



**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

God designs what we go through; we decide how we go through it

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

Some through the waters, some through the flood, Some through the fire, but all through the blood, Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song, In the night season and all the day long. —Young

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

(John 16:33 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Jan 7, 1999)

New Series: Beginnings

UNIT: Cataclysm and a New Beginning

NEXT WEEK

Thanksgiving and a Promise

(Gen 8:15-22)

The Great Flood Genesis 7:11-24

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews the devastation that came upon the earth from **The Great Flood** during Noah's time. The **study's aim** is to remember that what God tells us will always come to pass. The **study's application** is to know that when God shows us something that is coming, we had better listen to Him or face the consequences of being unprepared.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

There was no possible way of salvaging it. No matter how much glue I used, my cup could not be put back together. The shattered pieces were in too many fragments. All I could do was sweep it up, put it into a bag, and throw it into the trash. The ceramic piece was something I had painted. The paint job was terribly splotchy. For years, it had stood on top of my dresser. When it came crashing to the floor, though, I was dismayed. It was just a ceramic cup, but it was something special to me. I knew the cup was irretrievably lost. My dismay that day was real. I recognize, though, that it was no doubt only a fraction of the dismay God felt as He flooded the earth. From His throne God watched its inhabitants perish as earth's surface was swallowed up in the downpour. He heard the cries as people and animals vainly sought to be spared. The world and its inhabitants were beyond repair. It was time to start fresh. This could not have been easy for God. He had lovingly molded the earth, paying attention to every detail. Now His beautiful creation was a soggy mess. Watching His creation being reduced to ruins must have been heartrending for God. There was hope, though. Deep inside the ark, life still stirred. Riding on the waves was the seed for God's renewed world. The ark's precious cargo carried the seed for earth's renewal. To protect the good that God intended, He destroyed the bad. When Noah walked out of that ark, it would be into a purified land. It would be a fresh start. There are times when we think that our world is being torn apart. Turmoil swirls around us in our communities and in our nations. Perhaps the world has already fallen apart in some respects. There is one thing we need to remember, though. God always preserves a seed of hope and renewal for each believer. Psalm 91 tells us that "a thousand shall fall at [our] side,... but it shall not come nigh [us]" (vs.7). We may not always see the reason for the flood times in our lives. We may think that God is inattentive to our cries. In fact, what He is doing may well be an act of cleansing, helping us to shed something that hinders us in our walk with Him. We cannot always discern the things in our lives that are causing destruction. There are times when we choose not to see. That is often when our loving Father allows the rains to fall. While we may hope to be like King David and yearn for purification (Ps. 51:7), we still may be tempted to complain. Instead, we need to accept the cleansing with the understanding that God will preserve what is truly important in our lives. Are you seeking God's cleansing today? Is there an area of your life that you know needs it, but you are hesitant to ask for God's power to deal with it? Do not fear. Call out to God today, for He loves you and seeks only to sanctify you. You can trust Him to preserve you and to cleanse you of all unrighteousness (I John 1:9). When cleansing comes, welcome it. It is always followed with God's freshness.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Coming of the Flood (Gen 7:11-17)

The timing (11-12)

- God's timing is different because of His superior ways and authority (Isa 55:8-9)
- God's timing is different because He is not limited by time (2 Pet 3:8)
- There is a time for everything, but all of it is up to God (Eccl 3:1)
- God does things when the time has fully come (Gal 4:4)
- It is not for man to know God's timing (Acts 1:7)
- Timing that is always at the right time (Rom 5:6)
- Timing where God always has a chosen remnant (Rom 11:5)
- Timing that is according to God's good pleasure (Eph 1:8-10)

The gathering (13-15)

- God gathers those who are with Him (Matt 12:30)
- God gathers through His angels (Matt 24:31)
- God gathers like a winnowing fork (Luke 3:16-18)
- God gathers multiple flock (John 10:16)
- God gathers His people through His redeeming (Ps 107:2-3)
- God gathers His people one by one (Isa 27:12)
- God gathers all groups and types of His people into one (Isa 56:8)

The security (16)

- Security empowered by the power of God's Name (John 17:11-12)
- Security of an inheritance that can never perish (1 Peter 1:3-5)
- Security based on the Jesus' ability to guard those entrusted to Him (2 Tim 1:12)
- Security of having Jesus as our foundation (1 Cor 3:11-15)

Devastation of the Flood (Gen 7:17-24)

The duration (17-20)

- No man knows how long it will be (Ps 74:9)
- Duration will be when all deaths of the saints is completed (Rev 6:10-11)
- Duration will be when the gospel is preached in the whole world (Matt 24:3-4, 14)
- Duration will be when God's wrath is completed (Rev 15:1)
- Duration until the abomination that causes desolation is set up (Dan 12:11-12)
- Duration until the time of the Gentiles is over (Rev 11:2)

The destruction (19-22)

- Destruction because of not listening and answering God's call (Isa 65:12)
- Destruction on the unrepentant stubborn (Prov 29:1)
- Destruction of the enemies of the cross (Philip. 3:18-19)
- Destruction of the one who sows to please his sinful nature (Gal 6:8)
- Destruction of those who do not know or obey God (2 Thess 1:7-10)
- Destruction of false teachers and those who follow them (2 Peter 2:1-3)

The preservation (23)

- Preservation of the faithful (Psalm 31:23)
- Preservation of God's remnant (Gen 45:7)
- Preservation because of God's compassion (Hos 11:8-9)
- Preservation of godly hurting people (John 11:32-36)
- Preservation because of God's great unfailing love (Lam 3:32-33)
- Preservation because of wanting to protect God's people (Matt 23:37)