

Day 4 :: Feb. 4

Reading the bible like this really brings new insights. I wasn't expecting that. Cool.

We usually call this section, "The Story of Noah". But I never noticed until today that Noah NEVER speaks in the whole story. The only one with dialogue (I guess it would be monologue then) is God. Because this, like the rest of the bible, is God's story, not ours. I think it's important that we learn that right up front, so I'm glad Noah is mute, but obedient.

We usually point out Noah's "blameless" status before God. We talk about how he is so different than the people around him, and that's why God saves him. We always fall into this way of thinking, that it is our good behavior that makes us good, "blameless", and acceptable to God. But the whole of the bible seems to teach us differently. And no difference here. Noah is hardly "blameless" by the story's end, but we'll get there in a moment.

This story is God's story, and it is the story of God "unmaking" the world. Remember a few days ago when God made the world the first time? How did He make the Earth? Besides speaking, God "separated the waters" to make the sky and the ground, and then He "separated the waters" to separate dry land from the oceans. What did He do to the world when it was corrupted? He brought the waters back together again, from the sky and from beneath the ground. In effect, God "unmade" the world He had created. And then over time, with a Wind blowing over the waters (see the first paragraph of the Creation story for the parallel), God re-separates the waters, and we have a new, clean, unsullied Earth again.

But what is the first thing that happens on this new earth? Noah (the new Adam) takes fruit (grapes) from the tree (vine) and eats (drinks) it and gets drunk (i.e. something other than God takes control of him, see Eph. 5:18). And so another person is cursed (as Eve, the Snake, and the Ground were) and we remake the earth just like it was before.

Well, that didn't take long.