



#30 – The Flood

Genesis 7:11-24

PICTURES NEEDED

- 28-3 Adam's line chart
- 30-1 Ark floating in turbulent floodwaters

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) What did God command Noah to do? How did Noah respond to God's commands?
- **The Big Question Review:** What does it take to please God? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Hebrews 11:6 A person must have faith to please God.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

The last lesson ended when Noah and his family entered the ark along with all the animals. This lesson describes what happened in the flood. How old was Noah when the flood occurred? Noah was 600 years old at the time of the flood.

Using the dates given in the genealogy in Genesis, the flood would have occurred 1,656 years after Adam and Eve were created, which was probably about 2,300-2,500 years before the birth of Jesus. **(picture 28-3)**

Before we read and think about what happened in the flood, we should review what we know about the environment of the earth at the time of Noah. What was the earth like when God created it? God had created the earth very good and although sin had corrupted people, the earth itself must have been pretty much the way God had created it.

In the beginning, there was no rain on the earth. Do you remember how the earth was watered? Water came up from the ground and watered the surface. Many creation scientists think that at that time there was a canopy of water vapor surrounding the earth above the atmosphere. That canopy would have protected the earth from the harmful rays of the sun and kept it at a perfect temperature, rather like a greenhouse. Because of that protection and the presence of more oxygen in the atmosphere there would have been an abundance of plant life. Plants and animals would have lived a lot longer and have been bigger and healthier than now.

The mountains at that time were probably more like rolling hills since the Bible doesn't describe any catastrophic events before the Flood.

Genesis 7:11-24 relates the story of what happened in the flood:

¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month--on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹²And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. ¹⁴They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. ¹⁵Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ²⁰The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet. ²¹Every living thing that moved on the earth perished--birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. ²²Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. ²³Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was

left, and those with him in the ark.

²⁴The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

What two things happened to cause the flood? (picture 30-1) The flood occurred when the water under the ground burst forth and the floodgates of heaven were opened. For water to burst out from the ground there must have been massive earthquakes and volcanic activity. That would have caused the ocean floor to have been pushed up and spilled water over the land.

Remember this was not an ordinary flood. The floodgates of heaven opening was no ordinary rain. The vapor canopy above the earth must have condensed causing a torrential rainfall that lasted for forty days and forty nights. There was a huge amount of water.

What happens when floodgates from a dam are opened or a dam bursts? When floodgates are opened water pours forth in a torrent that tears away the ground and takes down and carries away whatever is in its path. What it carries with it is buried under mud as it moves along. The same thing happens in a torrential rain.

How deep was the water during the flood? The Bible says that the flood covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet, about the height of a two-story house. If the earth were a smooth sphere without mountains or basins for the oceans, there is enough water in the oceans to cover the earth with water to a depth of about 8,500 feet, which would be more than 1 ½ miles deep. That is a lot of water and during the flood, that massive amount of water changed the face of the earth.

What do you think the ride in the ark at that time would have been like? The trip on the ark was not an easy ocean cruise. Everything was in turmoil. When God created the earth, it had been an idyllic place to live. In the flood, he was destroying wickedness and the earth was in turmoil. The flood was a catastrophic event.

What does catastrophic mean? Catastrophic means a violent and sudden change. The earth would never again be the same as it was in the beginning. The face of it and much about it was changed, all because people wouldn't submit to the God who created and provided for them.

What is God's response to evil? Evil is contrary to the nature of God and it will be judged by him. God warns people of the consequences of their evil. God is long-suffering but that doesn't mean that he tolerates evil forever. Psalm 37:1-2 says, ¹*Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong;* ²*for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.*

What should we learn from Noah and the flood? We need to remember that God hates evil. Like Noah, we should strive to live rightly with God. Evil people will die away but those who love God will spend eternity with him.

How is it that we can live rightly with God? We are all inclined to do wrong. It is only through coming to believe in Jesus and submitting ourselves to him that our inclination to do wrong can be changed. If we devote ourselves to the one, true, Creator God as Noah did, God will watch over and protect us.

How could the flood have been a good thing for the people who were destroyed by it? Anytime something bad happens to us that we can't control, it can cause us to humble ourselves and seek God. When we turn to God, he accepts us so that we aren't separated from him for all eternity. If in the midst of recognizing they were going to be destroyed the people cried out to God, then the flood would have been a good thing in their lives.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** Where did the water that flooded the earth come from? For how long did it flood? How much water covered the earth? What happened to life on earth?
- **Thought Questions:** Why would a loving God wipe out everything on earth? What can be learned from the flood?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that although he is loving and merciful he is also a just judge. Thank him that although you are guilty of sin and doing evil he has made a way through Jesus to pay the penalty for your sin. Pray that you would want to live rightly and please God and be truly devoted to him.
- **The Big Question: What will happen to evil men?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Psalm 37:1-2** Evil men will die away.

¹Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; ²for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.

Questions: What will happen to evil men? What happens to men who love God?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: When Noah was 600 years old the flood came upon the earth.

1. Water burst up out of the ground and poured down from the sky.
2. It flooded the earth for forty days and nights until all the mountains were covered with 20 feet of water.
3. Everything that wasn't on the ark was washed away and died. Noah, his family and the animals were kept safe.

★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

★ **Activity Page:** What happens to living things?
Instructions: Fill in the crossword puzzle with the word that would fill in the blank.
Complete the Further Understanding section first.

A fossil forms when _____ replace the cells in a dead plant or animal. Minerals

Fossils are found everywhere in the _____. World

Most fossils are found in sedimentary _____. Rock

To become a fossil something must be buried _____ and deeply in very wet soil. Quickly

If a dead animal is buried in a shallow grave it _____. Decomposes

If a dead animal is not buried it will be eaten by other _____. Animals

The most common fossil is that of sea creatures with hard _____. Shells

A _____ provides the conditions necessary for fossils to form. Flood

★ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

Fossil Formation

The Bible says that the flood wiped out all living things on the earth. If that is a true account then one would expect to find evidence of a flood. What evidence would you expect to find? There would be evidence in the fossil record of scores of animals being wiped out. There would be layers of sedimentation laid down which would harden into sedimentary rock.

Note: The discussion below is to encourage the students to think through how fossils are made and why there would be so many fossils in the rock layers. It would be good to go through this before completing the crossword puzzle. The Investigation Activity in the next lesson will deal with sedimentation.

- What is a fossil? A fossil is a part of a plant or animal where the cells have been replaced by minerals from the water that moves through the ground.
- Where are most fossils found? Fossils are found everywhere in the world. Most fossils are found in sedimentary rock. A lot of the time, the fossils are found as a big jumbled pile of bones and sea life.
- What is sedimentary rock? Sedimentary rocks are rocks formed by the accumulation or settling of sediment (particles in water) on the earth's surface. The settled particles undergo cementation, hardening into rock.
- The most common fossil is that of sea creatures with hard shells. How would the flood explain that? As the sea was churned up by the floodgates of the deep opening, sea creatures would have floated in the water and then sunk to the bottom and been covered with mud when the water calmed down.
- How is something fossilized? To become a fossil a dead animal must be buried very quickly and deeply in water-saturated soil right when it dies.
- Under what conditions is something likely to become fossilized? A flood provides the conditions necessary for fossilization. Falling into mineral laden water in a mine could do it too. In fact a miner's hat was once found fossilized in a mine shaft. Under the right conditions fossilization can occur quickly. It doesn't take millions of years.

- What would happen to an animal under the following conditions?
 - It is buried quickly and deeply under sediment when it dies. (It could become a fossil.)
 - It dies on the ground. (Scavengers will likely tear it apart and eat it. What is left will decompose.)
 - It dies in the water. (Sharks and other fish will likely eat it. What is left will sink to the bottom and decompose.)
 - It is buried in a shallow grave. (It will rot and decompose. The bones will remain for a long time.)
- What does the fossil record tell us about the possibility of a worldwide flood?
A massive, worldwide flood would have provided the right conditions for fossilization to occur all over the earth.

JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Digging Deeper: What is the difference between what will happen to the good and wicked?

Reading 1: Psalm 37:1-9 Evil men will die away.

How are evil men like grass? What happens to men who trust in the Lord and do good?

Reading 2: Psalm 37:10-17 The wicked will pierce their own hearts.

What will happen to the wicked? What will God do for the righteous?

Reading 3: Psalm 37:18-24 God upholds the blameless.

What happens to the blameless? What will happen to the wicked?

Reading 4: Psalm 37:25-34 God won't forsake the righteous.

What will God do for the righteous? What will God do to the wicked? How should we respond to God? Why?

Reading 5: Psalm 37:35-40 God brings salvation to the righteous.

What can you be sure of when you see the wicked prosper? What will God do for the righteous? Why?

Reading 6: Psalm 16 Reflecting on the Ark

Reflect what it would have been like for Noah and his family on the ark while it was still raining. Think through some conversations they may have had. The Bible says that Noah walked with God; it doesn't say anything about how his family related to God.