

Hemphill, KenSurvey of the Old Testament (Nondisposable Curriculum Book 3)

8. The Flood (Genesis 6–10)

This chapter walks through the flood story, but reads it as a portrait of God's character rather than a puzzle about the ark or Mount Ararat. It moves through four beats: mankind's total corruption, God's grieved judgment, His gracious provision through Noah and the ark, and the covenant God makes afterward. The point throughout is that judgment and mercy belong together.

Key takeaways

- Sin had reached a new depth — 'every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.' Corrupt thoughts produce corrupt behavior.
- God's judgment is not cold anger. He was 'grieved in His heart' and 'sorry' — a holy God cannot tolerate sin, but He grieves over judging it.
- Against that grief comes grace: 'Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.' One man walked with God in a world out of step with Him.
- The long build of the ark showed God's patience; while he worked, Noah preached righteousness and warned his neighbors. God always warns before He judges.

- God made man a co-laborer — He could have saved Noah without the ark but chose partnership.
- The rainbow seals God's first explicit covenant: broad (every creature), permanent, and unconditional. Judgment and mercy joined, like sun and storm.
- Noah's first act off the ark was worship — spontaneous gratitude, not calculation about scarce resources.

Passages worth keeping

“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

Sums up why judgment came — the heart, not just the deeds, was corrupt.

“But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.”

The turn from judgment to grace; the whole redemption story hangs on this line.

How it connects

The ark's single door points forward to Jesus as the only door to salvation (John 10), and Peter reads the flood as a picture of baptism — passage through death into new life through Christ. Noah steps out like a new Adam into a world washed clean.

Scripture referenced

- **Genesis 6:5** -- the core indictment of man's evil
- **Genesis 6:8** -- Noah finds favor — grace amid judgment
- **Genesis 9:16** -- the rainbow and the everlasting covenant
- **2 Peter 3:9** -- God desires none to perish, all to repent
- **1 Peter 3:20-21** -- the ark as a picture of salvation and baptism
- **John 10:1-9** -- the door — entering safety through Christ alone