

“The Creator saw.” The first humans, Adam and Eve, had tried to **hide** from the Creator after they had disobeyed his word. Then their son Cain thought the Creator would not **see** when he took his brother Abel out into the field and killed him. Then Cain tried to leave the presence of the Creator—building a life of his own—building a family and city in his own image. Time after time, humans ignored the Creator, pretending he was not real and he could not **see** what they were up to. They did whatever they wanted, all the time—building the world of human civilization. They did not **“serve and protect”** the creation as they were made to do, instead they just lived selfishly for themselves, thinking no one was **watching**. But **“the Creator saw.”**

“The Creator saw the unnatural practices of humanity.” Humans were not living naturally, they were not living in harmony with the created order established by the Creator. The creation had been made to be interdependent—all creatures needed each other and depended on each other. Each creature had a role to play—a way to serve and give back to the rest of the creation. But humans had broken apart from the larger whole and had started doing their own thing. **“Every thought of the human heart was selfish everyday.”** Humans were only focused on themselves and their own **“good.”** Humans had lost sight of the larger whole, of the creation at large. In their selfishness, humans had severed themselves from the rest of the creation and from the Creator. Humans were living **“unnaturally,”** doing things that did not serve the balance and harmony of the created order.

“The Creator saw the earth and how it was being destroyed.” The selfish lifestyle of humans was destroying the earth. They built city after city and developed technology after technology, destroying the creation and its delicate balance in the process. And it wasn’t just humans that were destroying the earth. **“The Creator saw that all creatures were destructive.”** Even though humans were the worst, all creatures were participating in the selfish bloodbath. It was a serpent, an animal, that had helped lead the man and woman away from the Creator. All creatures had fallen and become corrupted in selfishness. And in their selfish competition with each other, they were all destroying the balance of the created order that the Creator had made.

“The Creator saw the earth being destroyed” and it broke his heart. The Creator loved his creation. He had put his very self into forming and shaping it. The Creator had put his goodness into every creature and **“the Creator saw”** that the creation was **“very good”** when it lived in the balanced harmony and order that he had established. But now the Creator was grieved. He saw humanity leading the charge in the destruction of the earth and he needed to do something. So the Creator decided he would intervene and save the earth—save the creation from itself and from the selfishness that possessed the human heart. He would send a flood of water and wipe humans from the face of the earth. He would wipe all breathing creatures from the face of the earth. The Creator would cleanse the earth of all Civilization that humanity had built.

Yet in the midst of all the selfish destruction of the earth, **“the Creator saw that Noah was righteous in his generation.”** Noah stood out in his generation—he was different. In a generation where every thought was evil and selfish all the time, Noah was pursuing selflessness and righteousness. **“The Creator saw”** this in Noah and had compassion on him and his family. And the Creator made a plan. He would be able to cleanse the earth of Civilization and still save the creatures he had made. So he commanded Noah to build a giant coffin-shaped ark. In this preservation box, Noah and his family and two pairs of every kind of creature would be saved from the flood that would cleanse the earth of human Civilization.

It was a miracle and **“Noah did everything the Creator commanded him.”** Noah, despite the absurdity, built this giant ark. He was further ridiculed and rejected by his own generation, but Noah stayed steadfast, persevering and enduring in obedience. The Creator brought to Noah two pairs of every type of creature that walked, crawled, or flew—male and female they entered into the Ark with Noah and his family. Then the Creator locked them into this giant coffin-shaped box. And the rains began. For forty days and forty nights it rained. The waters under the earth broke forth. The waters of the heavens poured down. Every high place and every mountain was covered in water—no place was left untouched. Every creature that walked the face of the earth was washed away. Every human was wiped from the face of the earth. Everything that humans had built was destroyed. The earth was finally cleansed of Civilization. **“And the Creator saw and remembered Noah and all the creatures with him.”** The Creator did not forget Noah and the animals with him in the ark. The Creator brought them safely to dry ground. Noah and the creatures all came out of that coffin-shaped box into a new world, a new creation that had been cleansed of Civilization. They had trusted in the Creator and he had brought them through death into new life.

“The Creator saw.” The Creator sees everything. The Creator sees you. The Creator sees what you do, what you say, where you go, how you spend your time, what you do with every moment of your life. The Creator even sees every thought and desire of your heart. **“The Creator sees.”** We cannot hide from the Creator no matter what we do. And this was terrifying to Adam and Eve and Cain and their offspring when they were living in selfishness. They wanted to hide from the judgment of the Creator. We may get away with our selfishness for decades or even generations. We may think **“the Creator does not see.”** We may think the Creator’s judgment is not coming. But **“the Creator sees”**—and it is our salvation. His gaze is love even when it means judgment. If the Creator turned his gaze from us, it would mean certain and permanent destruction, the collapse of all creation. It is the Creator’s loving gaze that disciplines us and saves us from ourselves. **“The Creator saw”** in the time of Noah and his seeing saved the creation. His seeing judgment saved the earth, Noah, and the other creatures.

“The Creator sees” today what we are doing to his creation. **“The Creator sees”** that we are not **“serving and protecting”** the creation as we were meant to. **“The Creator sees”** that **“every thought of the human heart is selfish everyday.”** **“The Creator sees”** our **“unnatural practices.”** **“The Creator sees”** that **“the earth is being destroyed.”** **“The Creator sees”** this and his judgment is coming again to save his creation. **“The Creator saw”** Noah and the animals with him and they were saved through the flood. Likewise, **“the Creator saw”** his Son Jesus and that he was **“righteous in his generation.”** **“The Creator saw and remembered”** Christ in the tomb and raised him from the dead. And just as Noah’s family was gathered into the ark, all of Christ’s family is now being gathered into the church. Christ calls us to come into this coffin-shaped community to die to ourselves and trust in the Creator’s deliverance through the flood waters of Baptism. We too need to be **cleansed** in our hearts and minds. We too need to be **wiped clean** in our souls. We too need to **die** inside and out. Christ Jesus is calling you to enter into the coffin of the church to die through Baptism. Listen to the call of Christ Jesus and enter into the coffin-shaped ark of his church. **“The Creator will see and remember”** you and through the flood of his judgment you will rise again as a new creation. **Amen.**