

God's Wrath and the Flood

Objectives

To learn and understand how man's sin results in God's wrath which is aimed at bringing man back to Him and not at his destruction.

References

Interpretation of the Book of Genesis by Father Tadros Malaty

Scriptural Verse

“And the Lord shut him in” (**Genesis 7: 16**)

Lesson Guidelines

- ❖ Through sin, spiritual as well as physical death entered into life of man.
- ❖ Carnal beauty replaced spirituality “the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful” (**Genesis 6: 1, 2**)
- ❖ The earth became corrupted and in need of salvation through its renewal by water.
- ❖ The Lord decided to destroy every creature (**Genesis 6: 5 - 7**), but did not disregard a single righteous individual (**Genesis 6: 8**)
- ❖ St Augustine said: The wrath of God is not a reaction but it is a verdict through which sin will be condemned.
- ❖ God revealed to Noah what He was going to do as a loving friend.
- ❖ God instructed Noah to build an ark for deliverance with a very detailed account (to symbolize our salvation by the cross).

The fathers of the church said

- ❖ Noah means comfort (**Genesis 5: 29**) and he symbolizes the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ The great flood was a symbol of the true work of renewal of the human nature. It is a symbol of Baptism (**1 Peter 3: 20, 21**).
- ❖ The ark of gopherwood (**Genesis 6:14**) was a symbol of the cross that carried the Lord Jesus Christ carrying in Him the Church (His Holy body).
- ❖ The dimensions of the ark: length refers to faith in the Holy Trinity that extends to eternity, width refers to love and emotions and height refers to hope that would carry us to the heavenly truth.
- ❖ Covering it inside and outside with pitch: denotes holiness from outside and pure heart from inside.
- ❖ The side door refers to the wound by the spear, in the side of the crucified Lord through which we would enter to enjoy the secrets of the Lord's fellowship.
- ❖ The door remained open 7 days to receive the procession coming to enjoy salvation then was shut.
- ❖ The three decks contain all humanity contained in the 3 sons of Noah.

- ❖ Noah and his family in the ark were 8 people referring to the church living with God forever (8 refers to eternity).

Noah's Salvation by the Ark

- ❖ The old world perished and the new world was set by Noah and his family. God cared for their salvation and the renewal of the earth. God received Noah's sacrifice as a fragrance of pleasure, to enter with him in a new covenant.
- ❖ For the sake of the righteous Noah, God cleansed and renewed the earth, He shut him in, to protect him against all surrounding currents. For his sake, God also made a wind to pass over the earth. The fathers said that the wind refers to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies the water of Baptism.

The Raven and the Dove

- ❖ The Raven kept going to and fro (**Genesis 8: 6, 7**) setting among the corpses, and then returning to stand outside the ark.
- ❖ The dove found no resting place. It returned into the ark twice. It came to Noah with an olive leaf....before leaving him (**Genesis 8: 8 - 12**) to proclaim the setting forth of the whole procession toward the new earth.

The fathers said

- ❖ The church includes both the doves (who seek the things of the Lord Jesus Christ) and the ravens (who seek their own) (**Philippians 2: 21**).
- ❖ The dove (the believing soul) would never find rest except in the hands of Noah.

Noah gets out to the new earth and builds an altar

- ❖ God commanded Noah to get out.
- ❖ Noah built an altar to the Lord on the new earth that was cleansed by the waters; as though the Church cannot offer the sacrifice of the Lord Christ before the enjoyment of Baptism.
- ❖ The Bible proclaimed for the first time the building of an altar to the Lord although sacrifices were offered before.
- ❖ God proclaimed His pleasure with man after smelling a soothing aroma through the sacrifice of reconciliation; confirming that He will never again curse the ground for man's sake, because of his weakness.
- ❖ The new life began with worship through the sacrifice, as though through the cross the curse was removed from the earth (**Genesis 8: 21**)

Renewal of the Covenant

- ❖ God accepted the renewed man's offering, He blessed humanity in Noah and his sons (**Genesis 9: 1**) and granted them what He previously granted to Adam and Eve to be fruitful as though man has started anew. This blessing is actually a symbol of the blessing

that the Church gained in the New Testament through the true Noah, our Lord Jesus, Who granted us the Spiritual birth through the new Eve, The Church.

- ❖ God established a covenant and made the rainbow a sign of that covenant between Him and Noah and his descendants. Yet in the New Testament, He made the sign in Him through the wounds of the cross.
- ❖ A rainbow appears around the divine throne (**Revelation 4: 3; 10: 1**) denoting God's love without limit

The Law of Noah

God set for Noah a Law in place of the commandment given to Adam "The law of Noah"

- ❖ Allowing eating flesh of animals, birds, and fish (**Gen. 9: 2, 3**) to prepare the way for the law of Moses by which a priest is committed to eat from sacrifices, as a symbol of enjoying the flesh and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, (**John 6: 54, 55**) proclaiming the reconciliation of God with man.
- ❖ Warning against eating it with its blood revealing the importance of the blood shed as an essential factor for redemption (**Hebrew 9: 22**).
- ❖ Warning against shedding man's blood.

Conclusion

For the sake of the righteous Noah, fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened, to cleanse and renew the earth for him, to let him enjoy a new world in place of the old one; and for him, God shut him in, to protect him against all surrounding currents. For his sake, he also made a wind to pass over the earth... It is as though God, amid the water of Baptism, pass with His Holy Spirit, to sanctify our earth; to set us as members of the body of the Lord Jesus Christ, and a temple for His Holy Spirit. St. Clement of Alexandria says: "God creates man from dust, renew him by water, and let him grow by the Spirit".

Activities/Discussion Points

Discuss the verse: "The Lord shut him in"

- ❖ The door remained open 7 days to receive the procession coming to enjoy salvation; but as the days of our life come to an end, the door will be shut; those still outside will be denied the glories inside. Compare with the parable of the 10 virgins (**Matthew 25**).
- ❖ God shut him in, to protect him against all surrounding currents.
- ❖ God alone, "has the keys of David; He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens" (**Revelation 3: 7**). He opened for us the gates of Paradise by the key of His cross, to enjoy His glories; and he shuts us in, eternally with Him.