

God's Promise to Noah

Read Genesis 6:5-9; 8:18-22; 9:8-15

When we read Genesis 6:5-9, describing the days leading up to the flood, we sense the heart of Almighty God.

First, we feel His deep grief at the evil that had corrupted our race. "His heart was filled with pain" (Genesis 6:6, NIV). He had lovingly formed us in His own image. He had created us to share His mind, His heart, and His holy presence. Now "every inclination of the thoughts of [our hearts] was only evil all the time" (Genesis 6:5).

Second, we see His deep pleasure in one righteous man, whom He found "blameless among the people of his time" (Genesis 6:9, NIV). When it seemed that destroying our entire race was the only solution to the sin problem, a single individual who "walked with God" (v.9) made us worth saving. God took such delight in Noah that He rescued not only him, but also his family and every species of life on earth. No effort was too much.

Then when the waters had dissipated and the ark was emptied, God made a promise to Noah and to all life on earth. It was a promise that would endure as long as the earth endures, a promise made with one of the most beautiful sights in all creation—a rainbow. God's promise was this: never again would He destroy all living creatures (8:21). No matter how bad evil might become, death would not win. Life would win. Holy God was committed to our redemption.

Just as God had preserved our race because of the pleasure He found in one righteous man, God was already working to rescue, restore, and radically transform our entire race because of one completely Righteous Man, perfect and pleasing in His sight. As when sin destroyed our garden paradise, so here when evil threatened to completely overwhelm the earth, God gave us hope and pointed us toward our future in Jesus Christ.

*Death,
with all its threats and intimidation,
cannot restrain the life of God.*

Hymn: [We Have a Hope](#)