

**God's Grief over the  
Wickedness of Mankind  
and the Corruption of Culture**

**Genesis 6:1-8**

# Introduction

Using the literary structure of the book of Genesis, we have seen:

**Gen. 1:1-2:3** – the introduction giving the creation of heaven and earth.

**Gen. 2:4-4:26** – the “generations of” (*toledot*) of heaven and earth. (What happened to ruin God’s good creation).

# Introduction

We are today completing section 3:  
**Gen. 5:1-6:8** – the “generations of”  
(*toledot*) of Adam’s line. (What  
happened to Adam’s descendants –  
Cain, Abel, Seth and their children and  
society as a whole?).

# Introduction

In this message, we are examining the closing verses of the unit (**Gen. 5:1-6:8**) which deal with the history of Adam's descendants leading up to Noah and the world-wide flood.

Moses is going to explain why God destroyed the world with a flood.

# Introduction

This unit began with the genealogy of Adam and his descendants and concludes with the report that the human race became so evil that it brought God great grief and sorrow.

The unit ends with a message of hope: “Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (6:8).

# Scripture - Gen. 6:1-4

**Genesis 6:1** When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them,  
<sup>2</sup> the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose.

# Scripture - Gen. 6:1-4

<sup>3</sup> Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years."

<sup>4</sup> The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the

# Scripture - Gen. 6:1-4

daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.



# Comments – Gen. 6:1-4

The first four verses of Genesis Ch. 6 are considered the most difficult verses in the book of Genesis to interpret.

- “the **sons of God**”
- “the **daughters of man**”
- “The **Nephilim** were on the earth”

# Comments

**The most commonly suggested identifications of the “sons of God” are:**

- They were angels (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7).
- They were mighty men who became rulers and were considered a royal aristocracy. (Developed a harem?)

# Comments

- They were godly Sethites and the daughters of man are the ungodly Cainites.
- “**Nephilim**” – (LXX – Greek Sept.) = “gigantes” (“giants). People of extra-large stature (Num 13:33; Dt. 2:11; 3:11).

# Comments

- **Numbers 13:33** "There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."
- **Deuteronomy 2:11** Like the Anakim they are also counted as Rephaim, but the Moabites call them Emim.

# Comments

- **Deuteronomy 3:11** (King Og of Bashan was the last survivor of the giant Rephaites. His bed was made of iron and was more than thirteen feet long and six feet wide. It can still be seen in the Ammonite city of Rabbah.)

# **Summary of Gen. 6:1-4**

**There was a population explosion (Gen. 6:1-2).**

**God decides He will withdraw His Spirit from mankind in 120 years (Gen. 6:3-4)**

- We have reached the end-point of God's patience with sin and unrepentant sinners.**

# Scripture – Gen 6:5-7

<sup>5</sup> The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

<sup>6</sup> And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

# Scripture – Gen 6:5-7

<sup>7</sup> So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."



# Comments on Gen. 6:5-7

**God's assessment of humanity and the impact of sin in the world.**

- **Gen. 6:5** - the wickedness of man was great in the earth
- every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

(We will also include verses from later sections in Genesis to complete the picture)

# Comments

- **Gen. 6:11** – “the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence.
- **Gen. 6:12** – “it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth
- **Gen. 6:13** – “the earth is filled with violence

# Comments

- **Gen 8:21** – “the imagination (inclination) of man's heart *is* evil from his youth”
- **Psalms 58:3** – “The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies.

# Comments

- **Isaiah 53:6** – “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned-- every one-- to his own way:
  - Babies come from the womb “**self-centered**” wanting their own way.
  - They grow up to become adults who are self-centered wanting their own way unless they get saved.

# Comments

- The degeneration and wickedness of the human race became almost universal and corrupted the earth.
- There were only a few godly men such as Enoch and Noah of whom it is written, they “walked with God.”

# Comments

- **Romans 3:10-18** describes the ultimate impact sin has in a culture:
- **Romans 3:10** as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> no one understands; no one seeks for God. <sup>12</sup> All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

# Comments

- <sup>13</sup> "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." <sup>14</sup> "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." <sup>15</sup> "Their feet are swift to shed blood; <sup>16</sup> in their paths are ruin and misery,

# Comments

- <sup>17</sup> And the way of peace have they not known: <sup>18</sup> There is no fear of God before their eyes.
  - With a couple of exceptions, this is where the world arrived before God decided to destroy all flesh with a world-wide flood!



# Comments on Gen 6:6-7

## The impact of sin on God.

- <sup>6</sup> And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.
- <sup>7</sup> So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and

# Comments

creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

- God is grieved and experiences pain when the objects of His love (humans) bring needless pain and suffering upon themselves and those around them!

# Comments

## **God decides to stop the rebellion.**

- God knew mankind, through His grace, could have made different choices if they had wanted to.
- God faithfully warned the people of coming judgment through the preaching of Enoch and Noah. (A warning implies a gracious call to repent.)

# Comments

- There is a limit to the spread and depths of sin and depravity that God will allow people to propagate.
- Once people reach that limit, like a surgeon who cuts out cancer, God **will** remove them to prevent further damage.
- When there is no hope for the children to be saved, God destroys that culture!

# Comments

Thankfully, this unit of Genesis ends with a message of hope: **“Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD”** (6:8).

- Grace is the outpouring of God’s love and mercy to people. (Eph. 2:4-5)
- Grace came to everyone, but almost all the people rejected God’s grace and persisted in their own sinful ways.

# Comments

- Noah responded to God's grace and purposely chose to do what he knew was right and not to do what he knew was wrong!
- Scripture tells us Noah "walked with God" (Gen. 6:9)
- In our next message we will see the results of Noah's choices.

# There Are Only Two Paths

- **There is the path of pleasing self.**
  - Self-determination - Sin – Leads to self-inflicted pain and separation from God.
- **There is the path of pleasing God.**
  - Submission - Faith - Calling upon God
  - Walking with God – Eternal life.

# Closing Quiz

- **True or False:** Apart from God's grace and some exceptions, humans are essentially good people.
- **False!**
- **True or False:** Babies are basically innocent and are not affected by Adam's sin.
- **False.** They are born self-centered!



# Closing Questions

- **True or False:** God sets a limit on the depths of sin and corruption He will allow a culture to perpetuate.
- **True!**
- **True or False:** It is possible to live a godly life in the midst of a crooked and perverse culture.
- **True!**

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