

Week 3 – Catastrophe

(Genesis 6:5-8)

In the last two weeks we have talked about two monumental events for all of history. We talked first about how God **created** everything out of nothing in the beginning. Then we talked about the how the **corruption** of sin ruined our relationship with God. People were no longer perfect after Adam and Eve sinned, and never would be again. Every person that was born after that event is inherently selfish and worshipping themselves rather than God.

When Adam and Eve sinned, it did not just affect them. The corruption that came through sin spread to all of their children and everyone that was ever born. As time moved on, the Bible describes people in Genesis 6:5 when it says, “The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was very great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Things were really bad, but it is also similar to how we are today. We all have the corruption of sin and naturally act in rebellion and disobedience to God. We all have evil thoughts in our heart that try to direct us in what to do.

But that brings us to our big event today: the **Catastrophe**. Back in Genesis 6, the Bible says that God decided to do something about the wickedness on the earth. In verse 7 it says, “So the LORD said, ‘I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.’”

God had created man to have a relationship with Him, but sin had caused man to go the opposite way and be an enemy of God. The **Catastrophe** would bring incredible destruction and change to the world. It would be God’s judgment of the sin that had taken over His creation. But God chose one family out of all the people on the earth to have a relationship with and start over.

He gave instructions to a man named Noah about how to build a really big boat called an ark and how to bring animals of every kind into the boat to save them and Noah’s family from a flood that would cover the whole earth and wipe out every living thing.

Noah built the ark and brought his family and all the animals onto the ark and God brought water from above and water from below in a worldwide flood so that there was no dry land or any way other than the ark to escape from God’s judgment of the sin. God showed how much He despises sin. He showed how serious sin is and why it needs to be punished.

After a year of being on the ark, the flood subsided and Noah and his family and all of the animals came out on dry land. God had protected them from the storm and made a covenant with Noah. God gave the sign of a rainbow for His promise that “the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh” (Gen 9:15).

God confirmed His desire to have a relationship with man when He saved Noah from the flood and made a covenant with him. Noah wasn’t perfect and neither are we. The corruption of sin is in us, but God still wants us to have a relationship with Him.

Discussion Questions:

- What is a Catastrophe?
- What was the Catastrophe that changed the world in Genesis 6-8?

- Why did God make a flood come over all the earth to kill every living thing outside the ark?