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Recap

- God's regret because of the wickedness which had spread across the world
- But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord
- In every warning of judgment there is also an offer of mercy

The Genealogy of Noah (Genesis 6:9)

9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

- Noah is described as a just man: a *tzaddik*. This means he did what was right by other men, and he also lived a holy life before God.
 - The idea of the *tzaddik* has come to mean someone who has a unusually strong connection to God because of his holiness.
- What is *perfect in his generations*? No one really knows for sure.
 - The word *perfect* there means that he was *spotless, without blemish*. It could mean he had no evil associations or mixture in his bloodline. It could also mean that he and his ancestors had kept themselves pure.
- Noah was righteous, perfect in his generations, and walked with God.
 - First, he had come into a relationship with God in which God declared him righteous, and he had set his heart to obey God.
 - Second, he had a godly heritage, and had learned the ways of God. This is a tremendous blessing which not every believer has.
 - Third, he walked with God. Walking with God carries with it the idea of friendship. I need to have an ongoing and strong relationship with Him.

The Sons of Noah (Genesis 6:10)

10 And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

- Noah was five hundred years old when he started having these sons. Five is the number of grace in the Scripture, and God was showing grace.
 - These are the fathers of the human race. Six persons' DNA has made all of us!
 - The firstborn son was possibly Japheth, but Shem is given the preeminence.
 - In the Bible, the firstborn is typically the leader. There were times, though, when another child was made the principal heir and the head of the family.
 - Several times in Genesis we see a father giving a blessing, a prophetic blessing to his sons as he was dying. This prophecy would override the normal custom.
 - In Genesis 49, dying Jacob prophesies that Judah would be the one to whom his brothers would bow down. This came to pass in David, and in Jesus Christ.
 - The first son, listed in order of preeminence, is **Shem**. Shem is the Hebrew word for name. The bloodline of the Israelite people comes through him.
 - The word *shem* means a name that is honorable and glorious.
 - Perhaps it also is a clue that Shem would be the one to bear the Shem, the Name of God. Noah himself will later refer to Yahweh as the God of Shem.
 - Shem would be the spiritual head of the family, and of the world. His descendants would remain the most free from idolatry.
 - Next is **Ham**. His name is *Cham* in Hebrew, and it carries the idea of “hot,” “burnt,” or “black.” This is a reference to burnt places, not skin color.
 - Egypt is sometimes referred to in the Bible as the land of Ham.
 - After the Flood, in Chapter 10, the Table of Nations, will spell out for us the listing of the descendants.
 - Finally, we have **Japheth**. The Hebrew word *yepheth* means “open,” in the sense of extending widely. This was an early indication that the people who came from Japheth would be explorers and spread widely all around the world.
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- All mankind comes from these three divisions, and in Genesis 10 we find 70 nations of the Gentiles that come from them.
- At Babel, in Chapter 11, God imposed diversity upon us by separating gene pools, and forcing a level of inbreeding upon us.

The Earth Filled With Violence (Genesis 6:11-13)

11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13 And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

- All flesh had corrupted itself, meaning that they were behaving wickedly. When God saw this, as He looked upon the Earth, He said, "This is the end for them."

The Charge To Build An Ark (Genesis 6:14-16)

14 Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. 15 And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 16 You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.

- No one knows what this wood is. The word *gopher* was simply brought over into our English Bibles.
- God seems to love a play on words, and there is a rhyme here with the name of the pitch. Pitch is tar, and it was smeared over the wood to waterproof it. In Hebrew, it is *kopher*. Wood and pitch would rhyme: *gopher v' kopher*.
- Pitch also means a covering or an atonement. It means to make an atonement for sin. Pitch means the price of a ransom, or the red henna used to make dye.

- There's a powerful picture here for us of Jesus Christ and His atonement: the wood, the atonement, and the refuge from judgment!

Measurement

- What is a cubit? Both longer and shorter measurements were connected to our understanding of the relationship between our bodies and the world around us. A cubit was the distance from your elbow to the end of your fingertips. A typical cubit was 18 inches long and so we have a ship that is 450 long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. The Ark was about the size of a small aircraft carrier.

Window?

- There is a window-like opening cut into the boat, a cubit below the top of the ship, but the Hebrew here for *window* here is a word that only appears here and is not the regular word for a window. Probably a skylight or series of windows.
- Rounding out the features we have a large door in the side and two decks above the bottom floor. Obviously we are only given the bare details here so that we will know this craft was enormous.
- The full plan for the Ark was likely delivered supernaturally to Noah.

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