

Genesis 7:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

Analysis

And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous... 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to the biblical doctrine of creation, fall, or redemption?
2. What obstacles prevent us from living out the truths presented in this verse?
3. How does this passage point forward to Christ and the gospel of redemption?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	לְנוֹחַ	בֹּא	אַתָּה	וְכָל	בֵּיתְךָ
said	And the LORD	unto Noah	Come	H859	H3605	thou and all thy house
H559	H3068	H5146	H935			H1004
אֶל	הַתֵּבָה	כִּי	אֵתְךָ	רָא יָתִי	צַדִּיק	לִפְנֵי
H413	into the ark	H3588	H853	for thee have I seen	righteous	before me
	H8392			H7200	H6662	H6440
בְּדֹר	הַזֶּה					
generation	in this					
H1755	H2088					

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 6:9 (Righteousness): These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

Genesis 7:13 (Parallel theme): In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark;

1 Peter 3:20 (Parallel theme): Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

Hebrews 11:7 (Righteousness): By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the

which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Acts 2:39 (References Lord): For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Proverbs 18:10 (Righteousness): The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Proverbs 14:26 (References Lord): In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

Luke 17:26 (Parallel theme): And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

Zephaniah 2:3 (Righteousness): Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.

Genesis 7:7 (Parallel theme): And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.