

In step with Jesus 207

July 26, 2026

Key Text: But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

Introduction

Last week the key lesson we learnt was about Noah's obedience to God. Our reading told us that he did everything that God had commanded him to do. We identified that Noah's obedience to the specific instructions regarding the ark was possible because Noah knew and trusted God. Noah had walked with God like a friend, just like his grandfather Enoch; he knew the voice of God, so when God told him that there would be a flood and told him to build an ark with specifications, he knew to take His words seriously. Obedience and trust reinforce each other in our relationship with God. The more we trust God, the more we obey him and the more we obey Him, the more we trust Him. The opposite is also true. The more we disobey God, the more distrust we have for Him and the more distrust we have for God, the more we are likely to disobey Him. So, if you and I are struggling with disobedience to God's laws and commandments, we should know that the problem is not that the commandments of God are hard, our problem lies in our trust in God. We must believe that God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do; that way, we will be able to do what He tells us to do.

Today we will read Genesis chapter seven. There is so much to learn from this chapter so we will take it gradually. We will read the whole chapter to get the full story, then we will reflect on the chapter gradually in the next two or three weeks.

Genesis 7

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. ²Take 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, ³and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴For 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." ⁵And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. ⁶Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. ⁷And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, ⁹two 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.

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. ¹² And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³ On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, ¹⁴ they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. ¹⁵ They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶ And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in. ¹⁷ The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. ¹⁹ And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰ The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. ²¹ And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. ²² Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. ²³ He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. ²⁴ And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

Reflections

Note that God continues to repeat His conviction that Noah was a righteous man in his generation, and because of Noah, God was going to save Noah's wife and children and Noah's daughters-in-law. Not only that, but God also saved the animals, clean and unclean because of Noah's righteousness. However, if you read Genesis chapter nine, you will see that Noah was not a perfect man. He may have had alcohol issues, but God said He was righteous. We cannot tell the standard by which God judged Noah, but we must accept that God, the creator of the heavens and the earth, knows the heart of every human being on planet earth. If He says that you and I are righteous, then we are. As we go through this week, let us remember what God says concerning us, not who we or other people think we are. In 1 Peter chapter two verses nine, the bible says: "... you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." Friends, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are God's chosen people and His verdict concerning us is that we are righteous. Let us believe His judgement about us and it shall be well with us.