Genesis

## **Noah and the Flood (6:9-7:16)**

*From a study of Luther’s Works: Lectures on Genesis, Paul Kretzmann’s Popular Commentary of the Bible, and the Lutheran Study Bible.*

## **A Prelude (6:9-12)**

* An account for Noah
  + Instead of witnessing the Lord’s wrath, we see His grace and mercy for Noah and his family.
    - Not to be taken lightly.
* Noah
  + Righteous
  + Blameless
    - Not sinless
  + Walked with God
    - Genesis 5:22
    - 2 Peter 2:5
    - Everyone knew Noah’s relationship with the Lord God
      * And more than likely hated him for it.
      * “If I had been aware that so many men in the generation of the wicked were opposing me, I surely would have given up the ministry in despair. No one believes how difficult it is for one man to oppose the common opinion of all other churches, to contend against the views of very good men and very good friends, to condemn them, and to teach, live, and do everything in opposition to them. Noah did this because he was gifted with a marvelous steadfastness.” – Luther
* Shem
  + Born two years after Noah began to build the ark
* Ham
  + Born two years after Shem
* Japheth
  + The firstborn
* The earth’s corruption
  + The animals too?
    - As man was given dominion over the animals, they were to be good stewards of those gifts.
    - Because of man’s great corruption, mankind was to be destroyed completely… including his possessions.
  + Violence
    - When there is disregard for law and equity, and anyone may do what they wish by force.
      * Turks
      * Rome
* And God sees (v.12)
  + Repetition
  + Not only does Noah experience this corruption and violence,
    - But God acknowledges it.

## **God Ordains (6:13-21)**

* An end of all flesh
  + Except for Noah and his family
    - Except for the line from which the Seed will come
  + Because of the violence of the opposing ‘church’
    - Total rejection.
  + Luther begins to make connection to the End of Days and the second destruction of the earth by fire (which he believed he would see in his lifetime).
    - Revelation 20:9, 21:1
    - Luther’s view of the rainbow
      * Promise and warning.
* Build an ark
  + Make a box
    - tb;Te (tibat) = a box
    - Only other time used in Scripture is Exodus 2:3
  + The tree of the gopher
    - An unknown wood
    - But known to Noah (and Moses)
  + 300 x 50 x 30 cubits
    - A cubit is a forearm (about 18”)
      * Revelation 21:17
    - Probably around 450’ x 75’ 45’
    - Luther notes that Augustine (quoting Philo) that the ark has the proportions of the human body when it lies on the ground.
      * Luther does not spend much time on this…
      * But consider the theological implications of such a notion:
        + The ark was to carry the saved from death to life.
        + The ark was to carry the lineage of the Seed.
        + An application to Christ
        + An application to the body of Christ.
  + Window(s) and a door
  + Three levels
* A flood is coming
  + God’s promise
    - Who will believe it?
      * Those who walk with God?
      * Those who are violent?
        + More than likely never rained, or rivers overflowed their banks.
        + Who would believe something that had never happened prior??
    - It is a promise of total destruction.
      * A suffocation of the breath of life.
* BUT…
  + With Noah a covenant
    - God’s promise/agreement
      * About what?
        + That the Christ would be born from his descendants
        + That despite His great wrath and anger, He will let a portion remain.

On earth and for eternal life.

* + For us…
    - A reminder to take our sin AND God’s wrath seriously
      * 1 Corinthians 10:12
  + Other living things will be saved
    - Two of every sort
      * Male and female
        + Birds
        + Animals/cattle
        + Creeping things
    - If you build it, they will come…
      * To keep them alive
        + Matthew 11:28
  + Bring food
    - God could have provided mana…
    - But an act of faith in recognition of God’s goodness and provision

## **Noah Responds (6:22)**

* Noah believes
  + The threat
  + The promise
* Noah responds in faith
  + While others doubt and deny…
  + Noah obeys and does.
    - Hebrews 11:7
    - Deuteronomy 4:2
    - Revelation 22:18-19

## **The LORD Responds to Noah’s Response (7:1-4)**

* The ark is completed
  + It is time to go.
    - Luther believes just as he did concerning how the Lord spoke to Cain…
      * That through someone, (probably Methuselah) the Lord spoke to Noah here.
  + For Noah is seen as righteous
    - A sad portion of Scripture
      * Since it took around 100 years to build the ark, not one additional person believed God’s promise/threat, and be saved.
      * Matthew 24:38-39
      * 2 Peter 2:5
      * 1 Peter 3:18-20
    - What about us?
      * Luke 18:8
* But all the pictures only show two!
  + Here we have a distinction between clean and unclean animals
    - It was already known prior to the Levitical laws
    - Abel sacrificed.
  + It is a precursor to what is to come…
    - A time of thanksgiving as the LORD will bring them safely through
      * Genesis 8:20
  + But why seven?
    - Hebrew is a bit odd
    - Probably 3 pairs of male and female
    - The seventh would have been a male for sacrifice.
* Here is what is going to happen…
  + The Lord’s care for Noah and his family
    - God sets limits!
      * They do not have to wonder how long this storm will last.
      * 40 days/nights
        + The first of the 40s in Scripture
        + Critical times in redemption history
  + The Lord’s wrath for fallen mankind.
    - A warning for us

## **Noah Responds to the LORD’s Response (7:5-9)**

* Noah is now 600 years old.
* The boys are married.
* The animals are there.
* Everything is ready

## **It begins (7:10-16)**

* Note the repetition
  + This is serious.
* Time of the year?
  + Luther argues for spring.
    - Does it matter?
* The fountains of the great deep and the windows of the heavens opened.
  + Genesis 1:6-7
  + Proverbs 8:28
  + Amos 9:6
* V.16
  + As God had commanded them.
    - An act of faithful response.
  + The LORD shut him in.
    - Protection for those inside
    - Keeping others out.