



Study #6

Genesis Chapter 6

Summary of this passage:

The rapid multiplying of the world's population before the flood unleashed the horrendous activity of human depravity upon society. Intermarriage between the lines of Seth and Cain produced offspring who were renowned for violence and rebellion to God. God's saw that men were slaves to sin with a wicked spirit of lawlessness and His righteous nature being grieved, He determined to judge the world.

To keep a godly seed alive on the earth, linking the first Adam to the Messiah, God chose Noah and his family. To Noah was given a revelation of God's purposes of judgment and of grace. He believed the word of God, built the ark, called the creatures of the world inside to be preserved from the world-wide flood and saw the new world after God's judgment.

Noah's testimony was clean-cut as a faithful and obedient servant of the Lord, who obeyed God through faith (6:22, Hebrews 11:7).

Key verse: "Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." v8.

This super abounding concept of God's undeserving mercy is found here in God's dealings with Noah. One man walked with God causing him to stand out from the world of violent men. Noah's name means peace. He was, therefore, God's instrument to bring peace to a lawless world. He and his family saw the new world and saw the rainbow, signifying God's covenant of peace.

Observations – Lessons from this chapter.

1. **The spread of evil in the world, like a disease, was driven by a massive increase in population.** "When men began to multiply" (v1). The first millennium was almost free from human mortality. The named patriarchs continued to have children throughout their long lives. For example, see the increase in Methuselah's family (ch. 5:26). Intermarriage between the line of Seth – the sons of God – and the line of Cain – "the daughters of men," brought sudden and irreparable apostasy. Men became beastly in their ways. The carnal men called "mighty men" took over. That is the meaning of verse four. The ungodly and wicked began to hold offices of power and leadership which caused morality to spiral downward. These "giants," literally bullies, were giving no place to the righteous man, such as Noah. The same term for the Anakims is used in Numbers 13:33. There is no place for the notion that procreation took place between angelic beings and humans to produce these "giants". Nephilim (see margin), means bullies, not angels.
2. **Human depravity is put under the microscope in v5.** The heart of man is desperately wicked. He was fallen in desire, mind and heart. The words "only evil continually" (v5c) show the total depravity of sinful man. Every faculty was morally affected by the fall. Man needs no help to rebel against God. He is a natural thoroughbred sinner.
3. **The reference to God repenting in v6 is human speak!** In this language God is referred to after the manner of men. It is language adopted for men to understand that the lifestyles of men whom God had created good and upright and brought pleasure to Him offended Him. God's nature had not changed, nor had His holy standard required of men. John Calvin explained God's repentance over man as saying, "This is not my workmanship; this is not that man who was formed in my image, and whom I

had adorned with such excellent gifts: I do not deign now to acknowledge this degenerate and defiled creature as mine."

This offence to God brought a righteous response – a determination of judgment. The judgment of the whole world affected the animal world also, over which man was given dominion. All of this is to teach us to dread sin. To this day, the whole creation groans under the future judgement that awaits this fallen world (Romans 8:20-23).

4. **God dealt with Noah in grace.** It is in the background of the judgment of the world that we begin to grasp the amazing nature of God's grace to Noah. Noah was of the line of Seth. He was a preacher of righteousness. He walked with God. All of these good traits were the result of grace. Grace preceded his works, as is the case with N.T. saints (Eph. 2:8-10). God's dealing with him was in undeserving mercy. It was grace that made him the man of God he was to withstand the forces of evil in his generation. He pleased God through faith (Heb. 11:6 -7).
5. **To Noah, God revealed his judgment of the world by a world-wide flood within 120 years (v.3), and it was to Noah that God revealed the way of salvation for him and his family, when He instructed him to build the ark (v14-22).**

God gave the dimensions of the ark and the materials to use. Likewise, salvation is not left to man's planning. The extent of the flood is clearly stated, "and every thing that is in the earth shall die" (17). This was not a local flood!

Application: – How does this apply to me?

- We must consider the world that was then – the first world before the flood and the world that is now – the present world – and then consider the world that shall be when Christ shall renew the world in righteousness (Isaiah 65:17, Peter 3:13, Rev. 21:1,27). This present world is the world that has been judged. It bears all the marks of the world-wide deluge and its destructive forces. Fossils, layered rocks, ice ages, continuous volcanoes and storms are all reminders of a world that is groaning until the day of redemption.
- God's judgment upon the old world speaks of His wrath against sinners for their sin. It is a testimony to the reality of the warnings God gives in His word of the day when His wrath will fall upon this present world. God's wrath is real, and it is terrible. His righteous nature demands that he cannot tolerate sin. His longsuffering with sinners in granting time for repentance must be interpreted as indifference. In Genesis chapter 6 we learn that God sees our sin v5, God responds to our sin in grief v6, and God intervenes to judge our sin v7.
- It is in sovereign mercy, covenant mercy (v18), by which God works to save His people. God's mercy to Noah opens up a new chapter of world history. From one man and his family, the world has been re-populated (Acts. 17:26).

Things to do in light of this study:

- Visit the creation centre in Kentucky, U.S.A. to see a life size model of Noah's ark (Google: Ark Encounter).
- Calculate the cubic volume within the ark. Dr. Henry Morris estimated 1.4 million cubit feet. (Genesis record pg. 181).
- Study the fossil record to learn of the amazing evidence in so many parts of the world to a definite period of destruction and death.
- Ask, is evolutionary dating based on the geological record valid? What about the missing links?
- Check out the Lord's reference to the genealogy of Noah (Luke 3:36). Note: Look for "Noe".
- Read the gospel passages where Christ spoke of the days of Noah's flood. (Matt. 24:37,38; Luke 17:26,27).