

**OCTOBER**

**MESSAGE 1**

**Troubles Come, But So Does God:**  
**God's Promise Through Noah**

God's Promise

“When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown.”  
(Isaiah 43:2)

My Promise

*I will respond to increasing evil with increasing faith.*

**OPENING**

While the creation began with perfection, the world had become far less than perfect by the time of Noah. People had turned to evil. Rebellion against God was rampant. Judgment was near. God would flood the earth with water. But in the midst of the chaos, there was still a promise of unshakable hope. Noah found grace because God found Noah. God promised Noah a safe place and certain deliverance. In this story of monumental craft, task, and flood, there is an even more monumental promise. God takes care of His people. The Kairos of God helps us to see that God arrives on time and does what is necessary to save even that which does not seem to have a remedy.

**MIXING WITH THE WORLD HAS SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES – Genesis  
6:5-7**

Now a day, it is difficult to distinguish between the good and the bad. Am I right? For example, today more and more we see people practicing things that before were a scandal. Things that were outside of the limits of human conduct, today are celebrated as normal, desirable, and pleasing. It is a monumental challenge.

The times of Noah can be easily compared to our times. Look at how the Bible describes them.

**“Evil was rampant on the earth”** - v. 5a – How is evil measured? Remember that we said that a time comes when evil grows. Telling a little white “lie” is nothing. However, little by little, it grows until it becomes a routine of “deception” and intrigue. Something very small becomes “much”. What about looking at a person with sensual desires. The “little look” can become a life bound to “pornography.” What about the person who abuses his body with harmful things? He does not begin by getting drunk every day. He begins with a “taste”.

God reminds us that evil can grow so much that the earth can be flooded by it.

**“Every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”** v.5b

The results of allowing something so “little” to become “big” has its consequences. **THE LICENSE.** A life that is bound by the “evil” of sin, is now dangerous. His mind and heart are seeking to satisfy more and more of those mistaken and bad desires. A swigg is not enough. A glance at a naked body no longer satisfies. A small deception now creates deep wounds to innocent people.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, **“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”**

Lots of people run the risk of losing it all, simply because they have allowed evil to become major. It is time to look for someone who would change the circumstances.

### **GOD HAS HIS LIMITS - 6:6-7**

Something that is not talked about very much today is this. God has His limits. It is very common to hear phrases like, *“God is good, and He will not condemn me.”* *“After all, God is not interested in what I do.”* *“I live my life as I well please, whether you like it or not.”* All of these declarations help us to see how people can believe that they are owners of their time, until the God’s Kairos is fulfilled.

**“And the Lord repented for having made man...and His heart was grieved.” v. 6**

It is interesting that in verse 5, the heart of man was hard, indifferent and evil. In verse 6 we see how the heart of God was grieved. Do you not believe that God’s heart is grieved when He sees a drunk doing “ridiculous” things? Do you not think that God is grieved when a person deceives another person? Do you not believe that God is grieved that people use other people to fulfill their carnal desires? God is grieved, but He also does something about it.

**“I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth – for I am grieved that I have made them.” v. 7**

Just as human beings do not care about living in lowly conditions, God cares that his decrees and desires of peace and goodness should be respected. When God repents, it is not in the sense of having done

something out of order. On the contrary, it is a feeling of his nature of holiness that demonstrates the terrible that it is to see His creation so far away from Him that they have lost all sense of justice and morality. To repent means to say, "I am profoundly grieved."

DO NOT wait to reach God's limit. When it does occur, the consequences are more terrible than what you can imagine.

### **NOAH FOUND GRACE IN THE EYES OF THE LORD - 6:8**

Evil is very bad! What should we do? Look around yourself because there is a Noah in our midst. There is hope! Evil will not have the victory!

Do not be confused. There are people who will not receive God's mercy and will be lost. Look at what 2 Peter 2:5 says, *"if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others, bringing the flood upon the world of the ungodly."*

**Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. - v. 8** Noah's heart reflected the heart of God. The heart of an evil world is hardened and lost. However, there is hope because a man who is a "preacher of righteousness" is raised up in every generation. The Kairos of God does not allow evil to be victorious. God arrives on time.

God wants to save the world and He wants us to be a people of hope. We must respond to the growing evil not with cynicism, or indifference or apathy. We must respond in FAITH.

Noah's faith is enough to save your family and the human race. Could this be your faith? Look at what Hebrews 11:7 says. *"By faith, Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save*

*his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.”*

Our presence is one that makes the difference. For some, that means being lost and desperation. However, for those who embrace a faith in Christ, it means total salvation.