



13 | GENESIS 6:1-13

JESUS, NOAH, & THE FLOOD

By faith, Noah and his family escaped the waters of God's judgment, and entered the ark which saved them. Today, God calls all men everywhere to repent and trust Christ for salvation. Enter into the ultimate ark of our salvation: Jesus Christ.

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WELCOME: We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet if you are visiting with us.

Introduction

TRAPPED—I heard the story this week of a coal miner who got trapped 240 feet underground. Imagine you are this coal miner. You are working 240 feet underground. By accident a drill pierces through the wall of an abandoned mine shaft nearby. **Suddenly millions of gallons of water** from a **reservoir** are rushing toward you. Quickly you and your co-workers run for safety. It's clear you will never make it to the mine entrance.

In **desperation you clamber over the rocks**, searching for an air pocket as the water rises around you. Finally, you find **a tiny space with a little bit of air**. There you and your friends huddle together. The water is **freezing**, and it's **terribly dark**. As the water continues to rise, you wonder how long you can survive.

Slowly the truth hits you. You are 240 feet underground. There is no way out. You can do nothing to save yourself. You cannot swim to safety. You cannot dig your way to the surface. You are **trapped in the darkness**. If someone far above you does not come to your rescue, you will die where you are. You realize this is likely the end.

But **suddenly**, something happens. Far above you, **rescue workers drill an air hole**, sending in **hot air that keeps you warm** and gives you hope. Unknown to you, **hundreds of people work together** to dig first one rescue shaft and then another.

Finally, they break through, **a rescue capsule is lowered**, and you are lifted to safety. When you were trapped, they came for you. When **you could do nothing, they rescued you**. When your life was nearly gone, they dug through and found you. Someone far above came for you and you were saved.

This story illustrates the sweet grace of God. When we were trapped in the darkness of sin, someone far above us came down from heaven to rescue us. He left the comforts of heaven to dig through the layers of sin and guilt to set us free. Jesus knew where we were. He came to us in our darkness, and he shined the light of freedom upon us.

We were trapped by sin and living in the darkness.

The **waters of judgment** were rising around us.

There was nothing we could do to help ourselves.

We were dead in our sin. Jesus gave his life to rescue us. Praise God for our glorious rescuer! His name is Jesus!

Today, we are going to consider the worldwide judgment of God that destroyed humanity, except for eight people. **Jesus rescued Noah, and he will rescue you!**

God calls Noah to build an ark, which is a type of Christ. Anyone who enters the ark will be saved. The comparison is made in 1 Peter where Peter says that Christ died for our sins. He says because of the ark, Noah and his family were brought through the waters of judgment safely.

1 Peter 3:18-22 | For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Peter says that after his death he proclaimed his own victory over sin and death to those fallen angels who tried to take down mankind during the flood, but eight people entered the ark. Noah and his family would reset the human race and eventually usher in the Messiah through the family of Abraham and David.

THE ARK A TYPE; BAPTISM AN ANTITYPE OR FULFILLMENT

Look at what Peter says about entering the ark. He says, “**Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you**, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” **The word “corresponds” is antitype or “fulfillment.”** How is baptism a fulfillment of the picture of the ark? That is the way we enter the ark and declare our allegiance to Christ is through baptism. We declare that we don’t belong to this sinful world in baptism. We say we are dead to the world, but alive to Christ.

INVITATION AND SINNERS PRAYER

Declaring our faith in baptism saves us, but it says, not the ceremony or the water. That doesn’t save. It’s the declaration of our faith and our appeal to God that we trust in Christ’s atonement and resurrection for the wiping away of our sins. **In the early church, they didn’t have the sinner’s prayer.** They didn’t walk an aisle. Every baptism you find in the book of Acts is the same day that the person believes because baptism was the way you said to God, “I want to call on the Lord and be saved. I want to follow Christ.” When a person wanted to follow Christ, they were baptized, often on the same day.

You see Christ went through the flood of judgment for us so that we could be saved. Enter into Christ! He is the ark of our salvation! Look at the types and shadows in the ark. The events of the Old Testament are shadows.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 | Our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

Colossians 2:17 | These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

Key thought: By faith, Noah and his family escaped the waters of God’s judgment, and entered the ark which saved them. Today, God calls all men everywhere to repent and trust Christ for salvation. Enter into the ultimate ark of our salvation: Jesus Christ.

1. THE ESCALATION OF SIN (6:1-7)

Sin is rising in our world. Jesus said that in the last days, the signs of the times would increase, like labor pains in the birth of a baby. One of the things that happens in the end is lawlessness increases, and the love of many of God’s people grows cold. We need to pay attention, because God will step in. He will put a stop to it just like he did before.

We should consider the reality of a worldwide flood. These chapters are under attack today, and I believe if you are going to say you are a Bible believer, you must accept the **historical accuracy of these accounts**. The **denial of the authenticity** of the book of Genesis is really an **attack on the words of our Lord Jesus and his apostles**, for they all spoke of Noah as a historical person and the flood as a historical worldwide occurrence.

In the New Testament, our Lord Jesus Christ and his apostles all speak of **Noah as an historical person**. **Peter** mentions him twice. In fact, we have a summary of these three chapters in the book of **Hebrews**. **Jesus** mentions Noah in three of the Gospels as an historical person. In fact, **our Lord compares his second coming** with the days of Noah.

Luke 17:26-27 | Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷ They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

We must therefore conclude that Noah was an historic person, or we will reject the veracity of Jesus' statements. The flood was one of the most significant events in the ancient world, and it was sent because of the escalation of sin in the world. It **warped the culture**, it **encouraged the wickedness of man**, and it **precipitated the withdrawal of God's Spirit** from the world.

THE WARPING OF CULTURE

We see that first, the multiplication of wives into harems. Not only that but the “sons of God” (which we'll consider in a moment) intermarried with the daughters of men. Who are these “sons of God”? What is the multiplication of wives in this passage?

The Distortion of Marriage

Here in verse 1, the culture begins to go down the drain through the destruction of marriage by polygamy.

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

There are various interpretations for these verses but notice two things that are happening. Marriage becomes unequally yoked. “Sons of God” is likely referring to angels, specifically **fallen angels who demonize** the line of Cain who was in rebellion against God. It's likely that this is an intermingling of the godly and the ungodly. **We know these are fallen angels** because they are **taking many wives (polygamy) and violating God's order** of creation.

This may seem like a strange thing to include in the holy Scriptures, but it is a necessary thing. Why? It tells us **not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers**.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16 | Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God.

Genesis 6 is the first text in the Bible to condemn mixed marriage, i.e., *religiously* mixed marriages. Over the centuries, the church has **emphasized the importance of marrying within the faith**. Marriage to unbelievers are forbidden by God's law (Deut 7:3f; Ezra 9:12; Neh 10:30; etc.); because the **family is God's basic community**, to introduce a religious division at this level is to endanger the fabric of society.¹

If you disobey God and choose to be unequally yoked, your children, like the line of Seth, may gain greatness, but they may also lose their own soul. In one generation you can shut down God's blessing of multigenerational godliness.

¹ Rushdoony, *Commentaries on the Pentateuch: Genesis*, 61.

The Demonization of Men

Seth's godly line was multiplying. They were carrying out God's creation mandate to "be fruitful and multiply." But now **a dark and demonic entity enters** and notices the daughters of man (perhaps from the line of Seth) to be "attractive."

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

Now we see how marriage can be torn apart by being unequally yoked. Whatever the definition of "sons of God" is; it is **at least referring to those are in rebellion against the LORD.**

But let us ask: who are these "sons of God"? First, the sons of God could not be angels by themselves procreating, since **angels are incorporeal spirits**—that is they do not have a body in order to procreate (*cf* Mk 12:25). Yet the expression "sons of God" in the Bible refers to angels (e.g. Job 1:6).² It is likely then, that "the sons of God" are angelic creatures who, as Jude says, "left their first estate" of holiness (Jude 1:6). These were demons who acted through the instrumentality of sinful men by possessing them, influencing them, and having them intermarry and pollute the godly daughters of Seth by seduction.³ As a result of these unequally yoked marriages, sin increased in the earth like never before. The light of the godly is slowly being put out. We find out after the flood that God imprisoned these evil, fallen angels who seduced the godly daughters of Seth.

Jude 1:6 | And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day.

Peter also references this event.

2 Peter 2:4-5 | God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; ⁵ And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.

The Departure of God's Spirit

God cannot bless this kind of rebellion and worldliness. He cannot and he will not. **He gives an ultimatum.** He gives a time limit. He says "enough is enough."

Genesis 6:3 | Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years."

This verse could be taken two ways. First, perhaps God shortens man's lifespan, which is not likely since the lifespans we read about are quite long. **People after the flood (11:10–32) live longer than 120 years, as do the patriarchs (e.g., Abraham, 175 years).** It's probable that the **120 years are a period of grace before the flood**, a kind of "lull before the storm." Not only that, but **Jewish tradition also understood the 120 years as opportunity for**

² Ross, *Genesis*, 182.

³ See Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, "The First Book of Moses: Genesis," *Commentary on the Old Testament*, vol. 1 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996), 83. To consider other interpretations of the identity of the "sons of God" in Genesis 6, *cf* Meredith G. Kline, "Divine Kingship and Genesis 6:1-4," *Westminster Theological Journal* 24.2 (May 1962): 187-204.

repentance (cf 1 Pet 3:20).⁴ The other more probable option is that God now puts mankind on a clock of 120 years.⁵ In only 120 years, God would blot out man and his world (cf 6:7).⁶ God declares that his patience with man is ending. Man is refusing to submit to God's rule.⁷ God is patient and take no joy in the death of the wicked (cf 2 Pet 3:9; Titus 2:11; Eze 33:11). He would have all men everywhere repent (Acts 17:30). He **gives the wicked on the earth in Noah's day a space of 120 years to repent**, and then the end will come.

Perhaps you are going in the wrong direction. If you are lost, it is time to repent today. Turn to Jesus Christ. **Declare your faith through public baptism**. Die with Christ and be raised with him (Rom 6:3-4)! Come into union with him by grace and place your faith in Christ alone. You don't know how long a time of repentance there is for you. But when it is over, God will give you what you want. Don't perish because you love anything on this earth more than the God who made you.

The Deification of Man

Here we see how the great leaders of old were seen as mighty men, almost to the point of **deification**. The language of "sons of God" is a reference to how the ungodly referred to their great leaders. They looked at them as demigods—half man, half god. They became great rulers in the earth.

Genesis 6:4 | The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the **sons of God came in to the daughters of man** and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

Heroic men

The Bible also mentions the **"Nephilim" who it says were on the earth during Noah's time and also after the flood**. This is a term that could refer to giants (e.g. in the Septuagint) but the word is also used to refer to "heroes" or "fierce warriors."⁸ To clarify, these heroes are here called "mighty men" (as of Nimrod in Gen 10:8) and "men of renown."⁹ But something is wrong with these men. They call themselves "sons of god" and they are evil, and filled with lustful passion.

Demonic men

These "sons of God" are **a lusty, powerful lot of demon possessed men** striving for fame and fertility, building an earthly kingdom in rebellion against God.¹⁰ **Fallen angels left their habitation and indwelt human tyrants and warriors**, the great ones of the earth.

DEMONS OVER TERRITORIES

We know from **Daniel 10:13, 20** that great kings and kingdoms of the earth had **"princes" ruling behind them**, powerful spirits with whom Michael had to fight.

⁴ K. A. Mathews, *Genesis 1-11:26*, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 335. See also Robert Henry Charles, ed., *Commentary on the Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament*, vol. 2 (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1913), 707.

⁵ Derek Kidner, *Genesis: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 1, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1967), 90.

⁶ Kline, *Genesis*, 32.

⁷ Rushdoony, *Commentaries on the Pentateuch: Genesis*, 62.

⁸ Milton C. Fisher, "1393 נַפְלִים," in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 587.

⁹ Kline, *Genesis*, 32.

¹⁰ R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004), 125.

KING OF TYRE COMPARED TO SATAN

We also know from **Ezekiel 28:11–19** that the **king of Tyre** may have been associated in the prophet's mind with Satan, the anointed cherub. It is no surprise that, in the literature of the ancient Near East, kings were described as divine, half-divine, or demigods. Pagans revered such great leaders as gods or as offspring of the gods.¹¹ **The “sons of God” then were merely human.** Certainly, there **was demonic activity and power** behind them, but they were just another order of humans who **mixed the two lines of Seth and Cain polluted the human race.**

Deified men

The children they bore may have been giants, “Nephilim,” which existed before and after the flood (6:3a), but more importantly, these were “mighty men” who were likely military leaders. **With their size, and their demonic influence,** they would have been seen by the lost pagans as **superhuman with a divine origin.**¹² To the pagan they were half man, half god. Humanity's hope was no longer in the Lord, but the lost people of the earth **looked to political and military salvation.** It's the same today. We have our new savior-politicians—who promise their utopias. We have our modern Nephilim determined to exploit all new discoveries for the advancement of evil.¹³

The application here is that we must **never trust in military or political salvation.** Our only Savior is Jesus Christ. The next election will not save us. The next war will not deliver us. Deliverance comes from saving faith alone, by grace alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. “There is salvation in no one else” (Acts 4:12).

THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN

Sin rises in the **culture**, and it affects the **individuals** in society. It affects **families.** It affects everyone. With the compromise of **unequally yoked marriages watering down** the godly line of **Seth**, we see how wickedness in the earth greatly increases. Consider how bad it was in the days of Noah. We see the climax of mankind's revolt against God so grieved God's heart that he must wipe out humanity, with the exception of the Noahic family.¹⁴

Genesis 6:5 | 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.**

Remember in the beginning of Genesis 1, we read “God saw that it was good,” and its climax, “God saw *all* that he had made ... that it was really very good” (1:31). **Now God sees everything as evil—“every intention” and every “thought” is “only evil continually.”**¹⁵ The people on earth had taken their God-given capacities and **devised evil continually.** There is hardly a stronger statement in the Bible about the evil of the human heart.¹⁶

Let us take seriously the danger of the rising tide of sin in our own culture. Here the doctrine of human depravity is spelled out with frightening bluntness. The Bible everywhere

¹¹ Ross, *Genesis*, 182.

¹² Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 36.

¹³ John Phillips, *Exploring Genesis: An Expository Commentary*, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009), Ge 6:5–7.

¹⁴ Meredith G. Kline, “Divine Kingship and Genesis 6:1-4,” *Westminster Theological Journal* 24.2 (May 1962): 187-204.

¹⁵ Gordon J. Wenham, *Genesis 1–15*, vol. 1, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1987), 144.

¹⁶ Allen P. Ross, *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 184.

agrees to this. Man is affected by sin in every part of his being. Genesis 6 days man was “only evil continually.” God says in Isaiah, “**Woe to those who call evil good and good evil**” (Isa 5:20).

TOTAL DEPRAVITY / TOTAL INABILITY

Now that is a perfect description of unredeemed men and women of any time period—including our own. Human beings are not basically good. Because of sin’s curse (*cf* Gen 3 and Rom 5), **humanity is intrinsically depraved**—completely sinful in every part and completely **without the ability** to come to God in our own power.¹⁷

Psalms 51:5 | I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Jeremiah 17:9 | The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Mark 7:15 | There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.

Romans 3:11-12 | None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.

THE PROBLEM IS NOT JUST ACTIONS, BUT THOUGHTS

The problem is not only what man *does*; even his *thoughts* are evil. Sin is both extensive and intensive.¹⁸ Man is corrupted both without and within. His body and his mind are depraved. This text asserts that every human **thought from its inception is intrinsically evil**.¹⁹

Proverbs 15:26a | The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD.

The likeness to Noah’s day is very evident in our age. The tide of evil is on the rise in our generation as it was in Noah’s day. Everything that displays man’s thoughts are corrupted with wickedness: **social media is filled to the brim with depravity. The world’s movies and story lines are filled with an agenda that is in rebellion against God’s order of creation.**

As God’s people, we must be holy in this godless and depraved culture. We are called to shine our lights before mankind. We are called to walk in the light, to be “children of light” (Eph 5:1).

THE WITHDRAWAL OF GOD

Mankind is so wicked that God **regrets that he ever made man**. What does that mean?

Genesis 6:6-7 | And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it **grieved him to his heart**. ⁷ 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.**”

The words “**regret**” and “**grieve**” are similar and point to the **pain and grief of God’s heart**. Human sinfulness provokes a fierce reaction in God, a broken indignation (*his heart was*

¹⁷ Kurt Strassner, *Opening up Genesis*, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2009), 42.

¹⁸ Victor P. Hamilton, “Genesis,” in *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*, vol. 3, Baker Reference Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1995), 16.

¹⁹ Gordon J. Wenham, *Genesis 1–15*, vol. 1, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1987), 144.

filled with pain).²⁰ This grief is an “intense form of human emotion, a mixture of rage and bitter anguish.”²¹

Moses uses *anthropopathisms* in depicting God as **grieving**. God uses language and terms we can understand. Of course we also notice **that “grieve” is a love word**. We do not grieve for those we do not love. The word is highly expressive, as it reveals the **heartache of God over the rebellion** and wickedness of men. ***His lovingkindness was scorned, his patience was abused, and his offer of salvation was ignored. It stabbed him to his heart.***²²

God is not wishing for any to perish. He does not delight in their pain and perishing. **God grieves over the rebellion of the wicked**. He is good and righteous. His good creation has chosen evil.

But what we find is there is a way! Christ is the way the truth and the life. The story of Noah and the flood is the story of the five solas: by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, to the glory of God alone, found in the Scriptures alone!

2. THE EXPOSITION OF SALVATION (6:8-13)

God hates sin, but he loves salvation. He loves to give eternal life to the most unworthy. We see God’s mercy first to Noah and his family.

THE PREACHER’S EXAMPLE

Even though swift judgment would fall because God’s Spirit would not always shield mankind, the judgment would be delayed 120 years (6:3). During this time Noah was “a preacher of righteousness” (2 Pet 2:5).²³ He needed God’s grace, or unmerited favor. Because of his faith he was accepted.

Genesis 6:8-10 | But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. ⁹These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Noah walked with God. He walked by faith. He’s described as “blameless.” Blameless does not mean perfect, but that Noah acted in faith. Hebrews 11:7 tells us exactly how Noah obtained this unmerited favor and righteousness.

Hebrews 11:7 | By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

A close study of the word for “favor” will show that it means “unmerited favor” or grace. It **means that the recipients of grace actually deserved the judgment too**.²⁴

Righteous is the main word in Noah’s description, and in the Old Testament, it is **not describing works righteousness**, but the one who is living by faith in the Lord. It describes

²⁰ Gordon J. Wenham, “Genesis,” in *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*, ed. D. A. Carson et al., 4th ed. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 65.

²¹ Gordon J. Wenham, *Genesis 1–15*, vol. 1, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1987), 144.

²² John Phillips, *Exploring Genesis: An Expository Commentary*, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009), Ge 6:5–7.

²³ Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 37.

²⁴ Allen P. Ross, *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 185.

both a covenantal relationship and righteous conduct within the covenant.²⁵ Noah had the “righteousness of God that comes by faith” (Heb 11:7). He had the **root** of a new heart and the **fruit** of a righteous life. The righteous man is the one who walks with God by faith producing a life of faithfulness (Eze 18:9).

NOAH’S UNMERITED FAVOR

Noah found “unmerited favor” in the eyes of the Lord. For anyone who thinks Noah somehow earned his standing with God, Martin Luther’s comments on these verses are helpful. He says that Noah found grace in the sight of the LORD, not because he was intrinsically good but because **God gave him grace and unmerited favor by the Holy Spirit.**

Without the Holy Spirit and without grace man can do nothing but sin and so goes on endlessly from sin to sin.... This knowledge of our sin is the beginning of our salvation.... We completely despair of ourselves and give to God alone the glory for our righteousness.²⁶—Martin Luther

God would not destroy all humanity. God’s grace was received by one family. “Noah found grace!” In other words, “**divine favor is not something Noah wins; it is something he finds.**”²⁷ In these words, mercy is seen in the midst of wrath, promising the preservation and restoration of humanity through Noah’s family so that **one day a Savior could enter into this world of sin and save us.**²⁸ God preserved Noah in order to send his Son into the world.

THE PREACHER’S EXPOSITION

We see from this passage since Noah walked with God by faith and received God’s righteousness, he was given the warning from God. This really is likely the content of Noah’s message as a “preacher of righteousness” (2 Pet 3:5).

Genesis 6:11-13 | Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

God sees the earth is “filled with violence.” This is the opposite of the beginning of the creation account. There God saw that everything was “good” and “very good.” Here the earth has been vandalized. Murder and violence are rampant. “The end is near!” says the Lord. But notice, he shares this message to Noah. This is a message for Noah.

Peter says that God “preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others” (2 Pet 2:5).

Preaching righteousness would not have been well received in the violence-ridden, pre-flood culture. Noah would not have survived if it weren’t for God preserving him.²⁹ But he was faithful to preach the good news that anyone who wanted release from judgment could enter the ark. You can imagine the conversations, since it had likely never yet rained.

²⁵ Ibid., 193.

²⁶ Martin Luther, *Luther’s Works*, 55 vols., ed. Jaroslav Pelikan, et al (Saint Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 1960), 2:40-41.

²⁷ Victor P. Hamilton, “Genesis,” in *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*, vol. 3, Baker Reference Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1995), 16.

²⁸ Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament*, vol. 1 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996), 88.

²⁹ R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004), 135.

Genesis 2:5a | For the LORD God had not caused it to rain.

“Noah!” says the townspeople, “You’re building an ark because water’s going to fall from the sky? Nonsense.” Noah preached despite their mockery. It wasn’t Noah’s message. He received it directly from God.

So we too are to be faithful in expositing God’s message to a lost and rebellious generation whether or not they choose to listen.

Conclusion

I’m here to announce that we need to all be expecting God’s swift wrath. Certainly, he’s not wishing any should perish. He’s patient. He does not delight in the death of the wicked. Yet, the end will indeed come. He will set up his kingdom.

TORNADOS



This past Wednesday, northwest Chicago was on the national news. We had to cancel our midweek services because at least eight tornadoes were spotted between O’Hare airport and Elgin. It was reported that one touched down near O’Hare, and one touched down in various places in Elgin. With a maximum wind speed of 100 mph it touched down and went from West Elgin all the way to the Villa Olivia Golf Course according to CBS News.³⁰

Now I hear that there was no loss of life, thank the Lord. And there was little damage. But there is coming a day when the Lord will bring an end to everything on the earth. Peter reminds us of this last day.

2 Peter 3:10 | The day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

After the storm, there was a double rainbow (see photo).



³⁰ Kris Habermehl and Charlie De Mar, “Two Tornadoes Confirmed in Elgin, Damaging Several Homes,” CBS News, July 13, 2023, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/tornado-elgin-home-damage/>.

The rainbow is God's sign of hope. It's not a sign of rebellious pride as it is in the world today, but a sign of God's mercy and grace for sinners to come to Jesus and turn from their wicked ways, and be saved.

Come to Jesus. He is the ark of our salvation. Look to the cross. **Judgment was poured out on him and not on us.** He's the shelter from God's coming judgment on the earth. He could judge the world at any moment. Run to Jesus!

Benediction

Deuteronomy 33:27a – The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

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