

Origins #4  
Noah and the Flood  
February 4, 2024

- **What are some of the challenges a modern audience has with the story of Noah and the flood?**

**We hear the Bible differently and beautifully when it is read in a community of people. As a group, read Genesis 6:9-22.**

- **What are some observations you noticed from the text?**
- **What was something from the message that you want to remember?**

#### **Genesis 1:1-2**

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

#### **Genesis 1:28**

"God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it...'"

#### **Genesis 1:31**

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good..."

#### **Genesis 6:12**

"God looked on the earth and saw how debased and degenerate it was, for all humanity had corrupted their way on the earth and lost their true direction."

- **Through this Origins series thus far, what have you learned about the nature of God, the nature of humankind, and how the two relate?**

We are looking at the story of Noah and the flood with these questions guiding our way:

- What does this teach us about **people**?
- What does this teach us about **God**?
- What does this mean for **how we live** today?
- **Did it surprise you to hear that there are many ancient flood stories? Did this change how you viewed this story?**

When we read Genesis through a cultural lens, we can better understand how Israel understood God to be the one that was causing this flood. But the flood story wasn't written with this as a main point. The main point isn't that God was angry and destroyed people because of their sins. This also does not line up with the overarching story of the Bible. God is not distant and forgetful of Noah. We read that God was the One who shut Noah into the ark, showing God's protective caring nature.

- **Do you see the pattern in the stories? What does this tell you about people?**

#### **Genesis 8:1**

"But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded."

#### **Genesis 9:1**

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth."

- **How do you interpret God's mixed feelings of grief and mercy? What does this teach us about God?**

#### **Revelation 21:1-5**

"Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new...'" (Revelation 21:1-5)

- **Noah trusted God. You do not obey whom you do not trust. How can Noah's obedience to God inspire us?**
- **What does this mean for how we live today?**
- **How are we designed to reflect God's new creation?**

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#### **PRAY FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR GROUP**

How does this message lead you to pray?

#### **PRAY FOR OUR OUTREACH PARTNERS**

Pray for FCCHB's food pantry guests. On Sunday, January 28, we had over 100 cars come through our pantry signifying the need that exists in our community. Pray for our friends and

neighbors who are hurting financially and ask God for favor as nonprofits and faith groups work to share resources to help people with needs in Huntington Beach.