

***Do not be Surprised***

***Part Two - “A Time of Purging”***

***Genesis 6-9 & 2 Peter 3:1-13***

**Sermon Study Guide**

**March 29, 2020**

**Opening:**

Last week as we started a series called “Do Not Be Surprised”, and talked about the importance of responding to this crisis with faith and hope.

Now we will continue to study about how God can use this crisis for our good as think about, “A Time of Purging”.

*Note: God has not sent the Coronavirus to us as a form of judgment, any more than God sent the seasonal flu, heart disease, or cancer as a form of judgment. These things are a result of living in a “fallen world”. Now, let’s look at the good things that can come from this crisis – Romans 8:28.*

**Read Genesis 6-7**

* In chapter 6 we get a glimpse of the conditions of men’s hearts and attitudes. Describe what God saw in mankind?
* What does it mean that God regretted creating humanity? Was He admitting He made a mistake?

God does not change his mind (1 Samuel 15:29). Instead, he was expressing sorrow for what the people had done to themselves. as a parent might express sorrow over a rebellious child. God was sorry that the people chose sin and death instead of a relationship with Him.

* God often describes Himself as a parent. What does a parent do when there is disobedience in a child? What does God do when we, His children, are disobedient? (Hebrews 12:3-11)
* Read Genesis 6:8-10 – What does it mean that Noah found favor in the eyes of God? What does it mean that Noah walked with God?
* In Genesis 5:21-24, describe the relationship God had with Enoch and what did God do for Enoch?
* Noah and Enoch had a relationship God. What was God’s plan for Noah?

The people's sin grieved God. Our sins break God's heart as much as sin did in Noah's day. Noah, however, pleased God, although he was far from perfect. We can follow Noah's example and find "favor with the Lord" despite the sin that surrounds us

* What was unique about the structure God called Noah to build?
* Picture yourself building a boat the length of one and a half football fields and as high as a four-story building. The boat was exactly six times longer than it was wide—the same ratio used by modern shipbuilders. How would you respond if you were called by God to build the Ark?
* The Ark was probably built miles from any body of water and it had never rained before. It was built by only a few faithful men who believed God's promises. Look up Hebrews 11:6 and answer why God trusted Noah to build the Ark?
* In the plan to repopulate the world through Noah and his family, what does God bring Noah. Why are there some variations in the numbers? How did Noah gather the animals together? (Genesis 6:11-14)
* “Noah did all that God commanded him” -what specifically are the commands?
  + 6:22
  + 7:5
  + 7:9
  + 7:16

**A great way to walk with God is**

**by following His lead and obeying.**

* Other people must have been warned about the coming disaster (1 Peter 3:20), but apparently, they did not expect it to happen. Today, things haven't changed much. In what ways do people react to warnings when they hear of a coming crisis?
* Noah, his wife, his 3 sons and their wives, and all the animals were in the Ark for about 1 year. What would Noah and his family bring spiritually into this newly cleansed world? Were all the problems of evil solved?
* What sign did God give Noah and all future generations, that he would never use a worldwide flood to judge the people?

Does this mean God will not judge sin anymore?

Though God covenanted with Noah that He would never again destroy the earth with water, He has reserved for Himself the ability to destroy the earth with fire (which tells us that the Coronavirus will not end the world). The destruction of the world by fire will coincide with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, something Jesus promised to His disciples. It is an event that we are still waiting for. Let’s look at what will happen when Christ returns, and the heavens and earth will be destroyed by

fire.

**Read 2 Peter 3:1-13**

* The question brought to Peter was about Jesus’ return. How did Peter respond to the question? (vs.1-4)
* What are the facts the people were deliberately overlooking? (vs.5-7)
* What fact are we not to overlook? (vs.8-9)
* If it appears that His return is slow, why is that so and what is God’s desire? (vs.9)
* What happens on the “Day of the Lord” in vs. 10?
* What does this mean for us today and what do we do in the meantime? (vs.11-13)

We should not become lazy and complacent because Christ has not yet returned. Instead, we should live in eager expectation of his coming. What would you like to be doing when Christ returns?

That is how you should be living each day.

CrossRoads of Arlington

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***The Year of the Bible***

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