

3. God Shows Mercy Through Noah

Tuesday

Place #3 picture (rainbow) on cross

Scripture: Genesis 6-9

5 candles lit before reading



Usually God holds back His anger over sin. But when sin got out of control during Noah's time, God chose to punish mankind. He did this so we would know how serious it is to turn our backs on God and run toward the darkness, and so we would know how great His anger is toward sin.

But He did not totally destroy His creation. He showed us His , through Noah.

...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. The LORD regretted that He had made human beings on the earth, and His heart was deeply troubled. So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created..." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God looked at the earth and saw how sinful it was. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them...so make yourself an ark of gopher wood."

"I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens...But I will establish My covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you...two of everything so as to preserve their lives along with yours. Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

...rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. Every living thing that moved on land perished...people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

(Have kids blow out another candle. Do not light it again until Easter.)

But God remembered Noah...and He sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in His heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans...And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done."

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between Me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come. I have set My rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember My covenant between Me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life."

In this story, we see God punish mankind for their sins and save only one...But soon we will see God punish one man to offer salvation for all mankind.

PRAY: Please help us see the seriousness of our sin so we can better appreciate the sacrifice Jesus made.