

Genesis 6:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Analysis

Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.... This passage belongs to the primeval history section (Genesis 1-11) which establishes universal truths about God, humanity, sin, and divine purposes before focusing on Abraham and Israel. These chapters answer fundamental questions about human origins, the spread of wickedness, God's judgment, and the preservation of a righteous remnant.

Recurring patterns emerge: human sin escalating from individual disobedience to societal corruption, divine patience followed by judgment, gracious preservation of a remnant, and covenant promises ensuring redemptive purposes continue. The genealogies connect historical persons, demonstrate the fulfillment of divine promises (blessing and multiplication), and trace the line leading to Abraham and ultimately Christ.

Key theological themes in this section include:

1. sin's destructive progression affecting all humanity
2. God's righteous judgment while preserving mercy
3. human pride and autonomy opposing divine sovereignty
4. cultural development as both blessing and potential idolatry
5. God's sovereign plan advancing despite human rebellion.

These narratives provide the necessary context for understanding God's calling of Abraham and the covenant promises through which all nations will be blessed.

Historical Context

The primeval history (Genesis 1-11) parallels ancient Near Eastern traditions including Sumerian King Lists (pre-flood longevity), Akkadian flood traditions (Atrahasis, Gilgamesh), and Mesopotamian city foundation myths. However, Genesis demythologizes these traditions, presenting monotheistic history rather than polytheistic mythology. The genealogies connecting Adam to Noah to Abraham provide historical framework absent in pagan myths.

Archaeological evidence confirms ancient urbanization (chapter 4's cities), agricultural development, metallurgy, and musical instruments emerging in Mesopotamia's early history. The Babel account reflects Mesopotamian ziggurat construction (stepped pyramid temples), particularly in Babylon. Linguistic diversity requiring explanation was obvious to ancient peoples, making the Babel narrative culturally relevant.

For Israel in covenant with Yahweh, these chapters explained their relationship to surrounding nations. All peoples descended from Noah, but Israel descended from Shem through Abraham—chosen for blessing all nations. The flood demonstrated God's justice and mercy: judging wickedness while preserving the righteous. This pattern would recur throughout Israel's history, assuring them that God's covenant faithfulness endures despite judgment on the wicked.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to the biblical doctrine of creation, fall, or redemption?
2. How should this truth about Judgment shape our daily decisions and priorities?

3. In what ways does this narrative foreshadow or typify aspects of Christ's redemptive work?

Interlinear Text

אָלֹהִים	אַתְּ זֶה	צִוָּה	אָשָׁר	כִּכְלָנֶת	עֲשֵׂה:	כִּי	עֲשֵׂה:	כִּי	עֲשֵׂה:
according to all that God									
H430	H853	H6680	H834	H3605	H5146	Thus did	Noah	Thus did	Thus did
H6213	H6213	H6213							

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 40:16 (Parallel theme): Thus did Moses: according to all that the LORD commanded him, so did he.

John 15:14 (Parallel theme): Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Genesis 7:5 (Parallel theme): And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.

John 2:5 (Parallel theme): His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

Deuteronomy 12:32 (Parallel theme): What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Genesis 7:16 (References God): And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

Exodus 40:23 (Parallel theme): And he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD; as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Genesis 7:9 (References God): There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah.

Exodus 40:25 (Parallel theme): And he lighted the lamps before the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Exodus 40:27 (Parallel theme): And he burnt sweet incense thereon; as the LORD commanded Moses.

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