

Week 6 The Flood

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. Hebrews 11:7

Q21 Why did God save Noah during the flood?

A God saved Noah because he was righteous.

Q22 Where was the place of safety during the flood?

A The ark was the place God provided for safety in the flood.

Q23 How much of the earth was covered by the flood?

A The whole earth was covered by over twenty feet of water.

Q24 What was destroyed in the flood?

A All living creatures on land were destroyed except for those on the ark.

Tips for using this catechism and devotional:

1. Read all the questions and answers on Monday, so that the scope of the week's concepts will be introduced.
2. Each day begin with the memory verse for the week. Read it, and take a moment to work on memorizing it. By the end of the week, you should have it memorized with a little effort.
3. Read the Scripture reading for the day.
4. Ask the Question for the day, and read the answer. Memorize the answer, so that when the question is asked, the answer comes automatically.
5. Read the commentary. If you have young children, you may need to either explain the "Thinking Deeper" section, or skip it and come back to it when the children get older.
6. Each day review the catechism questions that have been learned from the previous days of the week. On Friday, review all of the questions.
7. Close with prayer

Monday Week 6 The Flood

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. Hebrews 11:7

Q21 Why did God save Noah during the flood?

A God saved Noah because he was righteous.

Bible Reading: Gen. 6:8-9; 7:1

When Uncle Ted was a teen-ager, some of his friends climbed into a car and asked him to go along for a ride. They were off to have fun! He looked inside the car and saw that there were already too many for the car to handle safely. "Come, on," they said. "Don't miss out." But he decided not to risk going along. "No," he said. "I'd rather stay behind." Leaving him behind, they drove off, looking for fun. What they didn't count on was having a wreck, but before the night was over, most of them had died in a horrible accident. Uncle Ted was spared because he didn't go along with the crowd.

In his day, Noah was the only one in the world who kept his family from the ungodly influence of the crowd. Everyone else went along with the evil people who were out to "eat, drink and be merry." But they all died. Noah stood alone in a very wicked day. Because he did, he saved himself and also his family. God saw that Noah was righteous and spared him. "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." God gives grace to those who follow Him.

Thinking Deeper

Every person who lives on earth is a descendent of Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth. Genetically, every trait from skin color, to shape of eyes, to composition of hair of people living now can be traced back to Noah's family. All the diversity we see now came from their genetic makeup. We all come from the same family line, though that line has taken several distinct branches. If a person is human, Noah is in his family tree. You are one of Noah's descendents, just as is someone from Mongolia, or Africa, or Indonesia or Taiwan. The Bible says that God "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation" (Acts 17:26).

To discriminate against other people based on their distinctive physical characteristics is wrong, and is often based on ignorance. It is the evolutionists who have popularized the concept that man has emerged from less than human forms. Hitler was convinced that some "races" were more developed than others and should be preferred, while lower races which could pollute the gene pool should be eliminated. Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood, had very similar beliefs. She favored forced sterilization of inner city black people because of her desire to manipulate human genetics (a policy called "eugenics.") These leaders of evil were willingly ignorant of the fact that all people, regardless of race or station, are valuable as God's creations and all of one blood.

Tuesday Week 6 The Flood

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. Hebrews 11:7

Q22 Where was the place of safety during the flood?

A The ark was the place God provided for safety in the flood.

Bible Reading: Gen. 20:11-16

Harry was an eighty three year old man who lived on the side of Mt. St. Helens, in Oregon. When the mountain began to become active as a volcano, officials from the area warned Harry to leave the mountain. They told him it was unsafe to stay. But Harry had a lot of money tied up in his lodge and he wanted to protect it. Whatever his reason was for staying, he refused to come off of the mountain. On May 18, 1980 Mt. St. Helens erupted with such force that it sent a blast of fiery air down the mountain at 300 miles per hour, followed by a major portion of the mountain itself actually blowing up. Harry was never found. He had refused to listen to the warnings.

Unlike Harry, Noah listened to God's warning about a coming flood. He built the ark according to the instructions God gave him. Because he obeyed God, Noah, his family, and the animals with them were all safe on the ark.

Thinking Deeper

A white scrap of paper caught Japheth's eye, as he was exploring the top of the mountain. It had been caught on some tree branches. He read the shaky handwriting with great interest: "As I write this, I am ankle deep in water in my sailboat galley. The pumps can't keep up with the water that keeps pouring in because of the incredible rain, which is most unprecedented in that it has never rained in the history of the world until the last few days. I have radioed some of my few remaining friends and all them are having the same trouble. The only captain I haven't heard from is Noah, but none of us like him anyway. He's so exclusive. "No one can be saved except on The Ark." How intolerant! We never even considered it. Our boats are modern and tested. Plus, why the ark? There are many ways to float on water. Scientists have demonstrated to everyone's satisfaction that any buoyant vessel will be sufficient for flotation on the waters. We just didn't understand rain. But still, who's to say which boat is best? If it would just quit raining! Anyway, I've got to do something fast. The water's up to my waist, and this boat can't float much longer. My plan is figure out how to get rid of all this water and to find land."

Japheth carefully folded the note and put it in his pocket. "Poor guy," he muttered to himself. "He never had a chance after he rejected the ark."

Wednesday Week 6 The Flood

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. Hebrews 11:7

Q23 How much of the earth was covered by the flood?

A The whole earth was covered by over twenty feet of water.

Bible Reading: Gen. 7:17-20

The highest mountain in the world is called Mt. Everest. It is part of the Himalayas, a mountain range in the continent of Asia. Mt. Everest is 29,035 feet, or 5.5 miles, high. It is about 500 miles from the Indian Ocean. If you would climb to the top of Mt. Everest and begin digging around in the rocks, you could find fossils! How did they ever get way up there? And some of them would be fossils of animals that had lived in the ocean. When did the ocean cover Mt. Everest? The answer is the flood of Noah's day. The Bible tells us that the water covered the mountains by over twenty feet of water. That's when those fossils got to the top of the mountains. The Bible has the answers for a lot of questions we have about our world.

Thinking Deeper

Did you know that many cultures in the world have a legend about man being saved from the destruction of a worldwide flood on an ark? These legends are so diverse as to have been found among peoples in Hawaii, Syria, the Cree Indians in Canada, and ancient Babylonia. At least a dozen legends include the idea of an ark being provided and more than that have a legend of a worldwide flood. Where did these ideas come from? It is unlikely that so many different people groups so widely separated geographically would have come up with such a story if there is not some truth behind it. (For documentation, or more details, see www.nwcreation.net/noahlegends.html) When legends among primitive tribal people emerge which parallel the Biblical account of the flood, it indicates that such an event is in the collective memory of man the world over.

God has not left us without evidence of the truth of His Word. When we read in the Bible that the whole world was covered by water, we would expect to find evidence for such a claim in the world we live in. Sure enough, when we climb a mountain we find evidence that even the top had once been under water. There is rock strata laid down by water. Embedded in the rocks are fossils, many of them marine. How did that happen? The Biblical account of the universal, world-wide flood is the answer.

Thursday Week 6 The Flood

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. Hebrews 11:7

Q24 What was destroyed in the flood?

A All living creatures on land were destroyed except for those on the ark.

Gen. 7:21-24

What ever happened to the dinosaurs? The Bible tells us that all the creatures that lived on the earth died in the flood, except for the animals that were on the ark. So the fossils of dinosaurs that are found are a reminder of how God destroyed the earth. Remember why God destroyed the whole earth? It was because of man's sin. When boys and girls and moms and dads sin, they do a lot of harm. They not only harm themselves, but also those who are close to them. In Noah's day, man became so wicked that God decided to send a flood and destroy all living things. When man sinned, he not only harmed himself, but also all the rest of the world. Everyone in the world was destroyed because of their sin. Except for Noah. When Noah got on the ark, he saved his family. He also saved the animals that were close to him. It is important that each one of us follows Jesus. He is the place of safety, not only for us, but also for those we love.

Thinking Deeper

Could there have been dinosaurs on the ark? Yes. If they came in a pair, they could easily have fit on the ark. There is no reason they would have had to have been full grown. Young, smaller dinosaurs would have done as well as young, smaller crocodiles. After the flood, their populations could have grown. But something obviously happened to them. They are considered to be extinct, since none have been seen for hundreds of years. There are stories that "dragons" were living with men in times past. One story which in the literature of that time was considered true, is the story of St. George and the dragon. There are also stories from China of an emperor who had dragons as pets. These dragons may have been what we call dinosaurs. The word "dinosaur" (meaning "terrible lizard") was not even in existence until 1841. Since the King James Version of the Bible was written in 1611, it could not have used the word. However, the Bible does speak of creatures which fit the description of dinosaurs. (Job 40:15-24; Job 41).

Evolutionists claim that dinosaurs went extinct millions of years ago. But they are using their presuppositions of uniformitarianism and an old earth. The presuppositions of creationists are different. The fact of dinosaurs' extinction does not harm the story of the ark any more than does the fact that the dodo bird has become extinct. In fact, it is a continuing reminder of the "bondage to decay" brought by the fall of man.

Friday Week 6 The Flood

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. Hebrews 11:7

(Review the Week's Catechism Questions and Answers)

A boy had a new pair of shoes that he had to wear to school. His other pair was at the shoemaker's. His mother said, "Don't play kickball at school. You have new shoes so I don't want you to play." When recess came, he took off his shoes. Even though she told him not to play, he thought it would be all right since his shoes were off. When he kicked the ball with his bare foot, though, he felt something snap in his toe. For weeks he suffered with a very sore foot. He should have listened to his mother.

It is easy to put our own meaning into words and make them say what we want them to say so we can do what we want to do. Boys and girls are pretty good at that. Big people sometimes do that with the Bible. They put their own meaning into what God has said. Some big people are embarrassed that the Bible speaks of a flood that destroyed the whole world. They think that couldn't have happened. So they change the meaning of the story, and say it didn't really mean what it says. But that is a dangerous thing to do. God says when we change His Word, that we can get very serious punishment (Rev. 22:18,19). It is important to listen to what God says, learn to understand it, and then live by it.

Thinking Deeper

People who hold to the theory of theistic evolution happening over millions of years also have a very difficult time believing in the worldwide flood described in Genesis. Some say that Noah's flood is just a legend. Others say the first chapters of Genesis are not to be taken literally, but are figurative. One writer claimed to believe in inerrancy, but still did not take Noah's writing at face value. He said you must see things through the eyes of the writer of the time. Noah, being surrounded by a local flood, must have felt that the whole world was under water. But Noah's view is not what is in question. It is Moses who was writing. Even Moses' limited view is not in question here since Moses was writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Just as Moses' writings reflected the knowledge of God when he wrote about the order of the days of creation, so too it reflects God's understanding of what happened at the flood.

The idea of a worldwide flood does a lot of mischief to gradual evolution and the millions of years needed for that to happen. Those who want to defend evolution while claiming to believe in inerrancy must defend it by reinterpreting Genesis. The plain reading of Genesis is a major stumbling block to old earth theistic evolutionists who don't believe in a worldwide flood. Based on a straightforward reading of Genesis, it could be said that the local flood theory "doesn't hold water."