

Rain & Floods

Two days ago I commented to my wife that it feels like we should start building an ark as it seems that the rains never stop. One of the best-known events in the Bible is the great flood at the time of Noah. Commonly known simply as *The Flood*, or *The Deluge*, it certainly was a very big adjustment in the history of humanity. The reason for the flood was that humanity's behavior had become so hopelessly evil that God could no longer tolerate them:

"The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart. So The Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the ground, man and beast and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." (Genesis 6:5-7 RSV)

There was however one exception:

"But Noah found favor in the eyes of The Lord ... Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God." (Genesis 6:8-9 RSV)

Can you make that claim today—that you are a righteous man, blameless before the Lord?

Upon exiting the ark, The Lord said to Noah:

"Behold, I establish My covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish My covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember My covenant which 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." (Genesis 9:9-15 RSV)

This says that God established a “new Covenant” with us that guarantees us that no matter how much rain and flooding we are getting it will never reach the point that the floods will cover the whole earth, in spite of what may feel like right now. I’m glad for that, but I’m much more glad that that He also established The New Covenant!

Let’s go back to my prior question. Can you make that claim that you are a righteous man, blameless before the Lord? If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and believe that he has paid the price for your sin, then yes, you can claim, “I stand before you Lord, totally blameless and righteous!”

Under the Old Covenant, righteousness had to be attained through keeping the law perfectly (Deut 6:25). It is the righteousness of man because it was to be attained through man’s effort. No

one succeeded in 1,500 years. It was the blood of animals that covered their sins till Christ came. Under the New Covenant, righteousness is a gift (Rom 5:17, Eph 2:8). It is not something that we can earn. It is called the righteousness of God because Jesus kept the law and gave us His righteousness (Rom 10:3, Phil 3:9). It is given by grace and received by faith. And, in fact, as believers, we are the very righteousness of God!

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV)