

A LOVING GOD & UNIVERSAL FLOOD: CONTRADICTION?

September 14, 2014

Genesis 7:11-8:12

“For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.” Psalm 5:4-5

Many who reject the biblical record of the flood reason that such destruction of human life contradicts conceptions of a loving God. Unable to reconcile the flood with their conceptions, they reject the biblical record. But could it be that their conceptions, not the biblical record, are mistaken? Indeed, misconceptions of divine love abound in a spiritually depraved, morally corrupt human race. Correct understanding of divine love and hatred is needed.

1. Divine love is particular and discriminating.

A. By definition, love is (1) exclusive and (2) surpassing other affections.

B. Multiple Scripture references reveal this in God:

Mal. 1:2-3; John 13:1; 17:9 & 20-23; Rom. 9:13; I John 3:1

2. Divine hatred is described in Scripture.

A. Divine hatred defined: “God is angry with the wicked every day . . . He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death” Psa. 7:11-13.

B. Our difficulty with accepting divine hatred:

(1) An unbiblical view of divine love has been prominent

(2) We know only sinful hatred; God’s is sinless, perfect & pure hatred.

C. Biblical affirmations of divine hatred:

Psa. 5:5; 7:11-13; 11:5-7; Prov. 6:16-19; Mal. 1:2-3; Rom. 9:13

D. Biblical illustrations of divine hatred: Sodom, Gen. 19; Egypt, Ex. 14; Assyria, II Kings 19; God’s enemies, Psa. 2, 7:11-16; Unbelievers, John 3:18, 36; Rom. 1:18ff.

3. Divine love for mankind is:

A. Embodied in Jesus Christ.

Divine love is not a vague, abstract emotion. It is an absolute, objective revelation.

That revelation is a person who lived upon earth. He was born of a virgin, crucified;

He arose from death, ascended into heaven and is now at God’s right hand

interceding for all of His people. I John 4:9-10

B. Exhibited in Christ’s crucifixion: John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; I John 4:9-10

C. Experienced by all who are “in Christ” by faith:

“ . . . Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God **which is in Christ Jesus our Lord**”

Rom. 8:38-39. See John 3:16; I John 3:1-2

4. Divine love and hatred were both demonstrated in the judgment of the flood: hatred in the destruction of sinners; love in the warning, waiting, preaching, ark-building, ark-closing and deliverance of eight human beings from the flood.