

GOD'S JUSTICE AND WRATH - Genesis 6

October 17, 2021

Genesis 6:1-22. This chapter, along with Gen. 7-8 are very important chapters that we need to understand. And there are a few primary themes in these chapters.

- First, there's the sin of man. Vss. 5-6, 11-12. We think this country has sin problems - but compared to back then, it's not that bad now. Now one of the reasons for all their sin back then is that these "*sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them.*" Back then demons were possessing men on earth who then had relationships with women, and very, very evil children were born, and this caused the sin and evil in the world to dramatically increase. And God was sovereign over all this, over the work of the devil and the demons, along with the sinfulness of man which resulted in all this wickedness and corruption.

Genesis 6:6-7. Now God was sorry, He was grieved He had made man. And you may wonder why God created mankind if He knew he would sin like this. Well, we can't understand all the ways of God, but we do know that it relates to His overall purpose, and that He gets glory and praise through all of this. Isaiah 55

- And since God is holy, He had to judge all their sin, every bit of it, which is why He said He'd blot out sinful man, wipe him off the face of the earth.

And what we see is that God let the whole world sin and keep on sinning, this sin that He hated and abhorred and had a right to judge. He was very patient, and didn't pour out His justice, He put up with their sin for He wanted people to repent. The world then was filled with these wicked, corrupt, super-evil people, and they didn't repent, they rejected God and His offer of mercy, and so now He has to judge them, and punish them, all except Noah and His family, who received His mercy and were forgiven. And so God punishes them for their sin, and it's first by a flood when they are on earth, but it's also with everlasting justice, eternal punishment in hell, in the lake of fire.

But I need to explain some more things about the sin of man and the wrath of God:

1. We now live in an evil age, and we should never be surprised when people sin, whether it's in little or big ways; that's the way it is during this evil age. 2 Tim. 3:12
2. The Bible is filled with examples about sinful people and sinful families, sinful cities and sinful countries. And we read a lot about this in the prophets. And we see this in our own country. In fact, the city of Las Vegas has been called Sin City, for it's a place where there's legalized gambling, along with drugs and prostitution. San Francisco and New Orleans are also sinful cities, but the truth is that about every city is a place where there's a lot of sin. Sodom & Gomorrah. Psalm 55:9-11

3. God judges the sin of every person. You see all kinds of people and everyone is a sinner, and God is going to judge the sin of that person one way or another. Rom. 6:23; Nah. 1:1-3

- Either a person pays for his own sin, and goes to hell where he is punished forever.
- Or Jesus Christ pays for a person's sin and that person goes to heaven. And it's the person who believes Christ died to pay for his sins who's forgiven and goes to heaven.

4. God judges and pours out his wrath on unrepentant sinners during their life on earth. Rom. 1:18. But the full payment for a person's sin takes place after the person has died and left this earth, in a place called Hades, and then later in the lake of fire. Rev. 11:15

- Let me explain the 1st part, that God pours out His wrath on sinners during their life on earth. In the OT, 100's of verses talk about how people specifically sin, and how God specifically judges that sin during their life on earth.
- Deut. 28:15-56. You see all the ways God punished people in the OT who sinned against Him. Now some of these people who were punished died right away, but many still lived, and suffered, and some greatly. And we don't have all the answers why some were punished and died right way, and why some were punished and stayed alive. Only God knows.

What we do know is that God is a holy God, a perfectly, absolutely, holy God.

- What we do know is that God must punish sin, and that the wages of sin is death, spiritual, physical, and eternal death.
- What we do know is that God has a right to punish a person for his sin while they live on earth, whenever He wants, and in any way that He wants.
- What we do know is that God is patient when it comes to sin, but His patience has a limit.
- What we do know is that God lets some people sin a lot, sin that cause a lot of problems, and a lot of death, but it's part of His overall plan.

Pharoah (Rom 9), Ahab, Jezebel. All these were big sinners and God judged them, and they didn't live out a normal life, and they didn't die a normal death. Herod - Acts 12

- Hitler, Stalin, Mao Se Tung, Castro, were super evil people and millions of people died at their hands, and again, God let them sin like they did because it was part of His overall plan. Even today, there are very sinful people out there, and we wonder why God lets them live. But God is in charge, is sovereign, and He is holy and just, and if sinners don't repent, then He will judge them sooner or later. Psalm 37, 73

In the Old Testament, which is God's word, we can clearly see what God is doing when people sin and He judges them in a particular way. But in these days, in this church age, we don't always know exactly what God is doing. That is, when some calamity or a tragic death takes place, we don't know all the specific reasons why God allows it to happen, but I believe it often relates to a person's sin, especially with unbelievers.

For example, I believe what happened on 9-11 was God's judgment upon this country. The targets were NYC and Wash. DC, the two most important cities in our country. In NYC, the two buildings struck were the Twin Trade Towers, two buildings focused on business and trade, and you know how people in this country love money, and I believe God was speaking to us about our love of money, our greed, our financial corruption.

Then there was Hurr. Katrina, when there was tons of damage, and 1800 people died. And just recently there was Hurr. Ida, happening on the same exact day as Hurr. Katrina, and this caused tons of damage as well. And many other things are taking place in our country:

- We are seeing a massive invasion of immigrants across our southern border, and with that, many criminals, many drugs, and lots of sex trafficking. 148 diff. cties.
- We are seeing what's happening in Afghanistan and the problems over there, and what's happening there, will, I believe, have a big impact on our country. 65,000 unvetted
- We are seeing more inflation this past year and it's going to get worse and worse.
- We see what's happening with Covid, this pandemic, how it has dramatically hurt us.
- We are hearing about all the evil things that our children are being taught in schools.

And there've been fires, tornadoes, and other calamities, and these too, I believe are judgments from God to wake up unbelievers, and also believers. Lam. 3:37-40

- I believe this relates to sin, to people turning from God to idols. And there's no doubt that sin has gotten worse in our country. A 4-stage progression of sin described in Rom. 1 has been taking place in our country for the past 100 years. We've gone from rejecting God to immorality to homosexuality and now to depravity - people's minds are more and more evil.

And so God has been judging us in a variety of ways. Rom. 1:18. And this reminds me of what we read in Deut. 28. And God is judging us because He wants Christians to wake up, and He wants unbelievers to turn to Him, to repent or perish. Luke 13:1-5

- And we shouldn't be surprised by what happens in this country, for God is holy, and He is judging and will continue to judge and punish sin.

Now Gen 6 talked about all this sin and that God planned to judge the entire world with a flood. But God left a remnant of 8 people, Noah and his family.

- Gen. 6:8. This tells us that Noah was a believer. The word favor also can be translated as grace, and Noah was saved by the grace of God. He was a sinner like everyone else, but God had mercy on him, and saved him from his sin.
- Gen. 6:9. This tells us the character of Noah. He was righteous, meaning he was holy, forgiven, a believer in God. And every believer is righteous, is holy in the sight of God.
- He was blameless, complete, without blemish. This means Noah was a mature believer, that he was above reproach, that he was saying no to sin, that he was living a holy life.

Noah walked with God, just like Enoch. This phrase walked with God was only used for those who were mature, who had a close relationship with God.

- And this word walk refers to people who not only have a relationship with God, but are also fulfilling His purpose. They are going places with God, they are doing things with God, and for God, and are fulfilling His will.

Gen. 6:10. One of these purposes was that Noah was helping to populate the world, for he had these three children, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And he was also fulfilling God's purpose as it related to the seed of the woman spoken of in Gen. 3:15, for it was through Shem that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, would come.

Gen. 6:11-22. This talks about God's purpose for Noah, about the work He wanted him to do. And Noah's purpose, his work, was to build an ark, a job that would not be easy. But here's Noah, a godly man, a man who walked with God, and who was obedient and persevered, and who did everything God wanted him to do.

And Gen. 7-8 talks in detail how the animals got in the ark, about the flood, and how all living animals and humans who remained on the earth perished in the flood. It talked about how God caused the floodwaters to subside, to go down. And so God's judgment upon the earth was over, God's purpose for the flood was fulfilled, evil man had perished from the earth, and the righteous were saved, were delivered.

Gen. 8:18-22. And so Noah offered a sacrifice to God, a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to Him. And God was pleased with Noah and pleased with the work Noah had done, pleased with the sacrifice he had made to Him. Heb. 11:6
- And the world began to be repopulated, which we read more about in Gen. 10.

Now Noah also had another purpose besides building the ark. Noah and his family were living a righteous life, and they were witnesses of God's grace and mercy to the sinners in the world. And I'm sure Noah, like Enoch, was preaching on sin, judgment, and the mercy of God. But as we know, the people rejected God and His message of grace, the message of the gospel.

And for us, we need to be witnesses too.

- 2 Cor. 5:16-21. As Christians, we are ambassadors for Christ, and are ministers of reconciliation, and we're appealing to people, pleading with them to come to Christ.
- Luke 3:7-18. Here's John the Baptist, and he was a holy man. And he was fearless, and he spoke the truth. He told people that they were sinners, and specifically how they were sinning. He told them that they would be judged, and they needed to repent, or else they would be like chaff, and be burned up with unquenchable fire.
- Might we be faithful witnesses, ambassadors for Christ, with our life and our words.

Now the New Testament goes into great detail about the Day of the Lord, the final judgment of God that is coming upon the earth at the end of this age.

- Matt. 24:29 – these heavenly signs are signaling that God's judgment is coming.
- 1 Thess. 1:9-10 – this tells us that we will be rescued from the wrath to come.
- Rev. 8-9. 16 describe in great detail God's wrath on earth.
- Rev. 19:11-16
- Rev. 22:12