



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

Come in where it is safe!

Genesis 7:1-24

Message #8 of 50 – S905

Sermon given on July 26, 2020

@ Hawk Ranch, Murrieta, CA



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Come in where it is safe!

Genesis 7:1-24

Opening Comments

- Good morning – turn to **Genesis 7**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- It's not safe out there!
- At least that is what we are being told by the media
- Don't go outside – or you will catch coronavirus and die!
- If you go outside – stay at least six feet away from other people – or you will catch coronavirus and die!
- If you do have to be around people – wear a mask – or you will catch coronavirus and die!
- Wash your hands – or you will catch coronavirus and die!
- We need a vaccination – or you will catch coronavirus and die!
- If you vote for Trump – you will catch coronavirus and die!
- Is there a chance you can catch coronavirus? – yes, or course – it's a flu virus – people catch those all the time
- Is there a chance that you can die from coronavirus? – yes, it's a really small chance, but it is possible – people have been dying from the flu for a long time
- Most of us know people who have gotten the virus and didn't die – thank God!
- Is it safe out there? No! The last place where anyone was safe in this world was in the Garden of Eden
- When Adam and Eve fell into sin and they were kicked out of the Garden, the world stopped being a safe place
- In Genesis 4 – Cain murders his brother Abel
- In Genesis 5 – though people live a long time – they died, disease, decay, maybe even the flu
- It is not safe out there! But that shouldn't keep us from living the lives that God calls us to live **2 Timothy 1:7**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

- As we walk with God, we do so in the power of God, the Holy Spirit

- Our primary motivation is love for God and for others
- And we do it with the wisdom of God’s Word and the leading of His Spirit in the name of His Son in community with His people
- Don’t be reckless, use wisdom – but let’s not be afraid
- It’s not safe out there, but the biggest danger this world faces is not from a virus they might catch, but from something everyone already already has
- Most of you here, and probably most of you watching online have been inoculated from this danger
- In our text for today, most of the world is oblivious to the danger they are in
- We should see parallels between then and now
- Should comfort those who are safe – should warn those who are not
- Let’s pray and ask the Spirit to comfort our hearts this morning
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Come in where it is safe!**

- In the last chapter, God looked over the world and diagnosed a fatal disease **Genesis 6:11-12**

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

- God’s response to this observation was to proclaim judgment upon the whole world
- That might sound harsh to us but God always does what is right!
- Not all the world was lost **Genesis 6:8-9**

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

- God told Noah to build a big boat
- Noah spent the next 100 years of his life in faith and obedience
- As a witness to the world that he believed God was going to do what He said – and that salvation was possible for all who would believe
- And then Noah finished the work

- **Genesis 7:1**

- ‘Come into...’ – this is an invitation given in the form of an imperative - a command

- In about a week, God was going to do what He had said He was going to do 100 years earlier
- It wasn't going to be safe outside the ark
- To be saved, they had to 'come into' where it would be safe
- Paul and Silas used a similar form of language with the Philippian jailer **Acts 16:31**

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

- 'Believe' is in the imperative – it is a command – cannot be saved without believing, without faith
- God gives more instruction to Noah
- **Genesis 7:2-3**
- This is the first description of clean or unclean animals
- 'clean animals' were for the purpose of worshipping God and eating
- 'unclean animals' were for filling the earth with life
- **Genesis 7:4**
- The ark is finished, and this is the last call
- **Genesis 7:5-7**
- For 100 years Noah did everything God told him to do
- With nothing more than his faith, Noah spent 100 years building an enormous boat
- All he had was God's word – His command to do it
- He was building a boat to save his family and a whole bunch of animals
- **Genesis 7:8-9**
- Two-by-two, a male and a female of every species came because God told them to
- One of the things I try to do is imagine the scene that is described in Scripture
- From all around the area animals started moving toward the ark
- Imagine as this parade walked through the villages around where the ark was
- Didn't anyone pause and wonder about what was going on?
- Did anyone follow this parade of animals to see where it was going?

- Or were they totally oblivious to the judgment that was about to come crashing down upon them
- One of the things that we like to do in this church is look at world events in like of biblical prophecy
- God tells His people what is coming in the future so that they can be prepared
- Jesus disciples asked Him about that **Matthew 24:3**

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

- And then chapter 24 and 25 describe the signs to be watching for and warnings about being prepared
- Most of the world around is living just in the same ways they were as the animals paraded by to the ark **Matthew 24:37-39**

But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

- If you walk with God, in faith-filled obedience – you will do so through a world that is unprepared for Christ’s soon coming
- And sadly, they have no interest in getting prepared
- And they may watch you walk by on your way with Jesus and not give you a second glance
- **Genesis 7:10-12**
- In the days of Noah the earth was different than it is today **Genesis 1:6-7**

Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament; and it was so.

- The ‘firmament’ is the sky
- There was water below the sky – that’s the part we are accustomed to
- And there was water above the sky – much denser than the clouds that regularly are present in our sky
- When the flood began, water came from the ground and from the sky
- ‘fountains of the great deep were broken up’ – great underground reservoirs and rivers

- ‘broken up’ = To come open suddenly and violently, as if from internal pressure.
 - The rain would be unlike anything anyone has ever seen
 - Typically, we measure rainfall in inches
 - There is an island in the South Pacific – La Reunion – on January 7 – 8 received almost 6 feet of rain – hard to imagine
 - In the flood, it would be hundreds of feet per day
 - Coastal areas would flood and push water inland like a mountain sized tsunami
 - Water from higher elevations would create flash floods that would wipe out everything in their path
 - Pastor Randy and Debbie have witnessed the destruction of a tsunami
 - But the horror of that would be nothing compared to what the Flood would have been like – no way to escape
 - As all that begins, we are reminded that God’s grace is functioning, even in the midst of terrible judgment
 - **Genesis 7:13-16**
 - It was not safe outside the ark – and so God closed them in
 - As an act of His sovereign authority, God closed the door
 - This kept Noah, his family and the animals safe
 - But it also was a picture of the end of grace for those who did not believe
 - Isaiah tells us that we cannot ignore God’s invitation forever **Isaiah 55:6-7**
- Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.**
- The people of Noah’s time had at least 100 years to respond to God’s invitation and escape the judgment
 - Now it was too late
 - God used a flood to cleanse the world of wickedness and sin
 - He is preparing to cleanse the world again because it is as wicked and sinful today as it was in the days of Noah
 - He has been warning the world for about two thousand years

- A day will come when Jesus will come and take His church, His people to safety and then the world will become a very unsafe place as God pours out His wrath on a wicked, God-hating, Christ-rejecting world
- I rejoice that God will shut us in the safety of His Son
- But I grieve over those who must endure God's wrath
- As Noah and his family were safely shut into the ark – it was horror outside
- **Genesis 7:17-24**
- There are some who suggest this was a regional flood
- First, geographically, that is not possible
- Second, there is scientific evidence of the flood all over the planet
- Third, virtually every culture on earth has an ancient flood account in their history
- And most importantly, the Bible says it was global – ‘all the earth’
- As God poured out His righteous judgment upon the earth, Noah and his family were safe inside the ark – it was not safe outside
- God will pour His righteous wrath out on this earth again
- But if you are in Christ – if you, by faith, have received Him as your Lord and Savior, you are saved from that judgment – you are safe in the arms of your Savior Jesus - rejoice
- But, if not, then there is no protection, no escape, no mercy
- The only hope anyone has of escaping is to be safe in Christ through faith in His sacrifice for our sins
- Brothers and sisters, if you are in Christ, you are safe
- But what about the people around you? How do we help them to safety?
- We can't make them come – it is a choice every individual must make on their own
- But we can be living invitations – three quick things
- First – **Walk with God** – align your life with His – like Noah did
- Second – **Do as God commands** – Noah did what God said even when it was hard to do
- Third – **Love God and love them** – The more we love God, the more we should love other people

- And the more we love them, the more likely we will be to warn them of the danger that is coming and the hope we have in the safety of Jesus
- It is not safe out there, but the danger that most of the world is focused on is not the real danger
- Let's walk fearlessly with our God out in this world and be beacons of hope in the darkness
- **Pray!**