

FROM CONDEMNATION

THE LESSON: GENESIS 6-9

From thy wrath, and from everlasting condemnation... Good Lord, deliver us.

As we look back through the scriptures, back through the story of our ancestors in the faith, we see how our good Lord has been our deliverer in every age. God stepped into our messy world to deliver the faithful time and again in the Old Testament scriptures, and this points us to the ultimate deliverance brought about for us through the work of Jesus Christ.

Christians believe in a God whose character is fundamentally loving and merciful. But sometimes we shy away from talking about the fact that he is also holy, and that his holiness cannot tolerate sin. The prophet Habakkuk said of God, “Your eyes are too pure to look on evil, and you cannot tolerate wrong” (1:13).

The sinfulness of humanity is why the sacrifice of Christ was *necessary*. If we lose sight of God’s holiness and of the consequences of human sin (condemnation), then we cannot fully appreciate the magnitude of God’s love in saving us from this mess of our own making. But when we do keep these things in view, then we rejoice at God’s great mercy, knowing that “there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).

The flood narrative is one of the Old Testament passages that show us the condemnation of wicked humanity as well as the deliverance of the faithful by a holy and merciful God. If you’ve never studied the biblical story of Noah, you may be in for a surprise. (Neither Hollywood movies, nor children’s stories have typically done it justice)!

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER))

Psalm 119:11 says, “I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you”. The At-Home Challenge during this unit is to commit a short passage of scripture to memory each week. If the suggested passage is too long, try picking out one verse or phrase that speaks to you particularly and commit it to memory. You will be amazed at how the words of scripture, stored in the heart, will return to you in the moments when you most need them.

JOHN 3:16-18: ¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this collect.

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

(THE COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, BCP PAGE 147)

FROM CONDEMNATION

GENESIS 6-9: **CONDEMNATION + DELIVERANCE**

6⁵The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So 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.” ⁸But Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord... ¹³And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴Make yourself an ark... ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female... ²²Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

7⁷And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood... ¹⁶And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the Lord shut him in. ¹⁷The flood continued for forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth... ²²Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. ²³He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark...

8¹But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided... ¹⁸So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. ¹⁹Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark. ²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹And when the Lord smelt the pleasing aroma, the Lord said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. ²²While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

9¹²And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations... ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.