ISSUE 20 / VOLUME 4



The courtroom revisits warnings people ignored.

MERCY BEFORE JUDGMENT

What do the Flood, Sodom, and Egypt reveal when the courtroom reviews them?

WATCH / NOTICE / ASK

Stay with the narrator’s question



Existing movie environment concept / final scene still to be selected

What do the Flood, Sodom, and Egypt reveal when the courtroom reviews them?

Return to this part of Heaven’s Diary. Describe what the narrator sees, what surprises him, and what he has not yet understood. Read the Bible before accepting the story’s explanation as a doctrine.

Read / Observe

Open the Bible together

GENESIS 6:5-8, 13-22 + 7:17-24

Adventists accept Genesis' global Flood as a historical judgment, not merely a legend. Read God's grief over evil, the warning, and the ark's provision together. The story joins judgment with rescue. Do not skip the loss of life or reduce the account to a cheerful building project.

GENESIS 18:20-33 + 19:1-29

Abraham raises the question of justice. Read the violence and attempted assault in their narrative setting. God's patience and the victims of human evil both matter. What does Abraham assume about the Judge's character?

EXODUS 8:8-15, 25-32 + 12:37-38

Observe Pharaoh's appeals and repeated resistance, then the mixed multitude leaving Egypt. The pattern illustrates mercy and response. It does not prove every person's opportunities were identical or that God's dealing is a mechanical formula.

Look deeper

From the passage to Christ

THE CONNECTED PICTURE

Observe a recurring pattern of evil, warning, opportunity, resistance, and judgment. A pattern invites comparison; it does not prove every case involved identical opportunities.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

Genesis 6:5–8, 13–22: What causes grief, and what provision is made? Genesis 18:20–33: What does Abraham ask about justice? Exodus 8:8–15: How does Pharaoh respond to relief? 2 Peter 3:9: What is God's desire?

EXPLAIN IT IN THREE SENTENCES

First: what the passage says in its original setting. Second: how the Adventist understanding brings the passages together. Third: how the movie illustrates that conclusion. Do not let an attractive scene substitute for the argument. Ask which connection reveals Christ’s work or character.

PHOTOTHEOLOGY / MAP THE TEXT

Trace the biblical movement

1

EVIL EXPOSED

Genesis 6; Genesis 18-19; Exodus / Judgment responds to real harm.

↓

2

MERCY AND WARNING

God provides opportunities to turn and ways of rescue.

↓

3

RESPONSE MATTERS

Warning can be resisted; grace does not mean choices are unreal.

Use the passages to explain each step. A solid link needs textual support; use a dotted link for an illustration or a proposal that remains uncertain.

A fair objection

Questions worth taking seriously

ISN’T THIS DIVINE VIOLENCE?

Do not evade the severity. The Bible places these judgments within a moral history of human violence and God’s action. Warning and rescue are relevant, but do not automatically remove every question about proportionality and suffering.

WERE THE PEOPLE SIMPLY UNINFORMED?

These narratives describe specific warnings and resistance. They do not authorize us to assume equal knowledge or culpability for every human being in every age. God’s individual judgment exceeds what a short summary can reveal.

DOES A PATTERN ANSWER EVERY CASE?

A repeated sequence can illuminate God’s character, but a pattern is not a substitute for the facts of a particular account. Keep the original contexts, remaining questions, and Christ’s revelation of God in view.

VISUAL STUDY / YOUR TURN

Build the picture yourself

Create a case board with rows Flood, Sodom, Egypt and columns harm, warning, mercy, response, remaining question. Fill only what the passages support. Do not invent evidence to make the board appear complete.

TEXTUAL EVIDENCE

CONNECTION OR REPLY

QUESTION TO KEEP

RETURN TO THE STORY

Use your work to answer the opening question. Name one claim you can support directly, one inference, and one detail supplied by the film’s visual staging.

For activities needing more panels or columns, continue on a separate sheet.

A PERSONAL RESPONSE

Let the truth shape your life

READ AND REFLECT

Read the first passage again. Identify what it reveals about God, what it asks of you, and how Christ supplies hope or help. Pray with one specific response in mind.

Where might you be resisting a merciful warning? How can you warn others without threats or contempt?

MY NEXT STEP

( ) I understand. ( ) I need more study.
( ) I would appreciate a Bible study conversation.

NEXT: Issue 21 / The Hardest Case

Participation and personal sharing are voluntary. Bring unresolved questions.

Leader companion

Guide the next conversation

75-MINUTE ROUTE

Scene and observation 10 / Bible investigation 20 / Christ-centered connection and map 15 / strongest objection 15 / visual activity 5 / response and prayer 10. Use a second meeting when the questions need it; do not force agreement to finish a schedule.

ISSUE-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

Avoid sensational descriptions and blaming contemporary disasters on named people’s sins. Let lament and moral questions remain legitimate. End with a personal response to grace, not speculation about who deserves a catastrophe.

SOURCE AND INVITATION

Story: Heaven’s Diary transcript, 54:19–58:14. Method: Phototheology Core Method v2. Apologetics sources and editorial limitations are mapped in the accompanying source register. This is new editorial wording, not a verbatim Ivor Myers quotation. Invite a voluntary next step and preserve unresolved questions.