

In step with Jesus 208

August 2,2026

Key Text: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22-23)

Introduction

We praise God for keeping us alive till today, the first Sunday of the month of August 2026. Life is something we often take for granted, but recently I have started thinking more deeply about life. It is human to think that we have a long time to live but according to God’s word, we live breath by breath, moment by moment and day by day. Every breath we take is a fresh gift of God’s love and mercy and every day we live is another opportunity to know and love God and also enjoy all the benefits He loads us with. Life can be difficult in this broken world of sin, but when we view life itself as a precious gift from God and not our right, we are more likely approach life with an attitude of gratitude and gratitude often makes hardships bearable. In 2016, God gave me the opportunity to work closely with a group of women who were going through unthinkable hardships in Nigeria. They were living in internally displaced persons camps, some of them had lost their husbands and children in the Boko Haram insurgency in northern Nigeria. They were food insecure, stripped of their human dignity, and separated from close family and friends, but they had the most beautiful smiles on their faces. They faced life with courage and confidence. What was their secret? They told me that they were grateful for life, so they often gathered together to sing and praise God. They coped with gratitude and praise; we too can cope with gratitude and praise. Therefore, as we begin another day, another week and another month, I encourage each one of us to think about life as a gift and live each day with an attitude of gratitude. That way we will be able to cope with whatever challenge that may come our way.

Today, as we continue our reflections on Genesis chapter seven, we will also learn more about the value that God places on life. We will read Genesis chapter seven verses one to ten and see what God will show us.

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

The text we read reveals both the immutability of God's law and the unfailing nature of His love and grace. In fact, if I have to summarise what we have read so far from Genesis chapter one, I will say that God is repeatedly saying, “My law will stand, breaking my law has dire consequences, but my grace and mercy is greater than sin. The earth should perish because of sin, but I will give the world another chance to life.” Genesis Chapter seven tells us how God, in practical terms, preserved life on earth, when all humans and land animals should have been destroyed. In His plan to preserve life on earth, the All-knowing God also answered one of the most challenging human questions of our day, which is the question of sex/gender.

Our reading shows that God preserved the male-female dichotomy in sex and maintained their status as productive companions. After revealing His plan to destroy the world, God commanded Noah to go into the ark with his wife, and his three sons and their wives. He also commanded him to take seven pairs (male and female) of clean animals, a pair (male and female) of unclean animals and creeping things, and seven pairs (male and female) of birds into the ark. Interestingly, God secured the safety of equal numbers of males and females of each animal species, making sure that each creature will have a mate. From creation, God's original plan was that males and females of both humans and animals would enjoy the companionship of one another. He did not withdraw that gift of companionship after the sin in Eden. Even as He planned to destroy the world through flood, He initiated the strategy that helped to preserve the male-female companionship. Male-female companionship remains God's way to preserve both human and animal life on the earth. Again, even at the curse of death and destruction, God's desire for human and animal happiness through companionship, as well as the continuity of life through reproduction, did not cease. Indeed, the steadfast love of our God never ceases, His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning, Great is God's faithfulness towards us. (Lamentations 3:22-23).