

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND?

1/ The Population

According to E.W. Bullinger, the world population might have been 500,000 by the year 130 B.C. Some estimate a population of 750 million by the time of the Flood.

2/ The Extended Lifespans

It may be that the atmosphere was distinctly different pre-Flood. Immediately following, lifespans decrease dramatically.

3/ The Cainites

After murdering Abel, Cain leaves the presence of the Lord and builds a civilization of people who are wicked in heart.

4/ The Sethites

After Cain murders Abel, Adam and Eve have another son, Seth. He and his family live to worship God.

Lamech (7th from Cain) was a polygamist, murderer, materialistic, and prideful.
Enoch (7th from Seth) "walked with God." Notice the contrast.

Ultimately, there was intermarrying. Only Noah's family remained righteous.

WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THEIR WORLD?

1/ There was sin.

Adam allowed universal sin to enter the world. There was a digression from that point.

"Dear Sir, I am. Yours, G.K. Chesterton."

2/ And there was sinning.

There was murder, lust, drunkenness, evil pursuits, pride, materialism, an effort to redefine marriage and family, etc. (Matthew 24; 1 Peter 3)

Unfortunately, our world continues to grow in likeness to their world.

WHAT WAS GOD'S RESPONSE?

1/ God's first response was hurt.

And the Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart. Genesis 6:6, ESV

2/ God's second response was patient mercy.

From Cain's birth to the Flood may have been 1,500 years. Noah would have preached against wickedness for 120 of those years.

3/ God's final response was cleansing.

There are three primary types of difficulty: human hardship, divine discipline, and justified judgment. This is true for nations and individuals.

SCRIPTURE

When human beings began to increase in number on the earth... The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it..." I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish My covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your wife and your sons and your sons wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." Noah did everything just as God commanded Him. The Lord then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation." And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. The waters rose and increased greatly...all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered (fifteen cubits). Every living thing that moved on land perished... Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and He sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed... The water receded steadily from the earth. Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him. By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you

and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you...so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it." Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. After the flood Noah lived 350 years. Noah lived a total of 950 years, and then he died. Portions of Genesis 6-9, NIV

WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WATERS RISE?

1/ Pledge your life to God.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

He was not sinless, but he was filled with integrity. Noah is so notable he is found more than 50 times in nine books of the Bible.

There are only two types of people: those who flee from God and those who flock to Him.

...choose this day whom you will serve... Joshua 24:15, ESV

2/ Protest against wrong beliefs and for right beliefs.

...but he protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness... 2 Peter 2:5, NIV

Our Christian response to the world is not a 1:1 ratio.

"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:44-45, NIV

3/ Pull together with like-minded, godly people.

And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Genesis 7:7, ESV

Settling into a church family is vital for difficult days.

4/ Plan for your future.

"This is how you are to make it..." Genesis 6:15, ESV

Regardless of hardship, discipline, or judgment, you have a destiny!

5/ Prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him. Genesis 5:24, ESV

Godliness does not always preserve us from difficulty. Enoch was saved from the Flood, while Noah was saved through the Flood.

6/ Practice the presence of the Lord.

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord...and offered burnt offerings on the altar. Genesis 8:20, ESV

This practice must take place before, during, and after our difficulty.

7/ Protect what God has given to you.

And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Genesis 7:7, ESV

A generational transfer of godliness is needed: Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah.

8/ Properly process the issues of the heart.

Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his heart. Genesis 9:20, ESV

We must keep our hearts before the Lord during and after difficulty.

9/ Patiently look for salvation.

He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him. Genesis 8:12, ESV

Even when you can't see it, the waters are receding.

10/ Put your eyes on Jesus.

But God remembered Noah... Genesis 8:1, ESV

Like Peter, we are overtaken when we take our focus off of the Lord.