

The First Remnant

Sunday 25th April 2010

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- continue with Chapter 2 of story of God & us – Paradise lost
- last week : Am I my brother's keeper? – yes! – right choices, offering (heart behind it), always hope
- generally accepted that 1st 11 chapters Genesis = very edited
 - like Gospels, large amount material to choose from thus whatever is included = carefully selected, not random – God talking to Moses on mountain; giving him history of Israelites; telling them about, wants them to understand his heart, nature, character
- and so onto another significant story – Noah – Gen 6-9
- important not to get bogged down in details – interesting, many theories & debates – danger of getting caught up in academic discussion & miss main thing(s)
- wealth of learning points in these 3 chapters – focus on 4 things
- **walking with God, not away from God – active choice**
- not necessarily easy
- Noah surrounded by people who had walked away from God, still chose to walk with – to extent of spending years building ark when he had no concept of flood – kept on going – can't have had jolly good fun all the time
- active, ongoing dynamic thing – don't just choose once then cruise
- my calling as surgeon, Joshua
- paradoxically, often = hard but best place to be – fuller, richer, intimacy with God – God longs for this
- Noah had this intimacy – God talks of him in Ezekiel, appears in Hebrews 11 "By Faith"
- **return to Adam – God restoring**
- Gen 9:1 – language used gives picture of restoration of God's Creation, return to the work of Creation, back to Adam – "in the beginning"
- God's heart = not to destroy, obliterate
- people seeing natural disasters as forerunner, trailer for End of The World – not God's heart – Rev 21:5 – "Behold I am making all things new"
- restoration of God's Creation was founded on the establishment of a covenant – Gen 9:8-17 – 1st covenant – made with 1st remnant (Noah not Abraham) – impacts all creation
- significance of covenant
- rainbow – God infuses ordinary, logical phenomenon with "but there's more"
- **offering vs substitution sacrifice**
- Gen 8:20-22 – offering of gratitude & praise, not substitution sacrifice – Noah already named as righteous, God has already saved them from Flood
- God not angry with Noah, not needing appeasement
- offering, not easy to give – sacrifice in that sense

- **God chooses to save**
- main thing = God actively chooses to save – has right & capacity to wipe us out BUT chooses not to – consistently – reflects His heart & character
- Trauma Unit on Sat nite
 - understand God wanting to wipe out all the brokenness – Gen 6:6
 - I reflect God by choosing to save – gives meaning to the senselessness
- interesting = Noah “found faithful... was a righteous man... blameless... walked with God...” – not rest of family but they were also saved
 - recurring theme – all it takes is one man
 - makes what I do significant – back to right choices
- chooses to save remnant – faithful remnant = another recurring theme throughout story of God & us (Bible)
 - faithful remnant not saved for own good
 - ie it’s not just about me and my salvation – story of God & us, not God & me
- so even in midst of Paradise lost, God’s heart for us is revealed – light shines