**Flood Lessons**

When the apostle Paul penned Rom.15:4, the context of vv.1-3 seems to suggest that his primary point of application was in reference to the prophetic aspects of Psalm 69:9 relative to Jesus, cf. vv.1-6. However, the general truth remains intact that *“whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction”* in applications beyond the specifics of Ps.69. I mention these things because it seems every time I turn my attention to accounts such as Gen.6, new lessons and points of application become apparent. In reviewing my past notes on this great text, I found two different lessons based in this great text, and yet neither of them cover the specific lessons I recently gleaned from it. I hope they are of comparable import and help to you also…

**General Lessons to be Learned from The Great Flood of Gen.6 - 7:**

1. **God’s patience is not without end, vv.5-7.**

Perhaps, though I am yet unsure, v.3 indicates a specified timetable for man’s repentance to avoid the Flood. But there is little doubt that God’s patience with mankind came to an end. He has promised the same for subsequent generations who fail to heed the warnings of history, 2Pet.3:8-10.

1. **God’s grace, though available to all, was specifically applied to Noah, vv.8-9.**

Again v.3 may play a part, but there is no ambiguity as to God’s grace toward Noah. Everyone had the same opportunities previous to this time to be *righteous, blameless,* and to *walk with* rather than *contrary to God.*

The Hebrew word *hen* (khane) is translated by the KJV some 38 times simply as *grace.* This *grace* or *favor,* though surely available to all, was specifically applied to Noah because of the life-choices he had made.

Not unlike its NT counterpart (*charis*), this *grace/favor* thus presented to Noah came in two distinct manifestations:

1. *Warning,* vv.11-13; By God’s *grace,* Noah was warned of the coming destruction, cp. 1Pet.3:18-20; and,
2. *Instructions by which to be Saved,* vv.14-16; As Noah was told *how to prepare* for the coming destruction, so too are we, cp. 1Pet.3:21-22 and Titus 2:11-14.
3. **“It has never happened before” is of little comfort or consequence when it does, v.17.**

This point is driven home by careful examination to the realization that, prior to the flood, the earth had never experienced *rain-* at least there is no record or indication of such*,* cf. Gen.2:5-6. This assumption is further reinforced by Heb.11:7.

The fact that such had never occurred previously obviously did not mean that it *could not happen,* cf. 2Pet.3:1-7.

1. **Vigilant Preparation is the Key- It wasn’t raining when God said to *prepare/build,* vv.18-22; 7:5.**

Even now, *by faith* we must *trust* God about the coming end of patience and ensuing destruction, and *obey* by preparing for it, 2Pet.3:11-13.

1. **It can be *too late,* 7:6,13-23.**

A couple of items are particularly noteworthy. *“On the very same day”* entered the arkand *“the Lord closed the door,”* ***“Then*** *the flood came upon the earth,”* vv.13,16,17. God’s patience with the world (perhaps the 120 years of 6:3) came to an end, and **He closed the door** sealing the fate of the unbelieving disobedient. When God closes a door, no man can open it regardless of desire, cp. Heb.13:17; Acts 14:27; Rev.3:8.

So too, it can become too late for us. We can spurn the benefits of God’s patience and grace to the point where He “closes the door” before us, Heb.3:12-19.

**Conclusions:**

Perhaps even these *lessons of application* do not empty this great event and the text that describes it of its reserves. But they will have to wait- if God allows as much, for another time. Nonetheless, remember these for now:

1. **God’s patience- though great, is not without end.**
2. **God’s grace- though available equally to all, is applied to those who *trust* and *obey.***
3. **“It has never happened before” is no assurance that it will not happen now.**
4. **Prepare *before* the storm/flood/destruction, for…**
5. **It can become *too late* to do so later.**