



THE FLOOD, PART VI THE THIRD GENERATION

This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. And Noah begot

three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

Genesis 6:9-12

There was no mention of Noah in the account of the first generation. In the second generation, Noah is mentioned briefly. Here we have a detailed description of Noah. As mankind proceeded to get worse and worse, Noah began to stand out more distinctly as he maintained a right relationship with God. It must always be this way with God's people. As the nation or world gets worse, Christians must take a stand and be counted.

In the account of the previous generation, we were told that Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ is always a relation of grace. Because of this relationship, God views us as perfect and just. This is what we see God observing in this last generation. We are told three things: Noah was *just*, he was *perfect*, and he *walked with God*.

צַדִּיק (tsaddeek) "Righteous or Just." It is not necessarily to amplify on the meaning of this word. Noah was a "law abiding citizen." תַּמֵּם (tawmeem) "perfect." This word, like its Greek counterpart, is misunderstood by many when so translated. Are you a "perfect" person? There never has been such a person other than Christ. The word means "perfect" in the sense of being "complete." As mankind degenerated, Noah grew and matured in his relationship with God. How did he do that? We are told the answer - he "walked with God." Enoch (Genesis 5:22-24) is the only other person in the Old Testament who is said to have walked with God - other than Adam and Eve before they were evicted from the Garden. The verb is in a Hebrew form

which indicates a repeated or continual action. Noah was in continual relationship with God as he walked about. This was the only way he could remain "just" and "perfect" in a perverse generation. It is the only way for you and me as well.

The last part of this passage deals with the rest of the world. By this generation, the corruption (except for Noah and family) was complete. There was no righteous person left. At a later date, Abraham argued with God as to whether or not God would destroy Sodom and Gomorrah if they were any righteous people there (Genesis 18:23-32). No, God would not destroy the righteous with the wicked. But now, the time had come, there was no one else to save. So now, God, who created this world, would destroy it, except for Noah and his family.

We complete this section by noting the names of the three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The names (appear) to mean "Name," "Hot," and "Widespread." (The meaning of Hebrew names is often hard to determine since the meaning of words in Hebrew depends on the context). We will learn more about these three sons after the flood.

We have now completed the introduction to the flood. We have seen the reason why God brought it upon the earth. We shall now be looking at the arrangements God made with Noah prior to the flood.

As was shown in the outline, this is in four parts - the Covenant God made with Noah, the Command to Noah, Noah's Compliance, and the Completion of the act. It is the same with you and I.

- (1) God created a New Covenant with you and me when He sent Christ to die for us.
- (2) At the appropriate time, He calls us to accept that covenant. *Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.* 2 Corinthians 6:2
- (3) Hopefully, we comply by accepting Christ as our Savior and
- (4) the act is completed with the Holy Spirit when God. . . . *has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.* 2 Corinthians 1:22

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