.
3. Building the ark was a big project (feet: 450' long by 75' tall by 45' wide).
4. Noah learned to obey one plank at a time, one floor at a time, one coat of pitch at a time.
5. Noah probably worked on the ark for 55-75 years before finishing it at 600 years old.
6. By the end of it, God made a man who walked with God and trusted him.
7. God can use what you're going through to produce lasting change in your life.

(Noah's ark is a story of God's grace, but what is God's grace?)
(Grace is receiving a gift we don't deserve, but even more than that...)

V. God's grace is righteousness. (7:1) (S14)

A. When the whole world is declared wicked, God declares Noah righteous. (S15↓)

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and **became heir of the righteousness** that is in keeping with faith. (NIV®)

1. God declares Noah righteous because of his faith.

2. He's not perfect, even after the flood people's hearts, including Noah's are wicked (Gen 8:21).
3. God judges sinful people as either guilty or innocent; righteousness is being declared innocent.
4. We are declared righteous when we confess the misery/disaster/calamity in us and trust Jesus.
5. No matter what you're going through or the sins you've committed, in Jesus, you're righteous.

(Noah's ark is a story of God's judgment and grace and that's our story.)

VI. God preserves the righteous in the midst of judgment (7:11-17) (S16)

- A. God sends the judgement, but pulls Noah and his family into the ark.
 - a. It says, "Then the Lord shut him in." (v. 16)—God closes the door of the ark.
 - b. Four applications: **#1**) At the end of time, God will pull his own into safety, new heaven/earth.
 - c. **#2**) We can trust that God's church will continue no matter the culture (not local guarantee).
 - d. **#3**) No matter what you're going through, God can act as your refuge.
 - e. **#4**) We're to share this salvation message with those who don't yet believe.
 - f. 2 Peter 2:5 calls Noah "a preacher of righteousness"—he warned others the flood is coming.
- B. Did you know that some churches are designed to look like Noah's ark?
 1. This is a pretty normal photo of a church with a wood ceiling, it's an upside-down ark. (S17)
 2. In an ark, we're safe, we're rescued, God loves us, but outside sinners are drowning.
 3. We shouldn't think of ourselves as an ark, but more like a lifeboat sent to rescue the drowning.
 4. Noah tried to save others, and that's our role; God shuts the door, not us.
 5. God's grace produces righteousness in us, and we share that with others.
 6. This week I watched a [YouTube video](#) of the 2004 tsunami to hit Thailand.
 7. A lady asks, "Maybe the earthquake affected the water?" Her friend says, "Nahh!"
 8. Then the locals begin to yell at the tourists on the beach to move, but they just stare at the wave.
 9. We pray for our friends, coworkers, and dream of sharing the gospel b/c the wave is coming.
 10. Invite friends or coworkers who have children to the parent's night out, June 18th (my story).

(Noah's ark is a story of God's judgment and grace and that's our story.)

VII. God remembers the broken (8:1) (S18)

- A. After the flood, it says, "God remembered Noah".
 1. This is such a human word—we forget, not God, so what does it mean?
 2. Remember our original audience? Moses wrote Genesis to the nation of Israel.
 3. He likely wrote it after they were denied entry into the promised land for not trusting God.
 4. They were sentenced to wander forty-years in the wilderness (matches v. 17's 40 day flood).
 5. God says to Noah in his judgment, the Israelite's in their's, and us in our's, "I remember you!"

(God remembers the broken.)

(Noah's ark is a story of God's judgment and grace and that's our story.)

VIII. God gives fresh beginnings (8:15-17) (S19)

- A. God calls Noah and his family and the animals out of the ark.

1. He tells them to be fruitful and increase in number, echoing his call in Genesis 1:28.
2. He's saying, this is a new beginning, you can start again on the path I originally intended.
3. Noah is what theologians like to call a second Adam—he gives the *big story* a second try.
4. There's a simple truth here—God might judge us and even rebuke us for our sins.
5. But by God's grace, there's always a new beginning, and so we give thanks (Noah's altar).

(Noah's ark is a story of God's judgment and grace and that's our story.)

(At the end of the story, the originally problem of wickedness isn't solved.)

(Noah doesn't succeed in being the second Adam, but someone is coming who will.)

IX. God promises peace. (9:12-16) (S20)

A. At the end of the story, God promises peace between himself and us.

1. He sets a rainbow in the sky as a reminder that he'll never flood the earth again.
2. In ancient cultures, the bow was a symbol of war that you pointed at your enemies.
3. God hangs up his warbow so that humans can be at peace with God.
4. But by hanging up his warbow, he points it in a new direction.
5. The *Jesus Storybook Bible* explains the rainbow (we give away to new kids) (S21)

And the first thing God did was make another promise. "I won't ever destroy the world again." And like a warrior who puts away his bow and arrow at the end of a great battle, God said, "See, I have hung up my bow in the clouds."

And there, in the clouds -- just where the storm meets the sun -- was a beautiful bow made out of light. It was a new beginning in God's world. It wasn't long before everything went wrong again but God wasn't surprised, he knew this would happen. That's why, before the beginning of time, he had another plan -- a better plan. A plan not to destroy the world, but to rescue it -- a plan to one day send his own Son, the Rescuer.

God's strong anger against hate and sadness and death would come down once more -- but not on his people, or his world. No, God's war bow was not pointing down at his people. It was pointing up, into the heart of Heaven. (pages 46-47)

6. Jesus paid the penalty for our wicked hearts by taking God's arrow through his heart.
7. If you trust in Jesus, you get a brand new heart, **a transplant**, the heart of Jesus (Ezekiel 36:26).
8. Application: When you're tempted to point your arrow at others, point it at Christ, extend grace.
9. Application: Remember when your story feels like God is judging you, he's also showing grace.

(Noah's ark is a story of God's judgment and grace and that's our story.) (S22)

Conclusion:

1. I'll end by showing you another engraving of an ark: "The Crucifixion of Jesus" by Gustave Doré.
2. This is a picture of the vessel that comes to each of us and bears our sins away. (S23)
3. Jesus is our lifeboat—he rescues us from drowning in our sin and gives us new life.
4. Noah's ark is a story of God's judgment and grace and that's our story.

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (NIV®)