

Saved by Wrath

Genesis 7:7-24

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Main Idea: God saves sinners through Christ—our Mediator, our Savior, and our Substitute.

Introduction: 2Peter 2:5, “God did not spare the ancient world, but ‘saved the eight of Noah,’ a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly”... 2Peter2:9, “then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.” ... So, the apostle, when demonstrating that God can simultaneously destroy the wicked and spare those who are godly, takes us to the passage before us this morning. And why? Because here we see that, as long as you belong to Jesus Christ, all things must work together to accomplish your salvation. God redeems sinners through Christ—our Mediator, our Savior, and our Substitute.

1. God redeems sinners.

- a. The flood is an historical event in the past. 600th year, 2nd month, 17th day the rain started. 600th year, 2nd month, 10th day, they got on the boat. 600th year, 3rd month, 27th day the rain stopped. 600th year, 7th month the waters began to recede. The fall of 1/3 of the angels and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah are also historical events.
- b. The day of judgment is also an historical event, though future. We need to study what is happening here in Genesis 7, because every one of us has this historical event in our future. We are sinners, and it is vitally important for us to know *if any* sinners can survive the judgment of God, and if it is possible for us to do so, then we need to know *how it is* that sinners can survive!
- c. How can we have a “good conscience toward God”? Can anyone at all come through God’s wrath? There is One who already has: Jesus Christ suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit (1Pet 3:18)... and He has risen from the dead, has gone into heaven, and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him (1Pet 3:22).
- d. So, the Holy Spirit plainly tells us by the hand of Peter that the flood is a picture in time of a much more important truth for eternity. By saving those with Noah in the flood, God gave us a picture in time of the fact that God saves sinners through Christ.

2. God redeems sinners through a Mediator.

- a. Noah was a mediator. “The eight of Noah.” ... “they went into the ark to Noah” (v9, 15). “Noah... Noah’s sons... Noah’s wife” (v7, 13). “Only Noah and those with him in the ark remained.”
- b. In order to survive the flood, the other seven people and all of those animals needed many things. They needed an ark. They needed planning. They needed supplies. They needed all of the mechanisms of being spared from the flood. Most of all, they needed the favor of God, the grace of God. But these were all only available with Noah.
- c. Noah is a picture to us of Christ as Mediator. We need the transaction of being made right with God. But that transaction comes only in the Person of Jesus Christ. (application).

3. God redeems sinners through a Savior.

- a. Noah is something of a picture of a savior. He did as God had commanded him (v9).
- b. God highlights Himself as the ultimate Savior. (v11, cf. 1:8—windows of the heavens/firmament), but even without the firmament, God provided the ark, and God Himself shut the door (v16). In fact, it was the flood of God that lifted the ark up out the judgment.
- c. Jesus is our ark of salvation. 1Peter 3:20-21—v21 “Baptism now saves you”—how? v20 “dia” with the genitive: saved by means of water. But why and how did the water save them? Because they were in the ark, which was lifted into the heavens—22 ft above the highest mountain. So also baptism, a sign that points you to how faith unites you to Jesus Christ, now saves you. Not by the washing of the water

itself, but because Jesus Christ, to whom saving faith joins you, has risen and ascended into the heavens!

4. God redeems sinners through a Substitute.
 - a. Where the analogy breaks down: God spared Noah, but He did not spare His Son. Rom 8:32.
 - b. We see reminders of Jesus not only in Noah the Mediator, and the Ark of Salvation, but also in substitutes: the clean animals from last week.
 - c. Ultimately, Jesus suffered like the people outside the ark. Not only in their last anguished moments of death, but especially in the moments that came immediately after. It was the very outpouring of God's wrath upon Jesus as your substitute that saves you from God's wrath, if you trust in Jesus!

Conclusion: Is Jesus your Mediator—do you belong to Him? Is Jesus your Savior—is His righteousness yours? Is Jesus your Substitute—is His sacrifice yours? Matthew 24:37-39, "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."—Are YOU prepared for that day? When it comes, will you be horrified at the sight of Christ and cry out for the mountains to fall upon you? Or will you say, "Welcome, my Mediator! Welcome, my Savior! Welcome, my Substitute! Welcome, Lord Jesus!"