

Making HIStory My Story**ACT 3: BAD NEWS, GOOD NEWS****Genesis 6-9**

There's bad news; and there's good news. The bad news is that we are an endangered species thanks to our misbehaviours. Scientists are predicting the extinction of our race in the foreseeable future. The good news, if we can call it that, is that an American billionaire named Elon Musk is spending millions building a ship designed to carry us all to Mars to give us a new beginning. (Maybe not all of us.) I see a fascinating parallel between this modern narrative and the biblical story of Noah and the flood.

Genesis 4:26 tells us that, after God evicted our first parents from his presence, some of their descendants began to call on the name of the LORD. That tells us that all of the things God did in Act 2 of HIStory were enough to regain the trust of some people.

The same cannot be said for the mass of humanity. Whichever way you understand Genesis 6:1-5, these verses tell us that the mass of humanity was living without regard for God. Just like Adam and Eve in the Garden, people seized the right and the power to judge for themselves between good and evil; and they didn't care about God's mind on the matter. Society had become thoroughly secularized. *It was time for God to act again.*

Act 3 of HIStory consists of four elements that make up God's third step toward his goal for HIStory: to populate the earth with people who live in unbroken fellowship with him. Together, these four elements tell us that we are an endangered species, thanks

to our own doing; but thanks to God's grace there is a way of escape to a new beginning.

GOD'S ACT OF PUNISHMENT: *We are* _____
– Gen. 6:5-7

GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE: *We have* _____
– Gen. 6:7-14

GOD'S PROMISE OF MERCY: *We get* _____
– Gen. 8:18-22

GOD'S CALL TO PUNISH SIN: *We have* _____
– Gen. 9:1-7

If we're going to avoid extinction and have a new start, we need more than a rocket ship that pours tons of carbon into the atmosphere. We need a way to escape from ourselves. If we want a new start, we need a new heart; and that's something our Creator offers to do by his grace right where we are. When we put our faith and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, we become one with him and are incorporated into his very being. *We are safe in God's ark.* Also, when we are in Christ, his Spirit is in us and begins to transform us from the inside out.

DIG A LITTLE DEEPER: In preparation for the Act 4 of HIStory read Genesis 12-25.

MAKING HIStory MY Story

The BIG Story of the Bible in Seven Acts

- Our lives become meaningful only when they are seen as part of a bigger story. God our Creator invites us to be part of “HIStory” as it is told in the Bible.
- God’s goal for HIStory is to populate the new heaven and earth with people who live in direct and unbroken fellowship with Him.
- The key ingredient for that kind of fellowship is trust freely given. As long as our first parents heeded God’s call to trust him they continued in unbroken fellowship with him.
- Because they broke trust, however, and because we have all followed their example, HIStory takes us on a detour that reveals God’s trustworthiness and teaches us what it takes to trust Him totally and live in unending fellowship with Him.
- In seven acts the Bible tells how God has sought to win the trust of human beings throughout HIStory. Each act includes an act of God, a gift from God and a covenant that includes a promise and a call to trust.

