

Lessons from Genesis-part four

Noah and the Flood

The account of Noah and the flood is a revelation of the work of Jesus Christ in bringing mankind into the Kingdom of God. This process requires that the flesh be destroyed, “Because the carnal [4561, *fleshly*] mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject [5293, *obedient, submissive*] to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Romans 8:7, 8).

In order to have a relationship with the Eternal, the mind of man must undergo a complete renovation. “And be not conformed [4964, *to fashion in accordance with*] **to this world:** but be you transformed [3339, *metamorphosis, to change into another form*] by the renewing [342, *a complete renovation*] of your mind, **that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God**” (Romans 12:2).

The renovation of the mind is accomplished through the Spirit of God. “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty, but we all with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord are changed [3339, *to change into another form*] **into the same image** as by the Lord the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:17, 18).

Man cannot understand the truth of the Kingdom of God unless it is revealed to him from heaven through the Spirit of God. “But as it is written, Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him. But God has revealed them to us **by His Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God**” (1 Corinthians 2:9, 10).

Jesus said, “...Except a man be born again [509, *from above*] he cannot see [1492, *to perceive, discover, discern*] the Kingdom of God” (John 3:3). The birth that is from above is the creation of a new generation of man that has the Spirit of God residing within him.

In order to receive the Spirit of God, the sinful flesh must be destroyed through repentance and baptism. “...Repent, and be **baptized** [*water*]...in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the **Holy Spirit**” (Acts 2:38).

The flood was a type of baptism, “...wherein...**eight** souls were saved [1295, *to reach a place or state of safety*] **by water**. The like figure [499, *counterpart, antitype*] whereunto even **baptism** does also now save [4982, *rescue, to preserve safe and unharmed*] us...” (1 Peter 3:20, 21).

Jesus said, “...Except a man be born of **water and of the Spirit**, he **cannot** enter into the Kingdom of God” (John 3:5). The account of the flood is about the salvation of mankind through the destruction of the flesh, and the renovation of the mind of man through the Spirit of God. The number eight means a new beginning for man, which comes about through a spiritual birth.

The Wages of Sin

“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually**. And it repented the LORD that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart. And the LORD said, **I will destroy man** whom I have created from the face of the earth” (Genesis 6:5-7). So God destroyed “All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died” (Genesis 7:22).

They died because of sin. The Biblical definition of sin is breaking God's law, for "Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: **for sin is the transgression of the law** [458, *lawlessness, violation of law*]" (1 John 3:4). Every human being is subject to death, because "**All have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), and "...the wages of sin is **death**; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

In order to have eternal life, the old man must die and a new man must be created. The destruction of mankind in the flood symbolized the death of "...the old man with his deeds" (Colossians 3:9). God "...spared not the old world, but saved Noah the **eighth** person, a preacher of righteousness, **bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly**" (2 Peter 2:5). The number eight represents a new beginning through "Noah the eighth person," who is a type of Christ.

What Does the Water Symbolize?

"...The waters...where the whore sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations and tongues" (Revelation 17:15). The "...great whore that sits on many waters: with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication" is the false religious/political system called "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth" (vv. 1, 2, 5). Through this system they have "...changed the truth of God into a lie, **and worshiped and served the creation** rather than the Creator..." (Romans 1:25).

The seas symbolize all of the people of the earth who are deceived. Sea water is a good representation of mankind, because the seas are the cesspools of the earth. You cannot drink seawater because it will kill you. You cannot irrigate crops with it because it will kill the plants. The natural mind of man, like the seas, is toxic to man. Man's own mind is his greatest enemy.

"The heart is deceitful [6121, *a hill as that which retards and holds back those who go up*] above all things, and desperately wicked [605, *sick, malignant*]: who can know it? I the LORD search [2713, *investigate, explore*] the heart, I try the reins [3629, *the inmost mind*], to give to every man **according to his ways**, and **according to the fruit of his doings**" (Jeremiah 17:9, 10). It is man's own mind that retards him from going upward, and having a relationship with the Creator.

The water that evaporates from the sea and goes heavenward is pure water that is completely free of contaminants. This represents those who are baptized and come up out of the water completely free from all of their past sins. The purified water returns to the earth in the form of rain and snow and produces fruit.

"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not there, but **waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater**: so shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth: **it shall not return to Me void**, but it shall accomplish that which I please, **and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it**" (Isaiah 55:10, 11).

Those who choose to remain in the seas, "...the fearful, and unbelievers, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is **the second death**" (v. 8). That is why there will be "**...no more sea**" in the Kingdom of God (Revelation 21:1).

Jesus said, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: which when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and **gathered**

the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the world...the wicked shall be severed from among the just, and...cast into the furnace of fire..." (Matthew 13:47-50). Only those who have been purified, i.e. those who have come out of the sea will have eternal life.

The New Generation

"Noah was a just [6662, *righteous*] man and perfect [8549, *complete, whole, blameless*] in his generations, and **Noah walked with God**. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth" (Genesis 6:9:10). There are seventy descendants of the sons of Noah listed in Genesis 10. "These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations [1471, *people*] divided in the earth after the flood" (Genesis 10:32). The number **seventy** represents all of the people of the earth.

The number seventy can be broken down to 7 x 10, which means sanctification (7) by the Word (10). "...Christ also loved the [*congregation*], and gave Himself for it: that He might **sanctify** [*seven*] and cleanse it with the washing of water by the **word** [*ten*]" (Ephesians 5:25, 26). Christ gave Himself for the entire world, "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him **might be saved** [4982, *to preserve safe and unharmed, to rescue*]" (John 3:17).

This is verified by Daniel's seventy weeks prophesy. "**Seventy weeks** are determined...to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness..." (Daniel 9:24). Daniel's prophesy is about the sanctification (7) of all of the people of the earth (70).

When Peter asked Jesus, "...[H]ow oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Jesus said to him, I say not until seven times seven; but until **seventy times seven**" (Matthew 18:21, 22). Seventy times seven is the same as seventy weeks. Thus seventy times seven is the sanctification of all people. Jesus also said, "**Sanctify** [*seven*] them through Your truth: Your **word** [*ten*] is truth" (John 17:17).

The new generation is brought forth through the Word of God. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of **incorruptible by the Word of God**, which lives and abides forever" (1 Peter 1:23). Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1); therefore the new generation is brought forth through the incorruptible seed of Jesus Christ. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creation: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new**. And all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ..." (2 Corinthians 5:17, 18).

The seventy descendants of Noah were a physical type of the spiritual generation that is being produced through the Messiah. Members of the new generation must put the flesh to death if they are to inherit eternal life. That process is to "...**Repent** [3340, *to undergo a change of mind, to reform*] and be **baptized**...in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission [859, *forgiveness, pardon*] of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the **Holy Spirit**" (Acts 2:38).

Repent

Repentance means to turn from your own ways. The Eternal God says, "...I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked **turn from his way and live: turn you, turn you from your wicked ways; for why will you die...?**" (Ezekiel 33:11).

The way of man and the way of God are 180° out of phase with one another. "Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call you upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake

[5800, *to leave off, cease, abandon*] **his way**, and the unrighteous man **his thoughts**: and let him return [7725, *turn about*] to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways...for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:6-9).

When we repent, “...our old man is **crucified with Him**, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin, for **he that is dead is freed from sin**” (Romans 6:6, 7). Repentance represents the death of our old man.

When we repent and ask forgiveness for our sins, then our sins are covered by the blood of “...Christ our Passover [*who*] is sacrificed for us” (1 Corinthians 5:7). At Passover the people were to take the blood of the Passover sacrifice “...and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper **door post** of the houses, wherein they shall eat it” (Exodus 12:7). That bloodied door protected the Israelites from death. “And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where you are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12:13).

Jesus said, “**I am the door**: by Me if any man enter in **he shall be saved...**” (John 10:9). On the afternoon of the fourteenth day of the first month (Abib)¹, and after Jesus was dead, “...one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came **blood and water**” (John 19:34). Jesus is the bloodied door through whom we must enter if we are to be forgiven of our sins. When we repent, then we “...have redemption through [*Jesus*] **blood**, even the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:14).

And Be Baptized

The water that came forth out of Jesus’ side represents baptism. “Know you not, that so many of us as **were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?** Therefore we are **buried** with Him by baptism **into death...**” (Romans 6:3, 4). Baptism represents the burial of the old man of the flesh.

After Israel began its exodus from Egypt, the Egyptians, who symbolize the old man, pursued after them, “and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD....And Moses said to the people, Fear you not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD...for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you shall see them no more forever” (Exodus 14:10, 13). When you repent and are baptized, all of your past sins are gone forever.

God parted the Sea of Reeds, “And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground...” (Exodus 14:22). The “...Egyptians pursued...after them to the midst of the sea....and the sea returned to its strength when the morning appeared...and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea” (vv. 23, 27). The crossing of the sea was a type of baptism (1 Corinthians 10:1, 2).

The parting of, and the returning of the sea to its former state, were like the opening and closing of a door. Jesus is “...He that has the key of David, He that opens, and no man shuts, and shuts, and no man opens” (Revelation 3:7).

Coming up out of the sea was a type of resurrection from the dead, “...that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should **walk in newness of**

¹ The Hebrew month of Abib is in the springtime, i.e. March/April.

life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection”(Romans 6:3-5).

God’s people are a spiritual temple. When the temple is cleansed, then god will dwell in His people. “...[F]or you are the temple of the living God; and as God has said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (2 Corinthians 6:16). God dwells in His people through His Spirit.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

After leaving the Sea of Reeds, the people of Israel traveled to Mount Sinai, “...and they stood at the base part of the mount” (Exodus 19:7). The base of the mountain is the entrance, i.e. it corresponds to a door. Mount Sinai is a type of “...the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...” (Hebrews 12:22). Jesus is the door, i.e. the entrance into the holy city.

And God spoke all these words, saying...” (Exodus 19:17; 20:1). This was the giving of the Covenant to the children of Israel. The Covenant was given on the Feast of Weeks, which is the same as Pentecost in the New Testament.

“And when the Day of Pentecost was fully come, [*Jesus’ disciples*] were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all of the house...And there appeared to them cloven tongues like as fire, and it sat on each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...” (Acts 2:1-4).

Thus the promise of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost. God had said, “This is the covenant that I will make with them...I will put **My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them...**” (Hebrews 10:16).

God’s Holy Spirit is necessary to be able to keep the law. “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the **flesh**, God sending His Son in the likeness of **sinful flesh**, by a sacrifice for **sin**, condemned **sin** in the **flesh**: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, **who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**. For they that are after the **flesh**, do mind the things of the **flesh**; but they that are after the **Spirit** the things of the **Spirit**. For to be carnally minded is **death**; but to be spiritually minded is **life and peace**” (Romans 8:3-6).

The Covenant was given on Shavuot/Pentecost, which is the fiftieth day after Passover, which ties the covenant directly to Passover. “For where a testament is, there must also be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator lives....And almost all things are by the law purged [2511, *cleansed, purified from sin*] with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission [859, *forgiveness, pardon*]” (Hebrews 9:16, 17, 22).

Therefore, “...if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, **there remains no more sacrifice for sins**, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries....who has trodden underfoot the Son of God, and has counted the **blood of the Covenant wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing, and has done despite to the Spirit of grace**” (Hebrews 10:26, 27, 29).

Walking by Faith

Noah was not destroyed in the flood because “...Noah walked with God” (Genesis 6:9). Noah was a man of great faith who obeyed God. “**By faith Noah**, being warned of God of things **not seen as yet**, moved with fear, prepared [2680, *to build, construct, form*] an ark [2787, *a*

coffer, or chest for valuables] to the saving of **his house**; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness **which is by faith**" (Hebrews 11:7).

True "...faith is the substance [5287, *that which has foundation, is firm, that which has actual existence*] of things hoped for, the evidence [1650, *proof*] of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is trusting in something that you have actual evidence for, and have proven to be true. Faith is not just some sort of good feeling that is based on nothing.

Walking in newness of life requires us to walk by faith. "For we **walk by faith, not by sight**" (2 Corinthians 5:7). What does God require of you "...but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to **walk humbly with your God?**" (Micah 6:8). A humble person is a teachable person. Thus "...says the LORD: but to this man will I look, to him that is poor [6041, *afflicted, meek, humble*] and of a contrite spirit, **and trembles at My word**" (Isaiah 66:1).

Faith is not static, but it is revealed by your works. "Yea, a man may say, You have faith, and I have works: show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith **by my works**. You believe that there is one God; you do well: the devils believe, and tremble. But will you know, O vain [2756, *empty, having nothing, fruitless, false, void of effect*] man, **that faith without works is dead?**" (James 2:18-20).

However, not just any works that a man may deem to be "good works" are acceptable to God. "There is a way which **seems right to a man**, but the end thereof are **the ways of death**" (Proverbs 14:12). Many "Christians" attempt to earn their salvation by **their "good works,"** while breaking God's law with impunity. This route leads to death.

Jesus warned that, "Not everyone that says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but he that does the will of My Father who is in heaven**. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess to them, I never knew you: depart from Me, you **that work** [2038, *to perform, commit, be engaged in*] **iniquity** [458, *violation of law, wickedness*]" (Matthew 7:22, 23).

God says, "Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you know not; and **come and stand before Me** in this house, which is called by My name, and say, **We are delivered to do all these abominations?**" (Jeremiah 7:9, 10).

It is not enough to say that you believe in Jesus. The proof of your commitment is whether you are willing to obey His Word. Jesus said, "...whosoever hears these sayings [3056, *words, discourse, message*] of Mine, and **does** [4160, *to make, construct, prepare, establish*] **them**, I will liken him to a **wise man**, which built [3618, *to build a house, construct, establish*] his house upon a **rock**" (Matthew 7:24).

Likewise, "You also, as living stones, are built [3618] up a **spiritual house...**" (v.5). Our spiritual house must be built upon a sound foundation, which foundation is Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God (John 1:1). However, Jesus is "...a **stone** of stumbling, and a **rock** of offense, to them which **stumble at the word, being disobedient...**" (v. 8).

Noah's faith was a combination of hearing—"So then **faith** comes by hearing, and hearing by **the Word of God**" (Romans 10:17)—and doing, because "...**faith without works is dead**" (James 2:20). Walking with God requires faith, for "...the just [1342, *righteous*] shall **live by faith**: but if any man draw back [5288, *to withdraw, shrink back, recoil, suppress*], My soul shall have no pleasure in him" (Hebrews 10:38).

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