

“Standing Alone” – Reflections Questions
May 17, 2009
Genesis 6:1-22, Unlocking the Old Testament

One of the most well loved stories in the Old Testament is the story of Noah’s ark. It is in every Children’s Bible and sometimes even makes it onto the cover. The office manager at the church where I grew up collected Noah’s ark pictures and toys. But for being so popular, it is really a difficult story. God sees that the hearts and desires of humanity is continually evil, and God wipes all but 8 people and 2 of every animal off of the face of the earth.

In the morning message as well as this study, I hope to have us look at the story of Noah’s ark from a different perspective and see how the story is very applicable to our life and worldly circumstance.

Read Genesis 6:1-22

1. When we look back on our national and world history we can see some bright days that we can be very proud as well as some dark spots in human history.

a. What do you think are our proudest moments as Americans (or as the human race in general)?

b. What do you think are our most shameful moments as Americans (or as a human race)?

c. Where does our current culture fit into the scale of proudest to shameful?

2. The reason for question 1 is that sometimes people think humanity has never been as bad as it is now. But in Genesis 6 we see that humanity was as bad, if not worse, back then as it is now. What do you notice about how bad the human race was in Genesis 6 and how does that compare to today?

3. Genesis 6:6-7 says something peculiar about God. God was “sorry” that he made humanity.

a. Did God look back and think he had made a mistake and would have done things differently if he had a “do over”?

b. How are we to understand God being sorry? How does this understanding affect our overall view of God?

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- c. What other emotions does God exhibit in this passage?

4. I said in the message that some of the things that God did seemed like punishment but were actually very gracious.
 - a. For example, how would limiting the human life span to 120 years be considered an act of grace? (verse 3)
 - b. How could even God’s delivery of the flood be considered an act of grace?
 - c. Read 1 Peter 3:18-20. How else did God exhibit grace in the time of Noah? How does that grace relate to Christ’s graciousness?

5. Noah is one of the heroes of the faith.
 - a. What do you notice about Noah’s character in this passage?
 - b. Imagine how hard it would have been for Noah to fulfill the call of God in the midst of a world that was “continuously evil”.
 - c. Read 2 Peter 2:4-10. What do you notice about the character of Noah and the character of God?

6. Noah exhibited radical faithfulness.
 - a. In what ways (general or specific) do **we** as Christians need to live in radical faithfulness?
 - b. In what ways (general or specific) do **you** need to live in radical faithfulness?

7. What other things from your reflection on the passage and/or the message did you find helpful, challenging, inspiring, confusing or troubling?