



Date: May 25, 2008

Text: Genesis 7:1-9; 8:15-22; 9:20-26

TITLE: “Genesis VIII: Noah II”

I thought about this and I prayed about this and decided I wanted this week to continue our study of Genesis. Last week we looked at chapter 6 and the story of Noah. This morning we are going to look at chapters 7-9 and finish our look at Noah. I will begin by very briefly reviewing the lesson we saw last week.

First, last week we saw that God created humanity for a purpose. The purpose is to honor, worship and obey the Creator. When that purpose is ignored, God, who is the Creator has the right to destroy the creation. He did so in the flood.

Second, last week we saw that God loves his children. Our text tells us that Noah “walked with God” , that he was righteous, and he obeyed God. God saves His children. God gives His children eternity in His presence.

Third, last week we saw how we become children of God. We choose to live in obedience to the purpose of our creation. We were created to honor, worship and obey God. When we

surrender our lives to God, we live for that purpose and we become children of God.

Truthfully, the lesson I will make this morning reiterates many of these same lessons. They are indeed the central lesson of Noah and the central lesson of the entire Bible. I will share 3 lessons.

Lesson # 1 We are given an invitation to enter into the presence of God. *Genesis 7:1*

states.....

The LORD then said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation.”

In the next chapter, Noah and his family are invited by God to “Come out of the ark.”

There are some wonderful “come” passages in scripture. Let me share them with you.

Matthew 11:28 states.....

28"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Luke 14:17 states....

At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

Rev. 22:17 states...

17The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

The amazing truth is this.... God desires each and every one of His created beings to come into His presence. Look at the promises from these verses. He promises “rest”. He

promises “celebration.” He promises “the water of life.”

I have shared with you a number of times my story of faith. I want to do something a little different this morning. I am going to share with you the faith story of my wife, Kim. This Memorial Day made me think of this. Kim grew up as an Army brat. She was born at Fort Leonard Wood, an Army base and spent her young years at a post in Germany. When Kim was 9 years old, her father was sent to Vietnam. After only a short time in that country he was killed in action. Betty, my mother-in-law did a wonderful job of raising her 3 kids as a single mom. But Kim was painfully shy and insecure as she entered high school. Kim grew up in the church, but the church she attended did not issue invitations to “come” to the Lord. In high school she began attending a youth group. For the first time she was introduced to a loving heavenly Father. For the first time she heard the invitation to “come” to the banquet of the Lord. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior in the summer between her Junior and Senior year at a Christian camp. It radically changed her life. She, once again, had a Father in her life that loved and cared for her. She began to overcome her insecurity because she was loved by the Lord.

She was able to share her faith and be a youth leader in this youth group. That is where I met her. Kim was always a very good student. She is now able to share her amazing knowledge of the Lord with others. The Lord called her to be a pastor's wife... a very challenging call.

The invitation is to "come to the Lord." The invitation is to move from intellectual belief to personal, intimate love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lesson # 2 Notice the priority of worship. *Genesis 8: 15,16,20,21*

15 Then God said to Noah, 16 "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. They all came out of the ark, one kind after another.

20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. 21 The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

After 370 days in the ark Noah was invited by God to disembark. I can imagine that Noah was only too glad to obey this command! Imagine the smell. Imagine how tired the family was of each other. Imagine the exhaustion from the work of caring for the animals. Finally, Noah was invited by God to leave the ark. What did he do immediately after touching dry ground for the first time? He worshiped God. How did he worship God? He offered to God a great

sacrifice. Notice the text. He sacrificed one of all the clean animals and clean birds. He only had 7 of each animal. And he sacrificed one. The entire purpose of the sacrificial system found in the Old Testament was the showing of an absolute commitment to God. REPEAT You gave your best animals. You gave the best fruit of your fields. You showed your absolute commitment to God. We saw in the story of Cain and Abel that God does not accept token surrender and token gifts. Noah was giving his best. Noah was dedicating his life to God and worshiping his Savior. This is what you and I are commanded to do.

Hebrews 10:25 commands....

25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching

1 Chron 16:29 commands.....

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name. Bring an offering and come before him; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

Psalms 27:4 states....

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

This is worship. The giving of ourselves to the Lord. This is worship...giving praise, honor and glory to God. This is worship... stating he is the Creator and we are the created.

Worship must be the 1st priority of our life. Not the “left over” time. Not the obligation time.

Not mere formalism. Not mere habit. Let us worship God in “spirit and truth.”

I need to talk about one final episode in Noah’s life. It is difficult and almost the last episode.

Lesson # 3 Notice the continued sin of humanity. *Genesis 9:20-26*

Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded [a] to plant a vineyard. 21 When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. 22 Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. 23 But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness.

24 When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, 25 he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers." 26 He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem.

This was now many years after the flood. Noah now had many, many grandchildren. The world was being repopulated. Noah and his children and grandchildren had planted many fields of food... including grapes. Noah fermented the grapes and got drunk. This was indeed a great sin. Ham, his youngest son, had already chosen a path away from God. In this case he chose to dishonor his father. The text in Hebrew stresses the fact that he greatly dishonored Noah. He failed to cover him. He went to his brothers and mocked him. As a result of this action his family was condemned.

The point of this lesson is this: Sin continues to prevail in the world. Just as Adam and

Eve chose sin... so did Noah at the re-beginning of humanity. The Pulpit outline states this truth this way...

Noah fell into this tragic sin simply because his heart and mind were not on God. Noah fell into sin because he neglected his prayers and his worship time with the Lord and failed to keep a watchful eye against temptation. The point is this: in the latter years of his life Noah let up and did not guard his spiritual life like he should.

Scripture is amazing. There is only one hero in the Bible... that is God himself. All the other “heroes” of the Bible are seen as great sinners. Moses struggles with anger to the point of murder. David struggles with lust to the point of adultery. Jacob was not a very good father. Peter was hypocritical in his actions against the Gentiles. Paul was very harsh at times. No the only hero in the Bible is God. We continue to struggle with sin. That is true with the children of God. When we come to the Lord, we do not suddenly become sinless. Sins diminish by the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, but we continue to struggle. Praise be to God... He is patient and loving toward His children.

The invitation is to “come.” This must not be a one-time act... it must be a daily act.

Noah began taking his faith for granted and he failed. Noah began to live on the faith of his

youth and he failed. “Come!” Now and every day, “come” into the presence of God. AMEN