Good Morning!

Does God make mistakes?!

Every believer will immediately have the knee-jerk reaction, “Of course not! You shouldn’t even be asking that question.” However, every mature believer stops in the middle of that response with the remembrance of when they not only asked that question, but struggled long and hard with it.

Does God make mistakes? In looking at the Psalms, someone has counted that a third of the Psalms are laments. That is, they are coming to God with a problem they cannot understand and they are asking God, “Why?” What is most of Job but a lament? And then there is the book called Lamentations. All of these are people coming to God because they cannot believe that what is happening to them could possibly be His will. What is that but asking, “God, are you sure you didn’t make a mistake with this?”

Now we come back to Hebrews chapter 11 and verse 7: Noah and the Flood. When Genesis was written every theological idea needed to be addressed in those first chapters. The nature of God is the most important, even over the nature of man and our salvation. That is because if you cannot trust the God being presented to you in this book, then you will not keep reading and you certainly won’t trust in Him. So a basic idea of the nature of God – Does He make mistakes? – needs to be addressed.

The whole reason for the flood cannot be summed up in, “Does God make mistakes?” There is more going on here, but it is definitely an issue Genesis insists that you think about when you read verses Gen. 6:5-7, “I am sorry that I have made them.”

We are made in the image of God, but we have fallen so that image is marred. We still get our emotions from Him. We sorry at things we cannot change and at things we would not change. When a loved one suffers long and then dies, we sorrow but we would not want them back in that state. So God also sorrows at the death of any one – even the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11). He does not make mistakes, but He does sorrow at outcomes. It is not inconsistent that God would do something like make us with a free will and then be sorrowful over the choices we make.

Back to Noah and Hebrews 11:7. Noah believed God. He believed that God would do the unimaginable; flood the whole earth. He believed that God would do this in righteousness. He believed that God would save him and his family. And he had to believe that the God who was asking him to some very strange and new things was a God who did not make mistakes. How do we know this? Because the author of Hebrews tells us he did it “in reverence.” He revered God more than he had need to figure everything out, which obviously he couldn’t. This God was a God you could trust to *not* make mistakes.

Probably no Psalm questions the actions of God more than Psalm 77. The author is in deep despair over his affliction. Half way through it the psalmist changes his tone and states, “I will remember the deeds of the LORD.” This is exactly what the author of Hebrews is saying to us in the 11th chapter. When you doubt and tend to think that God has made a mistake in your life, remember the deeds of the LORD in the lives of his faithful ones. They trusted in a God who makes no mistakes - and so can you.

In Christ Pastor EA

Noah was a preacher of righteousness 2 Peter 2:5. To whom did he preach? People whom he knew, and some of whom he also knew would not escape the judgement to come. Why, then, did he preach? Why did Jeremiah preach before his lamentations? Why did God order them to preach to people who would be lost?