

Sermon preached at All Saints Cathedral on 12th February 2017

Topic: Noah: Family in the Ark The family in the ark (Genesis 7:1-7)

Introduction:

We thank God for the opportunity to talk about family this year in the church of Uganda and in all sectors of our nation. Family is so important in the building of the church and the state and yet the most mishandled institution by human beings.

Today we are going to focus on the family in the ark and the model family leader we are looking at is Noah. He is the only man with his family that survived the flood which destroyed all creation at that time.

In this message I will attempt to answer four brief questions through God can lead us to answer issues in regard to our own families through this week.

1. Who is Noah? He was the bearer of God's promise for the new age
2. What kind of generation did he leave in that made God regret and chose to destroy every one?
3. What made Noah to survive the flood, why only Noah to build the ark?
4. How can we emulate Now Noah in our current family situations?

Who is Noah?

Noah is first mentioned in Genesis 5: 29. His father Lamech said "Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands." Noah's name in Hebrew means favor. In chapters 5:29- 10:32, Noah's life can be summarized as a moral man immoral society. He was a man of no greater social status, rich family background but he feared the Lord, walk with him and led a blameless life.

What type of Generation? Genesis chapter 6-9 has descriptions of the corruption in Noah's time.

This was a time when the human race was growing rapidly, daughters of men were born, sons of God saw them and were attracted to them. They took them for wives as they chose.

Who are the sons and daughters mentioned? The description seems to suggest that the heavenly beings consumed with lust **cohabited with the daughters of men on earth**. They transgressed the boundary between heaven and earth. The other suggestion is that they were rulers of old who accumulated wealth and power and married whoever they wanted. The final suggestion is that they were from Seth's line the daughters of Cain (Cain was cursed from killing his brother) who mingled up into sin and **abandoned the worship of one God**. It is the rebellious women who led the Sethites into sin. Cf Jude 6-7, 2 Peter 2: 4-

The punishment did not affect superheroes only but all who sinned - We will not be forgiven for having participated in sin on a small scale or large scale but all of us liable for judgement. Wickedness had reached an intolerable level. The biggest business by then could have been clubs (it has become abnormal is someone asked you how you spend your weekend and you don't mention clubbing, pork and beer and the common lodges where you get some relief away from the usual life.

God created us good with good intentions but the people's inclination of heart was all evil. God's plan for humans living together in harmony was completely shattered. The heart was taken by Hebrews as the centre of thinking, feeling and willing. In this case it had become desperately evil.

Remember that growth and multiplication was God's command to creation in Genesis 1:27. When it happened it turned into a curse because of human wickedness. The more wickedness, the more transgression, sin spreads faster. Proverbs 29: 16 "when the wicked increase, transgression increases, but the righteous will look upon their downfall."

I want us to consider a few points to describe wickedness in Noah's time.

1. They chose wives and husbands only by sight (6:2): it was marriage without maturity. In Luke 17:27 Jesus said, "they were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all". love at sight is lust - marriage does not thrive on only physical attraction - these are the movie kinds of attraction where within the movie of one hour the relationship introduction and marriage are all done - the bible does not ignore physical beauty but the best beauty is the inner person. Summary marriages have led to the death of morals in our current society. The movie is a reflection of what is happening but not the what God expects from us. For someone to be seen as a hero, it has to do with how many girls they have around them. It is not just enough to go with people that are just lusting after you. Look them in the face and be sure they love you and if they do remind them that marriage is a life time commitment not a contract to be renewed according to performance.

The choice was influenced by their corrupt affections without mature considerations of character. In the wedding service we always state these words carefully and clearly, marriage should not be taken carelessly, but reverently and after careful thought. The danger is that as you say these words people are holding their hands and just waiting for everyone to disappear, these words do not make sense. When they get tired of looking at each other, then they begin realizing they made a wrong choice.

They married strange wives (do not be yoked with un believers). This was also forbidden by God in Deuteronomy 7:3-5 "you shall not intermarry with with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons. For they would turn away your sons from following me and serve other gods, the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you and will destroy you quickly. But you

shall deal with them, you shall break down their altars, and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their curved images with fire.

2. Popularity without piety - ruling class were heroes of old men of renown, giants, driven by self exaltation, ambition to dominate and conquer, they made unholy alliances, used carnal violence, they shunned god and his moral order, they sought to make a name for themselves, personal pride. Proverbs 16;18-20, “ pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall, it is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud”. The worship of one God attested in Seth’s genealogy had been rejected except for a single family of Noah (4:25-5:32). Pride without piety is going to cause a flood in your family.
3. Thinking without truth (6:5-6); every inclination of man’s heart was evil- man was evil all the time, absorbed by evil, thinking evil, doing evil, dreaming evil, talking and living evil. Is 59.7 “ their feet run evil, and they are swift to shed blood, their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, desolation and destruction are their highways. It is our responsibility to protect our minds, by using the truth of god to protect ourselves against the assaults of the devil. You need to be governed by divine truth. Proverbs 4:23 says “ keep your heart with all vigilance for from it flow the springs of life”
 - The Lord saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually and the Lord was sorry that he had made man on earth and it grieved him to his heart. The Lord said “ I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.

Human society had become completely wicked and so God decided to execute judgment on every living creature

The increased generation was compounded with wickedness

- Verse 3, my spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh, his days will be 120years only. This annoyed God and he immediately reduced the age to 120years. From 900 to 120 and today lesser

What made Noah to survive and remain righteous in this wicked generation?

- The declaration of his father Lamech at birth “Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.” Noah’s name in Hebrew means favor. From the beginning God had set Noah apart. Noah had a legacy, faith and a name to protect. Husbands need to make a clear declaration unto their children at birth.
- Noah was a righteous man, blameless; he walked with the Lord (6:9). This does not mean that Noah was perfect, he had his own mistakes as we can see in chapter 9, but he found rest in the hands of the lord. Husbands that are here, can someone confidently describe you to your wife as the Noah of today. If all men in your office are doing it, are you convinced that you can be different? His life was hidden in God.
- He was obedient to God (7:5). He listened to God. When the generation is wicked it is not easy to listen to the word of God but when God spoke to him, he heard and obeyed. Obedience happens when the heart is focused on Christ, what drives your heart is what your life will follow.
- He was patient: spent his time building the ark, loading the ark, waited in the ark for 7:17- 8:19. Most men don’t settle in one place for a moment without thinking about plan B. in my culture they think if you stay longer with the wife you create quarrels. Most families have no bonding because each one is too busy for the

other. Noah I believe had time to bond with the family during this waiting time. He waited for God's word.

- He was committed to his family- he entered the ark with all of them. His family was a priority; I believe it would have been difficult without his wife and children's support. Many could have laughed at this coward building the ark. The bible talks about Noah with a wife not wives. There were wives of sons.
- He was a worshipper. After the flood he built an alter and sacrificed to the Lord. Very few men conduct worship in their homes. There work is to make money; coming to church is a routine. Noah acknowledged God for what he had done for him.
- A new covenant was made with Noah in Chapter 9. God chose Noah to be the father of the new generation. He blessed him.

Conclusion: Sparing Noah and providing the ark signifies the grace of God. God promised never to destroy human race again. But we are a ware of the final judgment. For the families that are standing, be careful not to fall, keep your family in the ark. For those that think I can enjoy life, it will not be too long. Run away from human pride and return to the Lord. The gospel says he is gently and lowly in spirit, he invites you to come with all your burdens because he cares and is the only one who can give rest to your troubled soul.