

S U M M E R 2 0 1 5

THE WATERMARK

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZONE STAFF

WATER YOU SAYING

What did one ocean say to the other ocean?

Nothing he just waved.

Do you sea what I did there?

Seariously... do you?

Are you shore?

Shell I stop?

I fish I could talk in water puns forever.

Are you tide of these jokes? Cuz I understand that after a whale they can get annoying. I think that's the porpoise though.

Any way, water you up to?



God's Wrath or a Gateway to Love

When hearing a Bible story like "The Flood", it's really easy for us to put characteristics on God that might seem correct at the time, but ultimately make us lose sight of an all-loving Creator. In the story of the flood, God might seem like he had to redo his own creation (though his creation remains through Noah, his family, and the animals he saved), that God is quick to judge (though God vows in 9:11 never to repeat this action), or that God was angry with what he created (though God is only described as being "grieved", or disappointed, in the text). The flood story has one very important theme that we often overlook when we get caught up in these misleading details: this is a tale of commitment.

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THIS WEEK'S OUTING

OBSERVATORY HILL

Saturday evening we will rendezvous to Marquette County's highest point. If you are interested, join us for a picnic and an adventure!



Near the end of storm, God sees what the flood meant for his creation and vows never to do that act again. However, this brings up the very appropriate question, “Why?” Why would God do something and then regret making that decision? Doesn’t that make God out to be indecisive, or can’t we then make the assumption that God did something wrong? Sometimes we associate all of God’s actions with his will and we forget that we had a say in the action as well. A good example of what is happening here is like when a parent sees their child do something wrong. A parent normally takes action to correct their child. Then, the parent is left with the, sometimes hard, decision as to how to teach their child a lesson while still loving them. This is where God is makes the decision to remind his creation of his love by sparing Noah and his family so that he could share the story of God’s grace with all of the generations to come.

The story of “The Flood” ends with God promising never to do this act again. This is a God who shows his creation that he will never be quick to judge again, a God who is committing to the future of a less than perfect world. Eventually through Jesus, we see that God fully commits to us by sending his only Son to live a perfect life and take the form of a servant being obedient to his death on the cross to die an innocent death (Philippians 2).

“To me this is like the days of Noah, when I wore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth. So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke you again.”

-Isaiah 54:9-10



BIG WORD OF THE WEEK

Gormless

Definition: (*adj*) Weak of mind or (occasionally) body, especially if one is gullible or clumsy. Slang British word that means airhead or foolish

In a Sentence: The 3 Stooges specialize in gormless comedy.