

4 • The Beginning of a Fresh Start With Humanity

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. After the really bad news of [Genesis 6:5-7](#), here is a glimmer of hope, especially when we notice how Noah is described in [Genesis 6:9](#):

Noah was a _____ man, blameless in his generation. Noah _____ with God.

But Noah lived in a very, very dark time.

Now the earth was _____ in God's sight, and the earth was filled with _____. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an _____ of gopher wood..." ([6:11-14](#))

...and with that, God begins giving Noah building instructions. Why?

"For behold, I will bring a _____ of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you." ([6:17-18](#))

And to his very great credit, "Noah _____ this; he did all that God commanded him" ([6:22](#)).

[Genesis 7](#) is a difficult chapter to read and imagine because of the terrible destruction that came on the earth.

Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of _____ died. He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed on the earth _____ days. ([7:22-24](#))



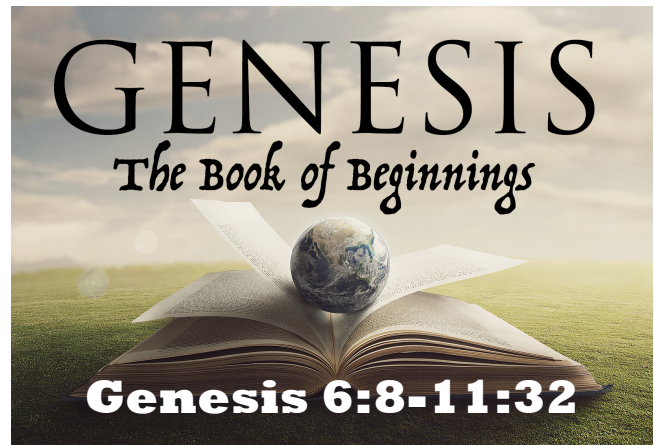
In [Genesis 8](#), Noah, his family, and every living thing that had been preserved in the ark came out. Noah built an altar to the LORD, made an offering, and received a promise from God.

"I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. _____ the earth _____, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." ([8:21-22](#))

As God establishes his covenant with Noah, Noah's offspring, and every living creature, maybe what follows is nothing but good news, right? The problem? Sin continued to plague humanity...

- Noah becomes _____ and his son Ham acts in some inappropriate way ([8:20-27](#))
- The construction of _____ is started, frustrated by the LORD, and abandoned ([11:1-9](#))

But before we're done with [Genesis 11](#), a particular branch of the family tree is highlighted. From Noah's son _____ would eventually come a man named _____ from Ur of the Chaldeans...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD” (6:8). What does that mean, especially in contrast to the ugliness we see in the verses just before it?
- How does Hebrews 11:7 enhance our understanding of what went on in Genesis 6 and 7?
- Why did God do what he did in Genesis 7 and what does this terrible event teach us about him?
- As we compare Genesis 9:1-3 with 1:28-30, what changed?
- The apostle Peter reflects on Noah and the flood in 2 Peter 3. What does he want disciples of Jesus to understand and apply from this ancient example?
- What should we make of the events in Genesis 9:18-27?
- While Genesis 10 may not, on the surface, appear to be as relevant as other chapters, what can you find that had its beginning right here?
- What do we learn about the people being described at the beginning of Genesis 11? What do they want to accomplish? Why? And why might the LORD have something to say about it?
- Noah had three sons. Why focus on the generations of Shem in Genesis 11 and beyond?
- Can you draw a basic family tree from Adam to Abram based on what we’ve learned so far?