

Genesis Bible Study Assignment

March 4, 2021

Reading: Genesis Chapters 6-8

Discussion Questions

1. Most biblical scholars believe the story of Noah and the Flood isn't meant to be taken literally. If this is the case, why do you think it is preserved in scripture? What truth is it trying to teach?
2. Genesis 6:5, 6:12, and 8:21 all indicate that humans are innately evil. How does this compare to God's evaluation of humans in the first creation account (Genesis 1:1 – 2:3)?
3. Do you believe that "every inclination of the thoughts of [human] hearts is only evil continually" (6:5)? Why or why not?
4. What could be a result of believing that humans are inclined to be evil from youth (8:21)? Is there any benefit to this belief? If so, what? Is there any danger to believing this? If so, what?
5. Noah was a part of humanity, yet he "was a righteous man, blameless in his generation, and walked with God" (6:9). What does this tell you about absolutes in scripture (like 6:5).
6. If God was "determined to make an end of all flesh" (6:13), why do you think God would make arrangements to preserve any of it? Do you see this as a contradiction of God's motives?
7. Stories of universal flooding are common in many prebiblical cultures. Accounts that were recorded prior to the story of Noah and the Flood included god(s) who destroyed the world for arbitrary reasons (or, in one case, because humankind's noise disturbed the sleep of the gods) and the hero is saved as a result of a god's favoritism unrelated to the hero's actions. How are these details different from the story of Noah and the Flood?

8. Genesis 8:1-19 shares some similarities with the first creation account (Genesis 1:1 – 2:3). Name one.

9. Why do you think God promises never to destroy every living creature again considering human tendency remains evil (Genesis 8:21)?