

## Explain the Messianic Hope. 2: The Flood.

(Gen 6:7ff) There are many lessons from the flood; we can only highlight a few.

- *It shows the consequences of sin* - the whole earth was destroyed; millions of people, animals and the whole natural order was catastrophically condemned because of sin. This is a serious lesson which Peter continued to remind saints of (2 Pt 2:5). Sin contaminated and ruined a world.
- *It shows God's anger and hatred of sin*; God's attributes of justice, wrath, holiness and vengeance must also be taken into account when talking about his mercy, grace and love. There was no universal divine love for those condemned in the flood!
- *It shows God's mercy and deliverance for his elect*, which at this time comprised a family of only eight people. [Note that eight is the number of resurrection and this family restored the earth's population.] This also introduces us to the concept of an elect remnant out of a condemned world.
- *It introduces us to the idea of covenant*, first mentioned here (Gen 6:18). The covenant was the means God used to establish friendship with man. This covenant was chiefly a covenant with nature, containing the promise not to destroy the earth again by water (Gen 9:9-17).
- *It teaches us about Christ's work* in the symbolism of the ark (the elect were inside and protected). Gen 6:14: the pitch (*kopher*) that kept the waters of divine judgment out is the same Hebrew root word as 'atonement' (*kaphar*) and can also mean 'ransom'. *Kaphar* is used for 'Cover' and 'atonement' (to cover, purge or propitiate sin).
- *The ark is all about divine grace*. The symbolism of the dimensions speak of God (3), divine fulness (10) and grace (5). Thus the length is 300 cubits (3x10x10): divine fulness, which speaks of the elect, the fulness of God's people who represent him. The width is 50 cubits (5x10) indicating that grace is the breadth of salvation. The height was 30 cubits (3x10) revealing the stature of divinity. Gopher wood is an unknown type, which speaks of Christ being not of this earth but divine. The raging waters picture God's judgment, which fell upon the ark and not the people inside.
- *The salvation of Noah's family was not primarily from God's wrath* (they were already justified by faith and found grace, Gen 6:8-9) but from the sin of the world outside; the water saved them (1 Pt 3:20).

The fulness in the flood story cannot be developed further here, but repays careful study. It teaches much, in symbolic form especially, about man's situation, judgment on sin, salvation in Christ and the safety of the elect remnant through grace. It is a key signpost in the development of the Messianic and Gospel hope.

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