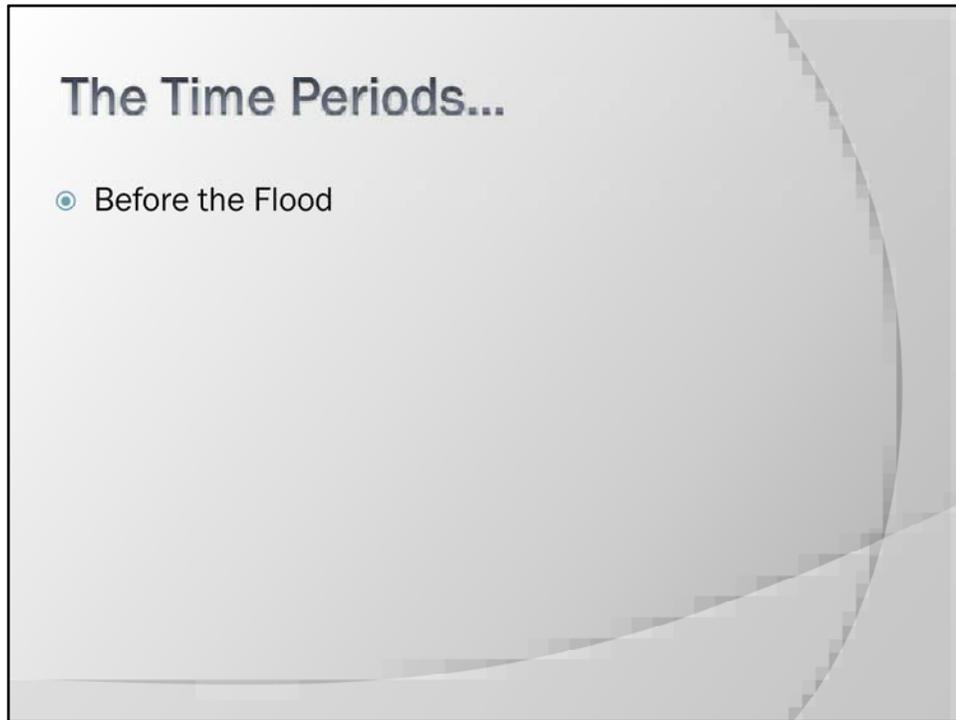


Bethlehem, PA - Bible Class
Wednesday, March 2, 2011

The Story of the Bible
Connecting the Dots



The Time Periods...

Before the Flood
The Flood
Scattering of the People
The Patriarchs
The Exodus
Wandering in the Wilderness
Invasion and Conquest of the Land
The Judges
The United Kingdom
The Divided Kingdom
Judah Alone
The Captivity
Return from Captivity
Years of Silence

Before the Flood...

- Genesis 1-5
 - Genesis 1 – Creation
 - Genesis 2 – Creation of Man and Woman
 - Genesis 3 – The Fall of Man
 - Genesis 4 – Cain and Abel
 - Genesis 5 – Genealogy of Adam to Noah
- Recall the big picture of the Bible:
 - Man was separated from God and the tree of life
 - Through Jesus, man is reunited with God and the tree

Before the Flood

Genesis 1-5

Genesis 1 – Creation (“Everything is good”)

Genesis 2 – Creation of Man and Woman (Perfect relationship between God and man)

Genesis 3 – The Fall of Man (Sin results in separation between God/tree and man)

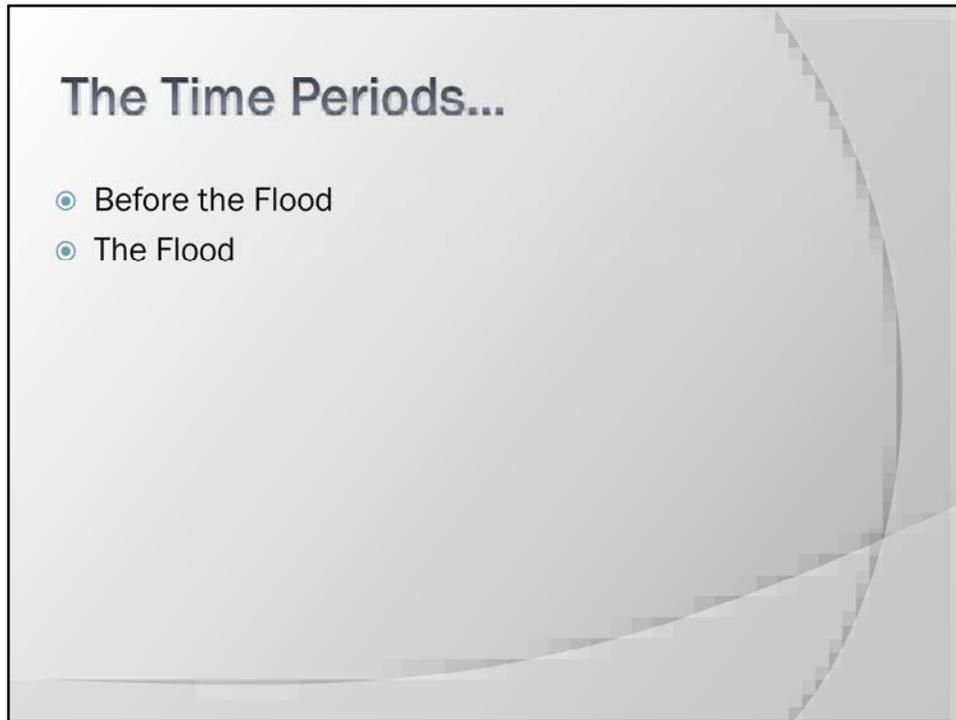
Genesis 4 – Cain and Abel (Some fall away from God)

Genesis 5 – Genealogy of Adam to Noah

Recall the big picture of the Bible:

Man was separated from God and the tree of life (Genesis 3)

Through Jesus, man is reunited with God and the tree (Revelation 22)



The Time Periods...

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The Flood...

- ⦿ This time period is contained in Genesis 6-9, and focuses chiefly on Noah and his life, and specifically the events surrounding the flood.
- ⦿ There are certainly a number of lessons that could be drawn strictly from a focused study on the flood:
 - Noah's obedience and faith in God
 - The faithfulness of God in keeping His promises
- ⦿ While these are good lessons, we must not miss the connections this event has with the big picture.

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There are certainly a number of lessons that could be drawn strictly from a focused study on the flood:

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The faithfulness of God in keeping His promises

While these are good lessons, we must not miss the connections this event has with the big picture.

The Flood...

- The four chapters that describe the flood can be easily summarized in the following way:
 - Genesis 6 – Noah builds the ark
 - Genesis 7 – Noah enters the ark
 - Genesis 8 – Noah leaves the ark
 - Genesis 9 – God’s covenant with Noah
- Recall the sequence of events in the previous time period that has brought us to this point, especially:
 - The bond that God and man had shared in the garden
 - The spiritual “fork in the road” that each person took

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Recall the sequence of events in the previous time period that has brought us to this point, especially:

The bond that God and man had shared in the garden (Genesis 1-3)

The spiritual “fork in the road” that each person took (Genesis 4:26)

The Flood...

- As chapter 6 opens, we must take notice of three important situations and compare them with those of previous chapters:
 - The intermarriage between “sons of God” and “daughters of men”
 - The intents of man were only evil continually
 - The judgment God made on the world
- Note the stark contrast between this chapter and the condition of man before his fall.

The Flood...

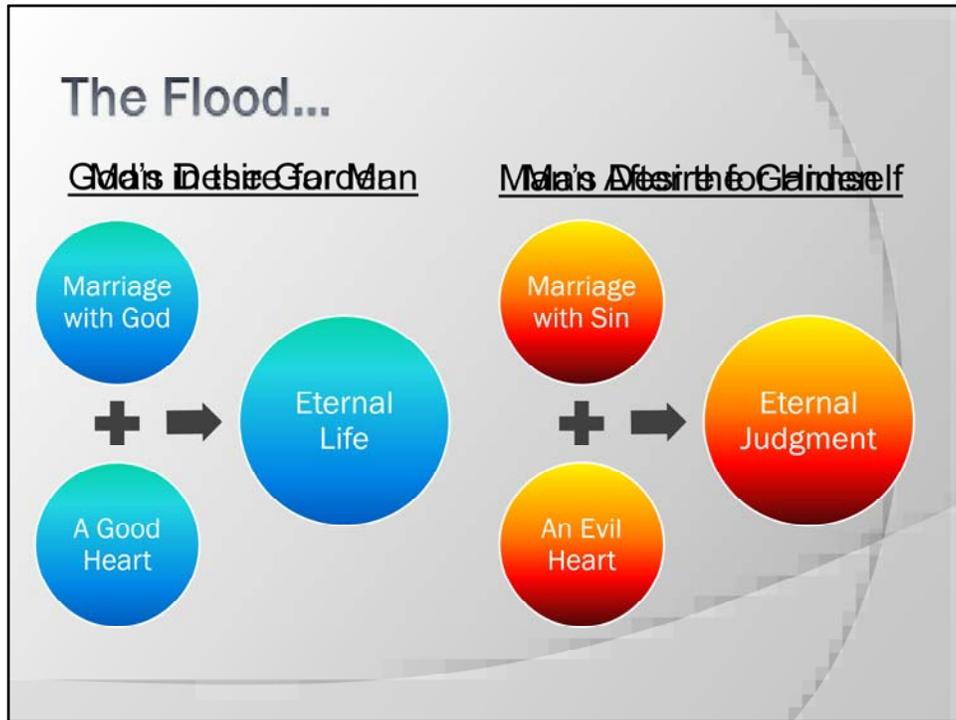
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Compares the conditions of man in and after the garden – note how these plans are consistent throughout the history of God’s people.

Marriage with God vs. Sin
A Good Heart vs. An Evil Heart
Eternal Life vs. Eternal Judgment

Compare Noah vs. the men of the time.
Genesis 6:5, 11-12 (men)
“Every intent of the thoughts of his heart”
“Filled with violence”
Genesis 6:8-9
“Found grace”
“Just, perfect in his generations”
“Walked with God”

What we do + Why we do it = Where we end up

The Flood...

- Marriage with God or with Sin?
 - Note that the righteous people had apparently joined themselves with the unrighteous.
 - Consider how often God urges His people to be separate from the world, especially in marriage.
 - Also consider how disobedience is often equated with adultery against God in other parts of the Bible.
 - The effects of godly men being so intertwined with the world and its influence are spiritually deadly.
 - The need for God's people to keep their distance from the world is reinforced continually in scripture.

The Flood...

Marriage with God or with Sin?

Note that the righteous people had apparently joined themselves with the unrighteous. (Note specifically Genesis 6:1-2)

Consider how often God urges His people to be separate from the world, especially in marriage.

Deuteronomy 7:1-4, Joshua 23:11-13

Also consider how disobedience is often equated with adultery against God in other parts of the Bible.

(Playing the harlot, especially note Ezekiel 16, 23 and Hosea)

The effects of godly men being so intertwined with the world and its influence are spiritually deadly. (Consider Solomon in 1 Kings 11)

The need for God's people to keep their distance from the world is reinforced continually in scripture. (2 Corinthians 6:14)

The Flood...

- A Good Heart or an Evil Heart?
 - Note that everyone the world had allowed evil to take a permanent hold on their hearts.
 - Consider God's continual focus on the heart and its intentions and motivations
 - God demands love from the whole heart from the Old Testament to the New Testament
 - Jesus warns centuries later against having a corrupt heart, and the importance of a pure heart

The Flood...

A Good Heart or an Evil Heart?

Note that everyone the world had allowed evil to take a permanent hold on their hearts. (No hope for repentance)

Consider God's continual focus on the heart and its intentions and motivations (Jeremiah 17:9-10)

God demands love from the whole heart from the Old Testament to the New Testament – Deuteronomy 6:5

Jesus warns centuries later against having a corrupt heart, and the importance of a pure heart (Sermon on the Mount - especially Matthew 6; Luke 6:43-45)

The Flood...

- ◉ Eternal Life or Eternal Judgment
 - The choice between life and death has always rested on man; God has always provided a way to life.
 - Man brings destruction upon himself by his wicked decisions and actions:
 - Garden of Eden: Tree of Life or Tree of Knowledge?
 - Flood: Listen to Noah or laugh at him?
 - Today: Be joined to Christ or be joined to this world?
 - Man's decides if he wants life or death, though God desires for everyone to obey Him and receive life.
 - The judgment can be either personal or national.

The Flood...

Eternal Life or Eternal Judgment

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on and on and on

Today: Be joined to Christ or be joined to this world?

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2 Peter 2:4-9 – judgment based on man's heart and actions

The judgment can be either personal or national.

Isaiah 54:4-10

Marriage between God and man

God's sorrow/anger – the people are judged

God continues to desire reconciliation, and eventually does (points forward to the church and the eternal reconciliation that is made through Jesus)

The Flood...

- As we follow the story of the Bible, we clearly see the events that have brought us to this point:
 - The first sin in the garden
 - The first murder
 - People begin to split between serving God and sin.
 - Eventually all people have hopelessly left God.
 - God destroys man, as they have abandoned Him completely, and in a sense, have no purpose anymore.
- The only one that escapes God's judgment is Noah, who has walked with Him continually.

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***Go through the flood story, build, enter, exit.

The Flood...

Chapter 9

- Noah and his family are commanded to fill the earth
- Meat is given for food.
- Capital punishment is made law.
- Note the special importance put on blood.
- God promises never to destroy the earth again by flood.
- Noah becomes drunk and falls asleep naked. How does this event fit in?
 - Canaan (Ham) is cursed. His land will be taken later.
 - Shem is blessed. He will overcome Canaan, and more importantly, Jesus will come through him.

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Scattering of the People...

- Genealogy of Noah's Sons – Genesis 10
 - This chapter covers the descendants of Noah's three sons, Japheth, Ham, and Shem
 - Ham – The southern nations
 - Shem – The middle and eastern nations
 - Japheth – The northern nations
 - Recall how to remember these genealogical chapters (5...10) – especially since they naturally divide the major time periods.

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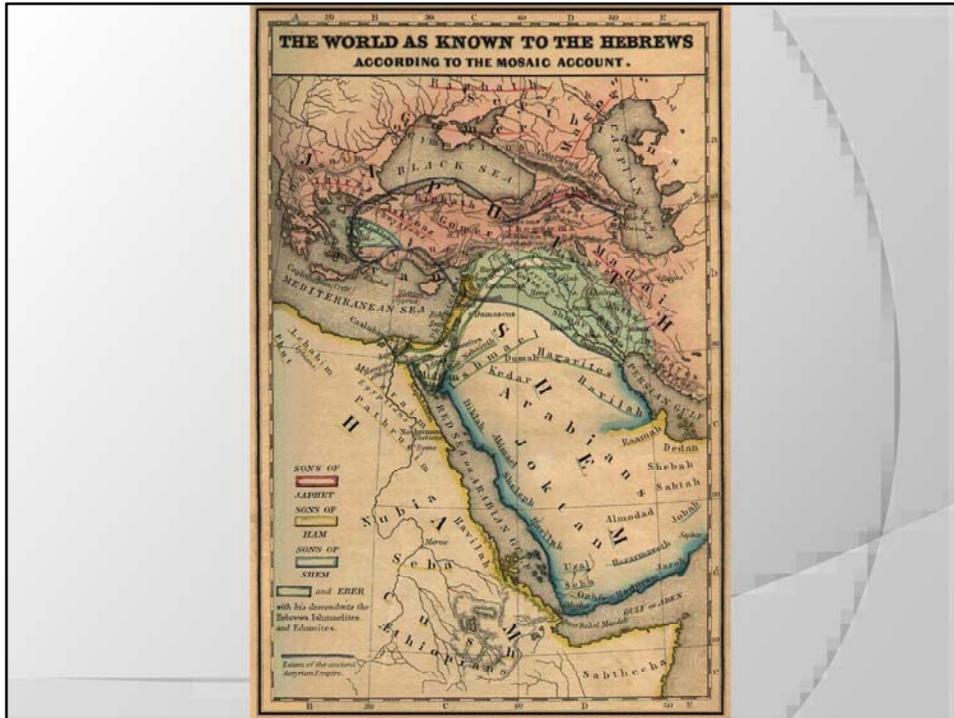
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Josephus seems to confirm this in his writings around 100A.D.

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Scattering of the People...

- The Tower of Babel – Genesis 11:1-9
 - God had given the commandment to fill the earth
 - The people, however, decided to disobey this commandment
 - Note that another national judgment occurs at this point in history. What is its connection to the story?
 - Nationalism begins.
 - Demonstration that God can execute His plans with or without the willing cooperation of man
 - Compare this event with the one to follow in Genesis 12.

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- The remainder of chapter 11 lists the descendants of Shem, ultimately fast-forwarding the reader to the time of Abraham
- One purpose of including these genealogies may be to allow the reader to focus on the important events without having to slog through hundreds of years of relative calm

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Also...

- One book that often forget to “place” in history is the book of Job
- While Job is considered a book of wisdom and lumped with other poetic books (Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon), it was most probably written between this time period and the next
 - No mention of Israelites, the Patriarchs, Moses, etc.
 - There is certainly some “law” in place, but nothing like what we see later in the Old Testament

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