

The Right Direction

Genesis 6:9-11:9

Outline

I. Literary Structure

- A. Flood of Deliverance (6:9-9:17)
 - 1. Initial Divine Covenant (6:9-22)
 - a. Explanation of Destruction (6:13)
 - b. Establishment of Covenant (6:17-18)
 - 2. Escape from Water (7:1-16)
 - 3. Divine Remembrance of Noah (7:17-8:5) - center
 - 4. Exit to Dry Land (8:6-19)
 - 5. Enduring Covenant (8:20-9:17)
 - a. New Order (8:22)
 - b. Promise to never destroy again (9:11-15)

- B. New Order (9:18-11:9)
 - 1. Sons of Noah (9:18-10:32)
 - a. Title (9:18-19)
 - b. Distinctions among sons (9:20-29)
 - i. Canaan/Ham - curses
 - ii. Shem/Japheth - blessings
 - c. Distribution of sons/descendants (10:1-32)
 - i. Shem
 - ii. Canaan
 - iii. Japheth

2. Defeat of Babel (11:1-9)
 - a. Humanity Unified (1-2)
 - b. Humanity's Plan (3-4)
 - c. Divine Investigation (5)
 - d. Divine Plan (6-7)
 - e. Humanity Dispersed (8-9)

II. Original Meaning

A. Flood of Deliverance

1. Connections with Moses' own day
 - a. Deliver from Violence
 - b. Ark
 - c. Covenants
 - d. Water Judgment
 - e. Wind
 - f. Animals
 - g. Divine Remembrance
 - h. Blessings of Nature
2. Implications of Parallels
 - a. Violence - Blessing
 - b. Egypt - Canaan

B. Noah's Sons

1. Canaan versus Ham (9:25-27)
2. Conflict in New Order post-flood (9:25-27)
 - a. Canaan lowest/slave
 - b. Shem is the victor over all
3. Implications (10:18-19)

C. Defeat of Babel

1. City
2. Victory
 - a. Scattering (11:4)
 - i. Inhabitants
 - ii. God
 - b. Size of city/tower (11:4,5)
 - i. Inhabitants
 - ii. God
 - c. Reputation (11:9)
 - i. Inhabitants
 - ii. God
3. Implications
 - a. Spy Reports (Deut. 1:28)
 - b. Destruction

III. Modern Application

A. Inauguration

1. Covenant Mediated By Christ
 - a. Deliverance
 - b. Jer. 31:31
 - c. Jesus as mediator (Luke 22:20)
2. Victory in Holy War
 - a. Triumph on the cross (Col 2:15)
 - b. Spiritual Victory, not political

B. Continuation

1. Baptism – Flood
 - a. Noah saved through water (I Pet. 3:20-22)
 - b. Water – Christian Baptism
2. Spiritual Warfare – Holy War
 - a. Armor of God (Eph. 6:11-12)
 - b. Required to join

C. Consummation

1. Final Cataclysm (2 Pet. 3:3-6)
 - a. Fire – Christ's Return
 - b. New Heavens/Earth
2. Final Battle (Rev. 19:11-16)
 - a. Ultimate/Eternal Victory
 - b. Judgment – Rejection

Teacher's Guide

Suggested Lesson Plan:

1. Display (on a board or overhead) and explain the main ideas of the lesson.
2. Play the videotape "The Right Direction" as participants take notes on outlines.
3. Discuss the main ideas of the video.
4. Discuss discussion questions.

Main Ideas:

1. Moses used the narratives Noah and Babel to compare Israel's future in Canaan to the great blessings promised to Noah while threatening defeat by God for defiance of God's plan.
2. Noah served as a precursor for Moses and Israel as his experiences during the flood paralleled much of Israel's experiences in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. The experiences of Noah and his descendants after the flood, and the experiences of the people of the city of Babel served to justify Moses' plan for Israel to enter and overtake Canaan, threatening judgment for disobedience and promising victory for obedience.
3. In Jesus a new covenant is established and victory is begun (Inauguration), spiritual holy war is required and pursued (Continuation), and final victory is accomplished (Consummation).

Discussion Questions:

1. Make a list of the ways Moses parallels the narratives of Noah and Babel with Israel. Does such audience-specific (i.e., intended for Israel as they traveled from Egypt to Canaan) revelation call into question the historicity of the actual events?
2. Discuss various arguments from nature both for and against the existence of God. How would you use the information presented in the narrative of Noah to defend your theistic views? Is argument from order/design a valid way to argue for Christian theism?
3. Does the subjugation of the Canaanites to the Shemites justify slavery of any form? Would such a command be acceptable today as a result of Holy War? How should Christians treat other cultures that do not accept their views? To what extent is the expansion of the Kingdom geographic today compared with that of Israel during the time of Noah/Moses?