

Through The Storm Part 2

Soul Shelter

Genesis 7

Memory Verses: Romans 8:18

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle): This is an interesting Mother's day. Normally a day of rejoicing and honoring our moms. We normally take mom out for a nice meal and get the whole family together. This year, some families can't get together for Mother's day. This year some families can't celebrate mom the way she deserves. In some ways, this mother's day has fallen apart.

What happens when everything seems to fall apart? We may look up to God and shout why, or we may get sad and withdraw into depression, or we may get angry and take it out on others, right? We all respond differently in tragedy. But God calls us to respond in a way that points to his goodness. As we saw last week, we may not know the why, but we can trust in God and respond in a way that reflects our trust in him. And maybe that's the why? Can you still trust God when you can't understand the why?

Covid-19 is horrible. It is not just a blight on the world's physical health, but also our economy, our social structures, and our livelihoods. But instead of letting it destroy who we are, we stand up to it boldly, declaring that God has a plan and he is good and we will trust in him to do what he's going to do. If we stand with God as he stands with us, we can never be conquered by anything.

Noah knew this all too well didn't he. One day he's living his life like he didn't have a care in the world, and then the next day God tells him that he is going to bring about a world-wide flood that will wipe out all life on the entire globe. Yet God would spare Noah and his family if he were obedient to build the ark and bring in all the animals that God had told him to bring in. How do you respond to something as ridiculous as this? Of course we ask why? And we examine the what, and we exclaim... "You're gonna do what?" And we go about our lives the best we can right?

And that's what Noah did. He did what God called him to do. So he spent the next 75 years building a giant wooden boat, the likes of which the world had never seen. Then he spent another 45 years gathering all of the food and supplies that would be needed and bringing the animals onto the ark. His response to this tragedy was to be obedient and work hard for the Lord.

But still, everyday must have been filled with an uncertainty that Noah couldn't escape. I'm sure every day he was asking God questions

like, "but how are we going to find these animals," or "how are they all going to fit," "what if we run out of food," "what about all the poop?" And I'm sure Noah was constantly asking the really important questions like, "what if the boat leaks," and "shouldn't we try to save some of these people?" But, the most important question Noah undoubtedly kept nagging God with was... "are we really going to be alright?" And isn't that the question we keep asking God? I mean, maybe not out loud, because you don't want everyone to know just how anxious you are. But, when you get alone, by yourself, the question rises back up, "Lord, am I really going to be alright through this storm?"

And that's the struggle right? Not knowing how this will all play out. You ask questions like, "will I get Covid, and if I do, will I survive it?" Or "what if my job isn't there when all this is over?" Maybe God will restore everything exactly like it was before. Maybe it will be better. Or... what's if it's worse. What if God uses this storm to destroy my life? That's a good question. If you are worse off after Covid-19 is God still good? If you get sick, is God still good? If someone you love dies, is God still good? If you die is God still good? And that's the question we want to answer this morning... Is God still good when things go bad?

Read with me through Genesis 7. Let's read **Genesis 7:6-8, 11-16, 17-20**. We see Noah's family enter the ark, the earth and the heaven's are opened, and the whole earth is flooded. Where can we find any good in this storm? How can we find hope, peace, and joy in the midst of such devastation? It's a good question... but take heart. This morning we want you to see that, no matter how hard things get, **In This Life, Christ Is The Only Sure Shelter For Your Soul.**

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

When it comes to the uncertainty of the trials of this life and the goodness of God... the first thing we need to understand is this....

Understanding God's Goodness Means Having A Godly Perspective . Let's continue the story. Look with me at **Genesis 7:21-23**. This looks bad right? World-wide death and destruction on a level that we've never seen and may never see again. And how does this tragedy compare with the Coronavirus? Let's put it in perspective of fatality rate. I've been studying the fatality rate of Covid-19 a lot. It's a topic that we will probably be debated for a long time. Regardless, we are learning everyday that the infection rate of Covid-19 is higher than what we thought and that the fatality rate is lower than what we thought. Right now studies show that Covid-19 has roughly a 0.5% – 1% fatality rate. Meaning that as little as one out of 200 people who get Covid will die. Now, supposing that there were around a billion people on the Earth at the time – this flood had a 99.99999999% fatality rate.

With that in mind, this tragedy vs. that tragedy has no comparison

right. Look at **vs22**. Everything that had the breath of life in them died. This was, literally, the worst human tragedy in the history of the world. And what is our normal response to this tragedy? We don't like it. To think that a Billion or more people were killed in this flood I think we start to frown upon God. Why? Cause we hate death. Why do we hate death? Cause we are programmed to hate death and try to survive at all cost. Our default setting, along with every animal on the planet, is to stay alive. And not just ourselves... we don't like it when other people die either. We simply, don't do well with the finality of death. When it all boils down, death seems like the greatest enemy there is.

But what if we had a different perspective? What's if death wasn't as bad as we think it is? Wouldn't we be less likely to think of God as evil when people die? Look again at **vs22**. They had the breath of life in them. Who gave it to them in the first place? I bet you can guess. **Genesis 2:7** says that God did. So if God is the one who gave us life... shouldn't it make sense that God can take our life from us? I mean if anyone has that right, shouldn't it be God? **If God has the power and ability to give the breath of life to our bodies... doesn't that make him the authority to take away that same breath?** If God doesn't have that authority then who does? If God isn't in control of life and death than who should be? Me? You? A panel of theologians? Mother nature? I think out of all the choices, God, the wisest, most loving, most holy, being in the universe would be our choice. Don't you?

Listen, bad things happen as a part of life, but apart from those bad things God has proven himself good. His character is good. Look through the Bible. Most everything he does is good, and when he does bring about tragedy, it's for a good reason. **Psalm 25:8 says, "Good and upright is the Lord.** And even yet, if you can't get there, I think we have to try to take it on faith that God is simply good.

So let's put the puzzle pieces together. If God is the only one who has the power and authority to be in control of life and death. And, if God is at his core Good and just in all his ways. Then death and tragedy are a simply a part of God's goodness. Whatever he does it is for good.

Look back at **vs16**. God shuts the door to the ark protecting Noah and his family. In this instance he gives life and blessing to this family because he is good. But in **vs 21-22** God kills every other living thing outside of the ark. In this instance he gives death and tragedy upon the earth... because he is good and he knows that this is the only good thing he can do. And so we look to **Job 1:21** as a constant reminder that the lord gives and takes away, but because he is good, blessed be the name of the Lord.

Everything God allows leads to good things. We may not be able to understand the good that will come out of it, because we can't see the whole picture, but God promises us that good is the outcome. Look at

Romans 8:28, all things work together for the good of those who are called according to his purposes. So God is good in nature and works all things for good, even tragedy. So... **The goodness of God is shown not in his ability to stop tragedy but through his ability to take tragedy and turn it into triumph**. The point is this.... God is still good when bad things happen? So the question for you today is... Can you believe this in your soul? Can you adopt this perspective? Can you believe that God is good even when bad things happen in this world or to you?

There's one other thing we need to recognize today, and it is far and away the most important. The story of Noah shows us that **The Goodness of God is Ultimately Seen In The Shelter of His Son**. Look again real quick at **Genesis 6:22**. Only Noah and his family were left. God spared Noah and his family in the Ark. He chose to save them because he is good.

This shows us two things. First, God CAN save you from the storm you are currently in. Our God still helps us in the trials of this life and is the only one with the power to do so. So whatever your storm is... **if there is hope that we can be delivered out of Covid, financial trouble, sickness, or even death... it's God.**

And secondly, we see that God can give you everlasting salvation. Hopefully you can see the symbolism here. Jesus is the ark. See the similarities. God chose Noah, not because of Noah, but because of God's goodness. God has chosen you, not because of who you are, but because of God's goodness. God brought the flood as part of his holy plan. God brought about our sinful state, and the death of Christ because of his holy plan. God provided Noah an ark. God provides us Jesus. God brought Noah and all the animals into the ark and shut the door. God has brought you by faith into the Ark of Jesus Christ and sealed you with the Holy Spirit. Inside the Ark, Noah and his family were protected from the wrath of God and the death that flooded the earth. An, inside the Ark of Jesus you are protected from the wrath of God and the hell who awaits all who reject him. **In This Life, Christ Is The Only Sure Shelter For Your Soul.**

The tragedies of this life pale in comparison to the salvation we have in Jesus Christ. That's an understatement. But sometimes it doesn't feel that way right. Let me remind you of the goodness that awaits us in Christ. Look at **Romans 8:18** which says, our present sufferings can't even compare to the glory that will be revealed in us. Look, we may get sick, we may have friends pass, we may lose our wealth or health, and we may even die – but when death is defeated and replaced with eternal life – it changes everything. I hope you know this... our life is short. Look at **James 4:14**. But, eternal life is forever and it will be good. So if life is short, and eternal glory is forever then **2 Corinthians 4:17**. Look, eternal glory outweighs everything. Salvation in Christ outweighs everything. Salvation in Christ is the shelter that keeps us from the greatest storm and gives us our ultimate

hope. What's that? **Our ultimate hope is not to be saved from the temporary storms of this life but to have our souls saved from eternal destruction.** If we are saved from death and hell forever and are promised glory in heaven for eternity, we can persevere through the storms of this life. Hope in the salvation of Jesus is the ultimate shelter in this life and the life to come. Why? Because, I may be sick... but someday I will never get sick again. I may have lost a loved one... but someday I will get to spend eternity with them. I may be poor... but someday I will walk on streets of Gold. This life may have storms... but one day I will never see another storm ever again. And if that is the case... I can make it through this storm... the banks of the Jordan aren't that far away. **In This Life, Christ Is The Only Sure Shelter For Your Soul**

Application

God is good, even in life's biggest storms. He's in control and he's working these storms for ultimate good. The question is... "Can you trust that he is good even when things are bad?"

God is also good, because he has provided a salvation in his Son that far surpasses any of the storms of this life. You can survive the storms of this life because you have a hope for eternal glory. No matter how bad it gets here, glory awaits... and the sufferings of this life won't even compare to the goodness there! **In This Life, Christ Is The Only Sure Shelter For Your Soul**

Conclusion

So think about your situation. How bad is it? I'm sure it seems pretty bad at times no doubt. But can you press on one more day, knowing that God is good and glory awaits?

Imagine this scenario – It's mother's day. Everyone around you knows that you are going through a huge storm. Perhaps you are like Becky Smith, who's husband has been in the hospital for two months. Becky should be down hearted, depressed, stressed, and devastated. Or maybe you are a little like Becky's neighbor, Jerri Lynn who lost her daughter two years ago. Jerri Lynn should be a wreck, and no one would count it against her if she was. But as you pass by Becky's home, there she is in her front yard in her favorite spot talking to Jerri Lynn and Bobby in the adjoining yard. And they are just laughing and smiling and having a great time of fellowship. Why? Why are they so happy, and filled with joy, even in the midst of the storm? I'll tell you why? Because they know that God is good, and they know that God has provided salvation through his Son and they don't fear death like they once did. They have found a shelter in the storm, the shelter of hope in Jesus Christ.

This morning you can find a shelter in the storm of life by placing

your trust in the Ark of Jesus Christ. **In This Life, Christ Is The Only Sure Shelter For Your Soul**