



GENESIS

The Book of Beginnings

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LESSON 5: THE FLOOD, WAS GOD TOO CRUEL?

A. CENTRAL QUESTION

Was God too cruel for destroying all of mankind, and all air-breathing animals, except for Noah and the animals in the Ark?"

B. THE TEXT: GENESIS 6:5-8 (NIV)



"The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. ⁶ The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created--and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground-- for I regret that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. ⁹This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God." (Gen. 6:5-9 NIV)

C. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the condition of the human race at the time of Noah (Genesis 6:5).
2. What was God's reaction to this condition, and why did he wait over 100 years to bring judgment? (Gen. 6:6; 2 Pet. 3:9)
3. How does this human condition relate to Matt. 24:37-39 and 2 Pet. 3:3-7?

4. What is the significance of God shutting to door (Gen. 7:16)?
5. Why did God not include a rudder or steering device on the ark? How might you apply this to your life?
6. Since the Flood took place before the Mosaic Law was given, was God too cruel in destroying all people except Noah and his family?

D. SUMMARY COMMENTS: IS GOD CRUEL?

1. No, because he is _____ (Isa 55:8-9).
"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. ⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa. 55:8-9 NIV)
2. No, because he is _____ (Isa. 5:16).
"But the LORD Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will be proved holy by his righteous acts." (Isa. 5:16 NIV)
3. No, because he is always _____ (Deut. 32:4; 2 Thess. 1:5-6).
"He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he." (Deut. 32:4 NIV).
4. No, because he is _____ (Lev. 11:44; Psa. 99:9; Rev. 4:8).
"I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy." (Lev. 11:44a NIV)
"Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,' who was, and is, and is to come.'"" (Rev. 4:8 NIV)
5. No, because he is _____ (John 3:16; 1 John 4:8-10, 16).
"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 Jn. 4:8-10)
No, because he always gives _____ (2 Pet. 3:9; Psa. 86:15).
"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Pet. 3:9 NIV)
"But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness." (Ps. 86:15 NIV)

E. DIGGING DEEPER

For more about this subject go to:

"How can God be good if He drowned babies in Noah's flood?"

<<https://www.gotquestions.org/God-drowned-babies.html>>