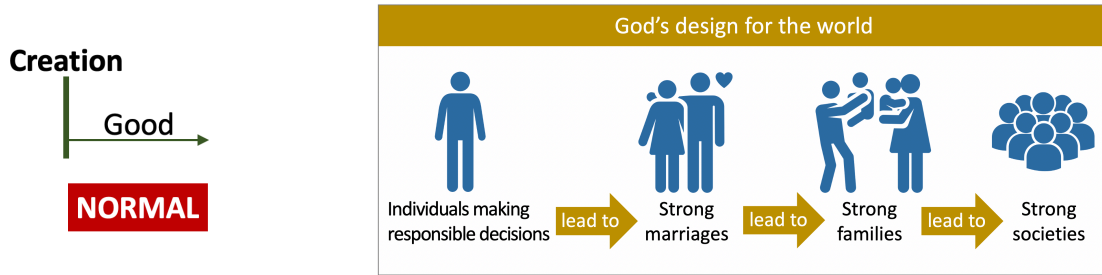


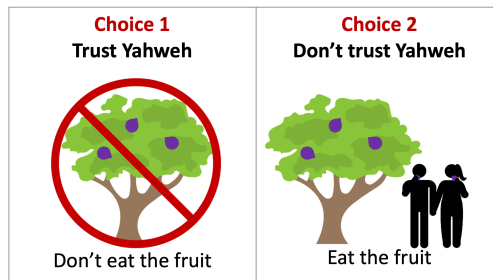
5. God Judged the Evil World — Part 1

Previously...

Yahweh created a perfect world with innocent mankind. He told them how they could thrive based on how He had designed them. This perfect world was the normal world that He created.

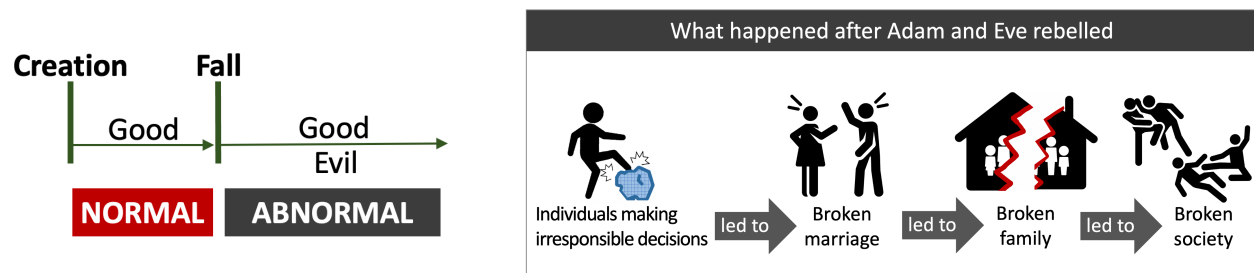


Yahweh gave mankind responsible choice. Both Adam and Eve could choose to have a relationship with Him and trust Him, or choose to reject Him. However, they would be held responsible for their choices and would have to live with the consequences of their choices.

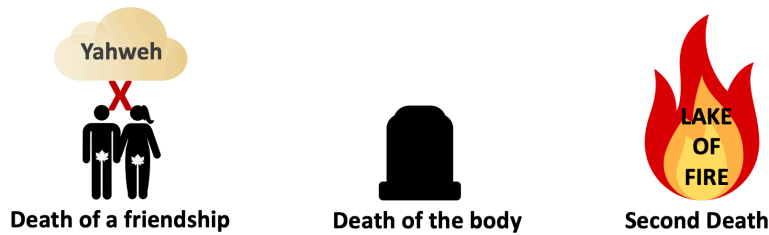


Mankind chose to rebel against the righteous Creator-God. This was how they brought evil and sin into the world. Yahweh did not create evil. Evil is abnormal. Evil in the world came about because of mankind's sin.

Today we live in an abnormal world with a mix of good and evil. In this abnormal world, the perfect design that God had for mankind has been perverted.

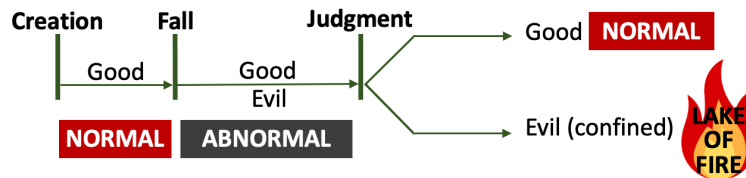


As Yahweh had warned, death is a consequence of sin.



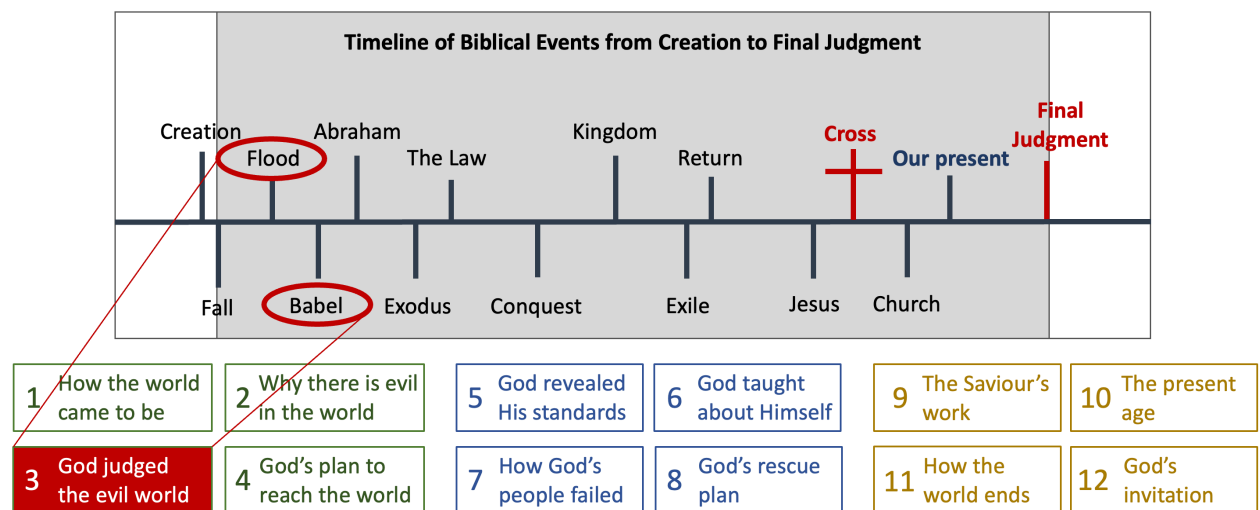
God does not want mankind to live trapped in sin, evil, pain, suffering, disaster and tragedy forever. His plan for a good and perfect world will not be thwarted. So, right after Adam and Eve sinned, Yahweh promised to send a Saviour, the offspring of the woman, who would destroy sin and evil, and rescue mankind from the second death.

Yahweh’s plan is to eventually separate good and evil and bring back the normal, good world that He had intended all along. All mankind needed was to trust Him and what He had said about the coming Saviour.



Unfortunately, most of Adam and Eve’s descendants chose not to trust God. In fact, they outright rebelled against Yahweh and all that is good.

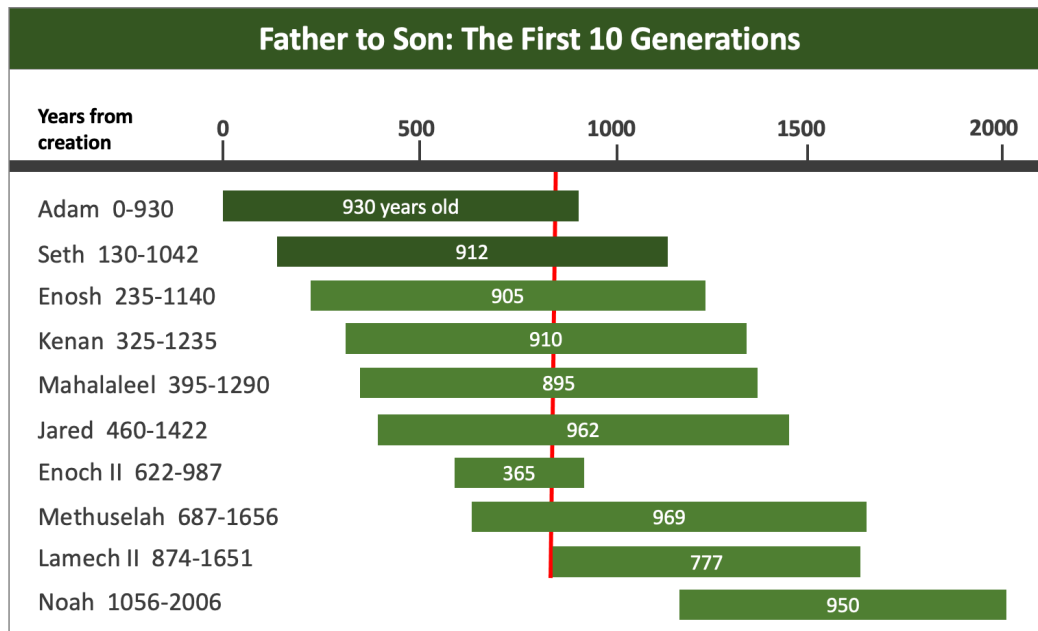
We will continue in the narrative of the Bible to see what happened to the descendants of Adam and Eve outside the garden of Eden.



LIFE OUTSIDE THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Long lives

Outside the garden of Eden, after Cain killed Abel, Adam and Eve had another son named Seth. The Bible records in Genesis 5 that this was a very unique time in history because people lived very long lives.



In fact, Adam was still alive when Lamech II, who was eight generations down from him, was born. So there were literally nine generations alive at the same time.

This means that for almost 1,000 years, there was common worldwide knowledge about Yahweh because the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were there to relate their account of history. Everyone in the whole world then had access to God's history and truth.

Intelligent and resourceful

What were the people like? The Bible records that the people then were brilliant: they developed technology and had a deep understanding of the earth's resources. For example, this is what the Bible said of Adam and Eve's son, Cain.

Genesis 4:17–22

¹⁷ Cain had sexual relations with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain founded a city, which he named Enoch, after his son. ¹⁸ Enoch had a son named Irad. Irad became the father of Mehujael. Mehujael became the father of Methushael. Methushael became the father of Lamech.

¹⁹ Lamech married two women. The first was named Adah, and the second was Zillah.

²⁰ Adah gave birth to Jabal, who was the first of those who raise livestock and live in tents.

²¹ His brother's name was Jubal, the first of all who play the harp and flute.

²² Lamech's other wife, Zillah, gave birth to a son named Tubal-cain. He became an expert in forging tools of bronze and iron. Tubal-cain had a sister named Naamah.

From Adam to Jabal and Jubal was just seven generations. In that time, mankind had:

- founded a city
- raised livestock
- created string and wind music instruments
- forged metal tools from bronze (an alloy of copper and another metal) and iron.

The Bible is clear that these early people were highly intelligent, resourceful, organised and creative.

For example, a city requires infrastructure such as roads, housing, water, food supply and sanitation. This means Cain had to be a strategic thinker, good at planning and engineering, among many other skills.

Creating musical instruments likewise involves designing, inventing, finding the right materials, and then building and tuning the musical instruments. And after that, the people would have had to compose all the music and lyrics.

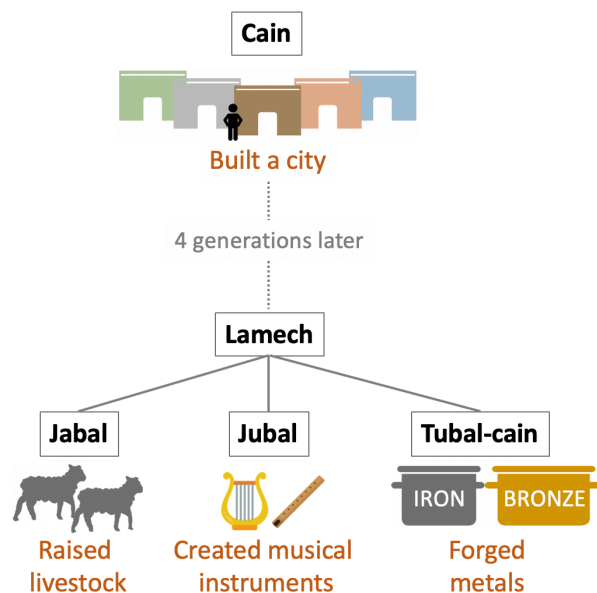
And to forge metal, the people had to have the knowledge and skills to find ore, smelt it, mix it to create an alloy, and then forge tools.

The people living outside Eden developed civilisation rapidly.

However, despite their intelligence, and despite their knowledge of Yahweh, they chose not to learn from Adam and Eve's past mistake. Most of them ignored Yahweh and chose to live wicked lives. Notice, for example, how Lamech violated God's design for marriage, which was for one man to be joined to one woman. He took on two wives!

Not only were they wicked towards God, the people were also wicked towards each other. Cain's violent and murderous inclination towards his brother Abel carried on in his descendants as well.

This is what God did after that.



THE GLOBAL FLOOD JUDGMENT

Now we'll take a look at an event that has come to be known as “the Global Flood”.



Let's turn to our Bibles and read Genesis 6:5–8:19.

(The leader reads aloud. For reference, the verses are also here.)

Genesis 6:5–8:19

⁵ The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. ⁶ So the LORD was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. ⁷ And the LORD said, “I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them.” ⁸ But Noah found favor with the LORD.

⁹ This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God.

¹⁰ Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹ Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. ¹² God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. ¹³ So God said to Noah, “I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth!

¹⁴ “Build a large boat from cypress wood and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. ¹⁵ Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. ¹⁶ Leave an 18-inch opening below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side, and build three decks inside the boat—lower, middle, and upper.

¹⁷ “Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes. Everything on earth will die. ¹⁸ But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁹ Bring a pair of every kind of animal—a male and a female—into the boat with you to keep them alive during the flood.

²⁰ Pairs of every kind of bird, and every kind of animal, and every kind of small animal that scurries along the ground, will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹ And be sure to take on board enough food for your family and for all the animals.”

²² So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

¹ When everything was ready, the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the boat with all your family, for among all the people of the earth, I can see that you alone are righteous. ² Take with you seven pairs—male and female—of each animal I have approved for eating and for sacrifice, and take one pair of each of the others. ³ Also take seven pairs of every kind of bird. There must be a male and a female in each pair to ensure that all life will survive on the earth after the flood. ⁴ Seven days from now I will make the rains pour down on the earth. And it will rain for forty days and forty nights, until I have wiped from the earth all the living things I have created.”

⁵ So Noah did everything as the LORD commanded him.

⁶ Noah was 600 years old when the flood covered the earth. ⁷ He went on board the boat to escape the flood—he and his wife and his sons and their wives. ⁸ With them were all the various kinds of animals—those approved for eating and for sacrifice and those that were not—along with all the birds and the small animals that scurry along the ground.

⁹ They entered the boat in pairs, male and female, just as God had commanded Noah.

¹⁰ After seven days, the waters of the flood came and covered the earth.

¹¹ When Noah was 600 years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month, all the underground waters erupted from the earth, and the rain fell in mighty torrents from the sky. ¹² The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights.

¹³ That very day Noah had gone into the boat with his wife and his sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth—and their wives. ¹⁴ With them in the boat were pairs of every kind of animal—domestic and wild, large and small—along with birds of every kind. ¹⁵ Two by two they came into the boat, representing every living thing that breathes. ¹⁶ A male and female of each kind entered, just as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD closed the door behind them.

¹⁷ For forty days the floodwaters grew deeper, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. ¹⁸ As the waters rose higher and higher above the ground, the boat floated safely on the surface. ¹⁹ Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth, ²⁰ rising more than twenty-two feet above the highest peaks. ²¹ All the living things on earth died—birds, domestic animals, wild animals, small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people. ²² Everything that breathed and lived on dry land died. ²³ God wiped out every living thing on the earth—people, livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and the birds of the sky. All were destroyed. The only people who survived were Noah and those with him in the boat. ²⁴ And the floodwaters covered the earth for 150 days.

¹ But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and livestock with him in the boat. He sent a wind to blow across the earth, and the floodwaters began to recede. ² The underground waters stopped flowing, and the torrential rains from the sky were stopped.

³ So the floodwaters gradually receded from the earth. After 150 days, ⁴ exactly five months from the time the flood began, the boat came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.

⁵ Two and a half months later, as the waters continued to go down, other mountain peaks became visible.

⁶ After another forty days, Noah opened the window he had made in the boat ⁷ and released a raven. The bird flew back and forth until the floodwaters on the earth had dried up. ⁸ He also released a dove to see if the water had receded and it could find dry ground.

⁹ But the dove could find no place to land because the water still covered the ground. So it returned to the boat, and Noah held out his hand and drew the dove back inside. ¹⁰ After waiting another seven days, Noah released the dove again. ¹¹ This time the dove returned to him in the evening with a fresh olive leaf in its beak. Then Noah knew that the floodwaters were almost gone. ¹² He waited another seven days and then released the dove again. This time it did not come back.

¹³ Noah was now 601 years old. On the first day of the new year, ten and a half months after the flood began, the floodwaters had almost dried up from the earth. Noah lifted back the covering of the boat and saw that the surface of the ground was drying. ¹⁴ Two more months went by, and at last the earth was dry!

¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ “Leave the boat, all of you—you and your wife, and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷ Release all the animals—the birds, the livestock, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—so they can be fruitful and multiply throughout the earth.”

¹⁸ So Noah, his wife, and his sons and their wives left the boat. ¹⁹ And all of the large and small animals and birds came out of the boat, pair by pair.

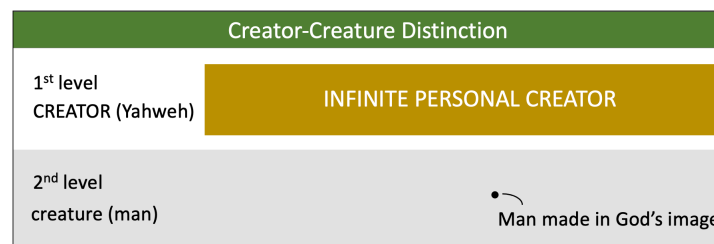
Yahweh separated good and evil

How did Yahweh feel about the fact that mankind had turned against Him and each other? How did He feel seeing mankind suffer from the consequences of sin and wickedness that they brought upon themselves? The Bible says it broke His heart.

Genesis 6:5–6

⁵ The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. ⁶ So the LORD was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart.

Yahweh is not cold, unfeeling or mechanical. He is not a force like energy. Yahweh is a Person who has feelings and emotions. This is why mankind has feelings as well, because mankind is made in God’s own image.

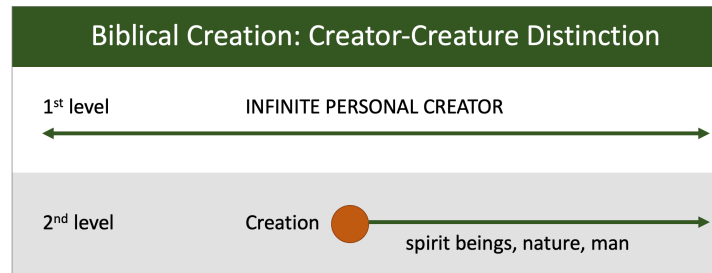


It broke God’s heart to see the people He had created abuse and destroy each other. This was not how God meant for mankind to live.

When the Bible says that God was “sorry he had ever made them”, it does not mean that God had made a mistake in creating mankind. Rather, it is to show how upset God was about the poor choices people had made to get themselves into such a terrible situation, one that would eventually lead to eternal death.

Did Yahweh do anything about this situation? Yes. Yahweh is not a God who created the world and then left it alone to run itself. He is intimately involved in everything that happens in the world. God loves His creation and He will protect those He loves by removing evil, sin and suffering.

Every creator and owner has rights over what he has created, whether it is a piece of art, a dish of food, an item of furniture, etc. As Creator-Owner of the universe, Yahweh has rights as well, rights over all that He has created. And He demands accountability from all His creatures. All created beings will have to answer to Him for the choices they make in the lives that He has given them.



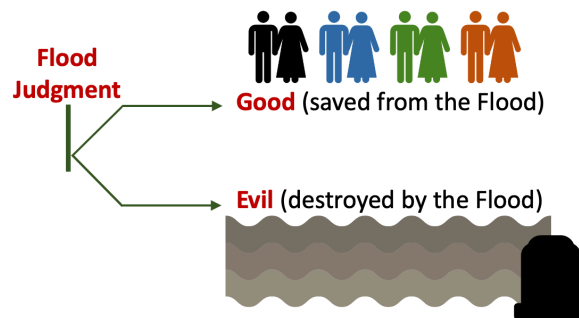
This is why Satan will one day be thrown into the lake of fire: for his choice to make himself God’s enemy.



Likewise, God holds all mankind responsible for the choices they make in their lives.

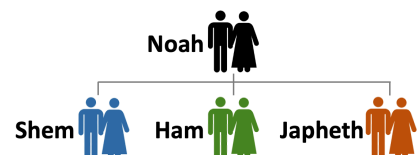
Because Yahweh is infinitely good, just and righteous, His standard of what is right and wrong, good and bad, is perfect. He will never overlook evil. All good will be rewarded. All evil will be dealt with and judged.

The Bible says that at that time in the world’s history, God judged evil mankind. He was going to separate good and evil. In a sense, God was going to press the “re-start” button on the earth. He was going to destroy those who were evil with a Global Flood and save those who were righteous.



Out of all the people on the earth at that time, God only considered Noah and his family righteous before Him.

However, God did not send the Global Flood immediately after deciding to do so. Instead, He allowed a long period of grace for the people of the world to change their minds and turn away from wickedness.



Grace before judgment

God gave Noah instructions on how to construct an ark, a boat, large enough and strong enough for its occupants to survive the Global Flood.



During the years that he was building the boat, Noah explained to others what Yahweh was going to do.

2 Peter 2:5

And God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God’s righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood.

How long did God wait before He sent the flood? One hundred and twenty years.

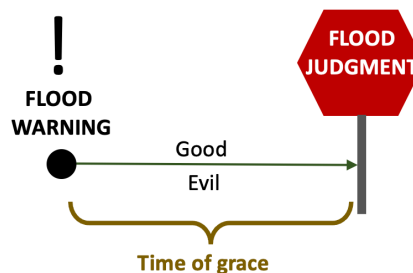
Genesis 6:3 (NET)

So the LORD said, “My spirit will not remain in humankind indefinitely, since they are mortal. They will remain for 120 more years.”

God never judges without first providing a warning. God waited 120 years after the warning before He sent the flood.

This means that the people had ample time to respond to God’s grace. What is grace? **Grace is God’s temporary way of showing love to evil people who do not deserve it.**

Actually, God did not need to give evil mankind a “grace period”. He had every right to destroy them immediately and without warning. But because God loves His creation, He told Noah to warn the world of what was coming and He gave the people time to reconsider their ways.



However, it’s important to understand that grace is temporary. There is a time limit. After a period of grace, judgment will definitely come. There is no escape. But during the grace period, God is showing His patience and allowing people to change their minds.

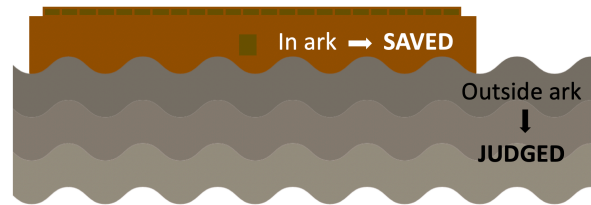
Whom to save, whom to judge

When God sent the Flood, how did He decide whom to save and whom to judge? Simple. Those in the ark would be saved and those outside the ark would be judged.

If anyone believed God's warnings that He had delivered through Noah, and entered the ark with Noah and his family, they would be saved. Everyone else would not. In other words:

- those who **rejected** God's plan of escape, in this case the ark, would **die**.
- those who **trusted** in God's plan of escape would enter the ark and be **saved**.

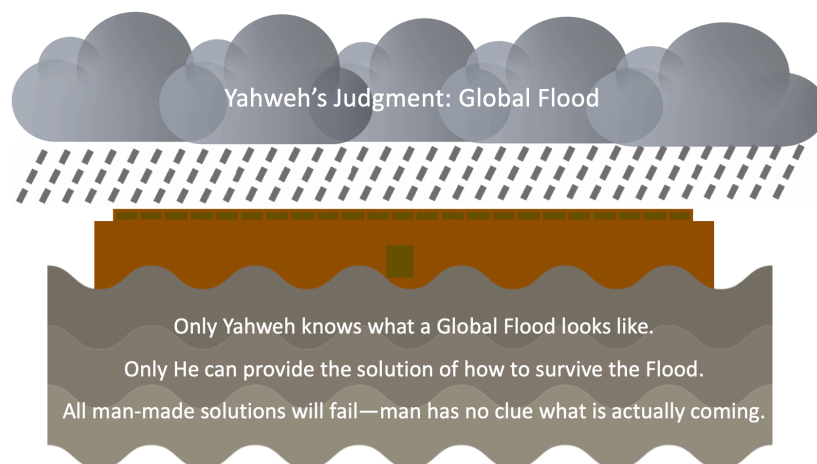
God's salvation was not random or secret. He did not pick and choose whom He wanted to save. God clearly told the people what He would be doing: He would be judging the world. He told them how to be saved from the judgment. This means people were not left guessing if they would be saved or not. There was no confusion at all. Those in the ark would be saved. Those outside would be judged.



Only one way of salvation

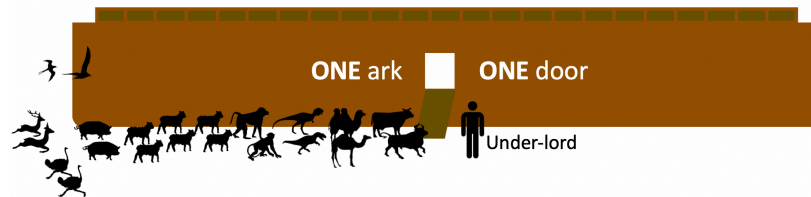
No one in the world at that time had ever seen a global flood. It had never happened before. Even Noah had no idea what to expect. If he didn't even know what was coming, how could he prepare for it?

Only Yahweh knew how mankind could be saved from this worldwide disaster. Only God knew how to build a boat big enough and strong enough for them to survive in. No one on earth could have figured it out. This is why God gave Noah the ark's building plans.



Studying the dimensions of the ark as recorded in Genesis 6:14–15, we can see that it was enormous, similar in size to a modern, ocean-going freighter. With our present-day knowledge of physics, we know that a vessel the shape and size of the ark would be highly stable and would not capsize. And God also told Noah how to make the ark waterproof and to build in ventilation. This was necessary because the ark was supposed to preserve the life of mankind and animals from a catastrophic global flood for a year.

God's plan was to have one ark with one door. It was through this one door that all who entered would be saved. It was through this one door that God told Noah, as the under-lord of creation, to load and save the gene pool of all the animals that God brought to him.



But when the ark was ready and all the people and animals were on board, it was not Noah who shut the door.

Genesis 7:16

A male and female of each kind entered, just as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD closed the door behind them.

It was God Himself who shut and sealed the door. There was no chance that the door would leak or spring open in the flood.

It also meant that no one else could get in and none of those in the ark could get out.

- Even if Noah wanted to open the door to let others in, he could not. It was God who shut the door. Mankind's grace period to change their minds and enter the ark was over.
- If Noah's family got scared of being in the ark and wanted to get out, they could not. It was God who shut the door. It was God who kept them safe inside.

Man and nature impacted

When God sent the Global Flood, He totally destroyed the world that Noah knew. It poured for 40 days. And the crust of the earth broke and waters from the deep were unleashed for 150 days. All the land was covered and every man, woman, child and animal who was not in the ark died.

At the Flood, the whole world changed as well. God radically transformed the earth such that the post-flood landscape, geography, climate and biological ecosystems were different from the original world that God had created.

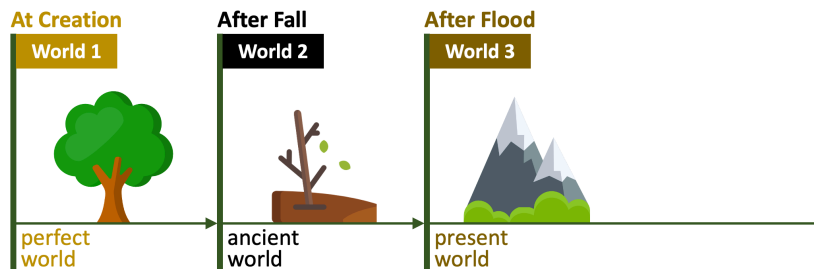
When Noah and his family were finally released from the ark, they stepped out into a completely different world. This change was so fantastical and radical that the Bible talks about future people rejecting what had actually happened at that time.

2 Peter 3:5–6

⁵ They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water.

⁶ Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood.

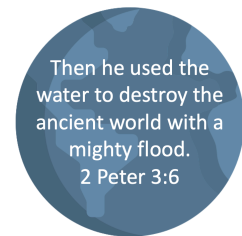
What this Bible passage is saying is that the world we now live in is actually “World 3”.



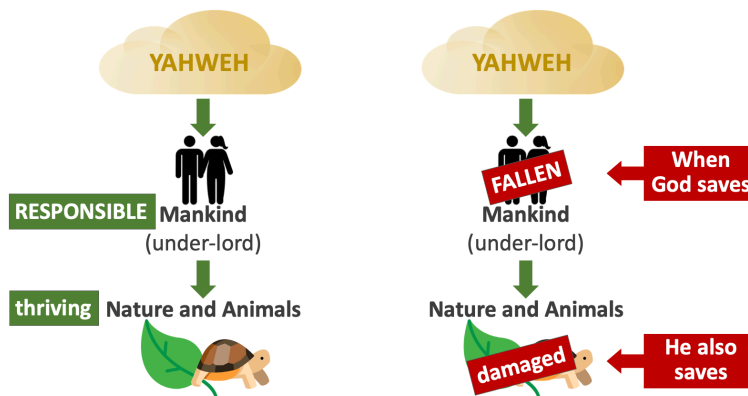
At creation, that is, “World 1”, we learnt that God created dry land by separating seas from the ground. This world was entirely perfect.

The Bible calls “World 2”, the ancient world. This world is the one that Adam and Eve lived in after the Fall. It was a fallen, broken world where thorns and thistles grew.

But “World 3” is also dramatically different from Worlds 1 and 2. This is the world we now live in today. This is the world after the Global Flood that split the continents of the world and caused all the geography and landscape to be what we see today.



Why does God connect the world and nature to mankind? This is because mankind was supposed to responsibly care for nature and the animals in their God-given role as under-lord. If Adam and Eve had been responsible under-lords, depending on and seeking advice from the Creator-God Himself, nature and the environment would have thrived.



But because Adam and Eve corrupted themselves by rebelling against the Creator-God, nature and the environment also got corrupted. Responsibility always comes with consequences. The irresponsible acts of mankind are the cause of damaged nature today. What happens in the physical world of nature is directly related to mankind's relationship with God. This is why in judgment and salvation, both mankind and nature are affected.

How to be saved: by faith

This plan of salvation from the Global Flood could be made and carried out only by God alone. There was nothing that Noah could add to God's plan. Noah simply had to believe that what God said was true. All he had to have was faith in Yahweh. Noah's response to God was the direct opposite of the rest of the world's response to God. This is how the Bible describes it.

Hebrews 11:7

It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.



Noah did not try to add to God's plan or change it. He simply trusted God. He did exactly as God told him. And this is a picture of what it means to have faith in God and His salvation.

How God judges and saves

The Global Flood was Yahweh's first worldwide judgment on evil mankind. Through it, we learn about God's character and how He judges and saves.

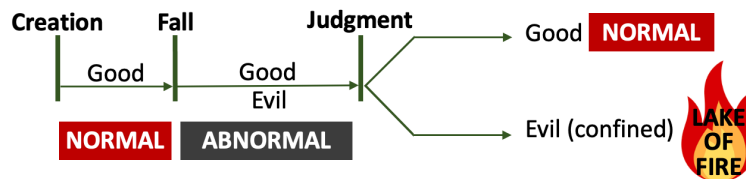
How Yahweh Judges and Saves	The Global Flood
1. Grace before judgment	Noah warned everyone.
2. Whom to save, whom to judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saved: Those in the ark • Judged: Those outside the ark
3. Only one way of salvation	Only one ark designed by God and it had only one door.
4. Man and nature impacted	The global flood changed the whole world.
5. How to be saved: by faith	Noah was saved because he trusted God.

We will see later that the Global Flood did not permanently separate good from evil. And we will learn what Yahweh did after that.

However, the Bible does warn us that in the future, God will once and for all, permanently separate good and evil. He will totally destroy our present earth, confine evil in the lake of fire forever and restore the world to the normal perfect world He had originally intended to have.

2 Peter 3:7

And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.



What happened next?

In the next lesson, we will see what happened after the Flood. Specifically, we will see what the world was like and what God did with Noah and his family.



Bible reading for review

Genesis 6:5–8:19 (This spans three chapters: Genesis 6 (beginning at verse 5), Genesis 7 and Genesis 8 (till verse 19)).