

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Merciful Judgment

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Genesis 6:9-8:22

Theme: Marvel at the mercy of the Almighty.

Introduction: Faith is often seen as irrational and subjective, as what is left over after science and reason have explained the rest. But in Scripture, faith fundamentally trusts in the Lord grounded by 2 truths: 1) he exists; and, 2) he rewards (Heb 11:6). As the author of Hebrews also shows us, Noah is one of Scripture's premier examples of faith (11:7). This passage especially shows his faith in the midst of the Lord's furious wrath, as manifest in the flood.

As faith and wrath intersect, we find mercy, in 3 stages:

1. Mercy before judgment (6:9-22)

Noah is one of the most commendable characters in the Bible. He is righteous, blameless, and walks with God. He was also completely surrounded by evil (6:5); yet he continually trusted the Lord and did all that he commanded.

When the Lord pronounced judgment on mankind, he also promised mercy to Noah in the form of the ark. Noah took God at his word and built it.

2. Mercy during judgment (7:1-)

Chapter 7 is very structured and deliberate. It is clearly emphasizing the fulfillment of the Lord's promise of destruction. All is being accomplished.

The Lord opens the fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven, reuniting the waters (Gen 1:7) to undo creation and to punish the wicked.

The judgment is ferocious—all creatures are blotted out. All human life dies. It is also a picture of the much greater judgment to come when Jesus returns.

Yet the Lord's mercy is highlighted, too. He is the one to shut the door of the ark, to seal them in, and to deliver them through the waters of judgment to safety.

3. Mercy after judgment (8:1)

Gen 8:1 is the heart of this passage: "But God remembered Noah..." The concept of remembering "combines the ideas of faithful love and timely intervention" (Kidner).

The Lord was covenantally faithful to Noah, having regard for him amidst the flood of judgment. Therefore, he showed mercy and reversed the flood.

Throughout these chapters, Noah spends a great deal of time waiting for the Lord. He is hemmed in and unable to change his circumstances. Instead, he looks to the Lord alone for salvation.

Upon exiting the ark, Noah responds with worship, offering a sacrifice. And the Lord promises mercy, as he will never again destroy the earth in that way.

Questions:

1. How much do you enjoy the mercy of the Lord?
2. How does Noah's righteous example affect you?
3. How are you waiting for the Lord right now?