

A Flood of Truth

by Chuck Durham



James 4:8

WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Drawing Near to God

In the mist shrouded world of ancient legends, one story reappears in all cultures. The story of a great Flood. Will and Ariel Durant write in *The Life of Greece*: "In the 15th century before our era, said Greek tradition, the iniquity of the human race provoked Zeus to overwhelm it with a flood, from which one man, Deucalion, and his wife Pyrrha, alone were saved, in an ark or chest that came to rest on Mt. Parnassus" (39).


The ancient Mesopotamian world was replete with the Flood story (i.e., the Gilgamesh and Atrahasis epics). Why is this story so ubiquitous among the legends of the world? Could it be because it really happened, leaving an indelible mark upon all the peoples who descended from the survivors?

We know of it from the biblical account of Noah in Genesis chapters 6-9. So why is the Bible's account so different from the others? Listen to Everett Fox in *The Five Books of Moses*: "In general one may say that in contrast to the earlier Mesopotamian versions the biblical one is un-



ambiguous in both tone and intent. It has been placed in Genesis to exemplify a God who judges the world according to human behavior, punishes evil and rescues the righteous. This is a far cry from the earlier accounts, where the gods plan the destruction of the world for reasons that are unclear

(or in one version, because mankind's noise is disturbing the sleep of the gods), and where the protagonist, Utnapishtim, is saved as the result of a god's favoritism without any moral judgments being passed" (34).

Truth always outshines made-up stuff. When have the "gods" ever demanded holy and righteous living? They act as capriciously and immorally as men (for the stream can rise no higher than the source). Men created the gods and the gods' actions betray it. But not so with the True and Living God! Deep within us—we all hear the ring of truth in the story of Noah's Flood. Man is accountable because of his sins. God judges in righteousness. And He graciously delivers those who fear Him (read Titus 2:11-14; 2 Peter 3:1-13). 

AM Sermon: God Needs You (Jeremiah 1:4-10)

PM Sermon: PM Service Cancelled Until Further Notice

John Calvin on Heb. 11



WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

5196 Apple Road
Springdale, Arkansas 72762
Phone: (501) 756-6514

Elders

Jim Nabors (479) 601-4300
Calvin Tackett (479) 530-2245

Editor & Evangelist

Chuck Durham (979) 571-4669

Times of Services

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

www.springdalechurchofchrist.com

"[The writer] ascribes all that was praiseworthy in them to faith; though there was not one of them whose faith did not halt. Gideon was slower to take up arms than what he ought to have been; nor did he venture without some hesitation to commit himself to God. Barak at first trembled, so that he was almost forced by the reproofs of Deborah. Samson being overcome by the blandishments of a concubine, inconsiderately betrayed the safety of the whole people... Thus in all the saints, something reprehensible is ever to be found; yet faith, though halting and imperfect, is still approved by God. There is, therefore, no reason why the faults we labour under should break us down, or dishearten us, provided we by faith go on in the race of our calling."

Westside Family News... (send news to durhamchuk@aol.com)

Prayer List:

Parker Family (family issues); **Kat Deuster and boys** (continued stability); **Kellye Hardin** (for improvement)

Shut-Ins: **Bill Lundy;**
Nadine Poteete; **Darl Feagin**

General Family Info:

Tabitha Hudspeth is back at the Beatty's. She has been released from the oncologist as "cancer free!" We give great thanks to God for watching over her during this long ordeal! Congratulations to **Steven & Heather Kinyon** at the birth of their baby girl, **Ella Marie**, on

April 7. Both mom and baby are doing well. Keep **Jennifer Bean** in your prayers. **Tim & Wendi Cheatham** will be moving to Dallas about a year from now (Tim will move very soon). Tim has accepted a job with Michael's home office. **Peyton** will finish out her Senior year in High School at Haas Hall Academy in Bentonville and graduate in May 2021. We will be sad to see them leave us, but we rejoice in the Lord answering our prayers for Tim's landing a good job. Continue in prayer for **Sue Nabors** (Jim's mother), who is in rehab in Conway and doing some better.

Due to the Covid19 out-

break: Sunday AM Worship services are Live-streamed on our Facebook page and then available to watch on Westside's YouTube page, Facebook, or Westside's website. **Chuck's** videos are posted for **Wednesday's Study on Genesis 12-50**. For the study on **April 29**, please read **Gen. chs. 24-27**. Questions will be sent to your Directory email address on Sunday evenings. **Ken Ledbetter** will finish his class on **2 Peter and Jude** on **May 3**. His last video will be available to watch on **Sunday, May 3**. He will cover **2 Peter 3:14-18 and Jude 19-25**.