

In step with Jesus 209

August 9, 2026

Key Text: The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever. (Psalm 119:160)

Introduction

Last week we learnt about God's unfailing love for His creation. He created each animal species and blessed them as males and females for companionship and productivity. Even after sin and imminent destruction of the world by flood, God preserved the male-female companionship for humanity's happiness and reproduction. Most importantly, Genesis chapter seven leaves us with no confusion about who is a male or a female. There was no question about whether each sex/gender was biologically or socially constructed. The understanding of males versus females was plain and taken for granted. I dare to say that the ambiguities we have today, both in biological sex and social gender came as a result of sin and many years of human degradation. The creator of all things created us males and females and when He planned to destroy the world with the flood, He saved equal number of both males and females, both of humans and animals. He did not save ten males and five females, or vice versa. He placed equal value on each sex/gender. It is my prayer that God will help us to place the same value He placed on our fellow human beings, whether they be males or females. I also pray that we will imitate Noah by inviting everybody, both males and females into God's ark of salvation, which is the family of God and the body of Christ.

Today we shall continue our reflections on Genesis chapter seven. We will read verses one to ten again and see what more we can learn as the Holy Spirit opens our eyes.

Genesis 7: 1-10

7 Then the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. 2 Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, 3 and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. 4 For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights,

and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.”

5 And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

6 Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth.

7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. 8 Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, 9 two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth.

Reflections

We can see that in addition to the male-female categorization of the animals to be saved in Noah's ark, there was also the categorization of clean and unclean animals. God instructed Noah to take seven pairs of clean animals and a pair of the unclean animals into the ark. For the birds, He commanded Noah to take seven pairs. Genesis chapter seven is the first time the bible records anything about clean and unclean animals but there was no specific way to identify which animals were clean and unclean in this chapter. The first time the bible clearly records specific animals as clean and unclean is in the book of Leviticus chapter eleven when God instructed the Israelites about the animals they should and should not eat. How then that before there was a Jew or an Israelite, Noah already knew which animals were clean or unclean? This is yet another evidence about the universality of God's laws.

Before there was any Jew or an Israelite, the knowledge of clean and unclean animals existed. The animals designated as unclean were not necessarily unclean in themselves, but they were unclean to God's people. In Leviticus chapter eleven, after mentioning and explaining why some animals are unclean, God said in verse eight “You shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall not touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you.” “They are unclean to you, not to me” [God]. Our creator loves all His creatures, and He has a purpose for creating each one of them. His plan of salvation in Noah's day included the unclean animals, so He definitely cares about them. However, He who knows what He made us from, and why He made us, also knows what is not suitable for our bodies. The human machine so to speak, cannot run effectively on the fuel provided by unclean animals that is why God said we should not eat them. We do not at this time, know all there is to know about the health impact of eating unclean animals, but we can trust God's judgement. He created us and He knows what is best for us.