

Good evening,

Please open your bibles to Genesis 6, as we continue our verse by verse study through the Book of Beginnings.

Let's pray...

So two weeks ago, we started to see the consequences of sin after what happened in the Garden of Eden.

Cain killed Abel and then we saw how corrupt and wicked his descendants became.

Then at the end of chapter 4 we had a glimmer of hope when it was recorded that Adam and Eve had another son by the name of Seth.

Seth's descendants appear to be Godly men.

In chapter five, we had the genealogy of Seth.

One of the individuals that was from the line of Seth was Enoch, and the only thing that we know about Enoch is that he walked with God.

So God took Enoch as Enoch did not have to die, all of this being a picture of God's grace and a picture of the church as well as it will one day be taken up, just like Enoch was.

Before he was taken away, Enoch fathered Methuselah who went on to become the oldest living human at 969 years.

Now, many of the names in the Old Testament have meanings, the name Methuselah is very interesting because it means, when he is dead, it shall come.

What will come when he is dead – judgment, the great worldwide flood.

So what was the reason for God's judgment? Man's wickedness.

[Gen 6:1-8 CSB] 1 When mankind began to multiply on the earth and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of mankind were beautiful, and they took any they chose as wives for themselves. 3 And the LORD said, "My Spirit will not remain with mankind forever, because they are corrupt. Their days will be 120 years." 4 The Nephilim were on the earth both in those days and afterward, when the sons of God came to the daughters of mankind, who bore children to them. They were the powerful men of old, the famous men. 5 When the LORD saw that human wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time, 6 the LORD regretted that he had

made man on the earth, and he was deeply grieved. 7 Then the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I created, off the face of the earth, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky; for I regret that I made them." 8 Noah, however, found favor(grace) with the LORD.

From the time that Adam and Eve get kicked out of the Garden of Eden to the flood, is a little over 1500 years.

That is from Genesis 4 to the beginning of this chapter. Two short chapters = 1500 years.

Since scripture tells us that the people during this period were living 900+ years, there would have been a population explosion during the time before the flood.

If we assume that the average time between generations was ninety-four years; the average family size was eight children; the average age was only five hundred years old; at that rate, at the time of Noah's flood, the population would be greater than what it is today.

It would be in the tens of billions.

However, as the population exploded, Satan was once again busy trying to stop God redemption plan.

We see this in verse 2, with the sons of God here.

Sons of God

Now, this is one of the most debated topics in all of scriptures especially among those that study the scriptures –

So, who are these sons of God mentioned here in Genesis Six?

The truth is that we cannot come to a definite conclusion using only scriptures. There are some things in scripture that we cannot explain with certainty.

There is however, two popular theories that most theologians appear to be divided on concerning the identity of the sons of God..

1. The first theory is that the sons of God are the descendants of Seth and the daughters of mankind are referring to women of Cain's descendants.

There are those that believe that they saw how beautiful the daughters of Cain were and therefore, they had relationships with them and in doing so, corrupted the lineage of Seth.

If you remember, Seth's lineage was godly why Cain's lineage was corrupted.

There is a major problem with this theory and that is that it still doesn't explain how the simple union between Seth's descendants and Cain's descendants produced giants – these are the Nephilim. The word Nephilim is derived from the Hebrew word for giants.

2. The second theory is that fallen angels either directly or indirectly, had relations with some of the women. Their offspring resulted in the Nephilim – these Nephilim were a race of giants and super-heroes who did acts of great evil. Their great size and power likely came from the mixture of demonic "DNA" with human genetics.

Not only do we see the Nephilim here in the book of Genesis but, we also see in the book of Numbers 13 as the spies went into Canaan and when they returned, as 10 of the spies brought forth a bad report, they said...

[Num 13:33 NKJV] 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."

In Deuteronomy (chapter 13), we have the account of King Og and the scriptures tell us that his bed was made of iron and it was 13.5 feet long and 6 feet wide.

I personally tend to lean with the second theory -

Why do I lean toward this theory?

Every time in the Old Testament where we see the phrase “sons of God” used, it is in reference to angels.

[Job 1:6 NKJV] 6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

[Job 2:1 NKJV] 1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

[Job 38:7 NKJV] 7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

There are no other instances in the Old Testament where the phrase sons of God is used besides here in Genesis 6 and in the three verses in the book of Job that I just gave you.

Turn with me now to the book of Jude.

[Jde 6-7 NKJV] 6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

In Jude verse 6 it refers “angels who did not keep their proper domain” and in Jude 7 it seems to refer to the unnatural sexual misconduct among these fallen angels beings as compared with Sodom and Gomorrah.

When we get to Sodom and Gomorrah in a couple of weeks, we will read that the men of Sodom pleaded with Lot to allow them to have sex with the two angels that were staying in his house. You can read that in Genesis 19.

You might ask yourself what was the purpose of these fallen angels partaking in this corruption?

The demonic purpose behind this corruption was to pollute the genetic makeup of the human race with a demonic virus of sorts. If all offspring could be demonically polluted in this way, there would be no avenue for the Messiah to come.

And of course, this is in response to God's prophecy in Genesis 3:15 – when He said the words to the serpent,

[Gen 3:15 NKJV] 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

So what's happening is that the entire population is being polluted with a demonic influence.

We see God's response to this in verse 3 -

[Gen 6:3 NKJV] 3 And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he [is] indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

When God says that My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, what He is saying is that there is a point when God's grace ends.

There is a point of no return for our rejection of God.

We need to understand that because God is holy and just, God cannot allow rebellion to continue.

This is why we must turn from our wicked ways because we are not guaranteed an extra day.

The 120 years that it speaks of here in verse three is not a reference to age limits that He places upon men. Many people make that claim – however, there are some people that live passed the age of 120 years after the flood. Abraham lived to the age of 175 years.

The 120 years speaks of the number of years that God will extend His grace upon the earth until He shuts the door of the ark. This is when judgment will occur.

This might help to explain how Noah was able to build such a large vessel.

As it probably took 115 years to get the permits and 5 years to build it.

Despite the worldwide rebellion, verse eight says

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

I asked you guys to make a note of the word grace here in verse eight. That is because this is the first time that we see the word “grace” in all of scriptures.

However, Noah is not the first recipient of God’s grace.

- Adam and Eve received God’s grace when God covered them with the animal skin after they had sinned in the Garden of Eden.
- Cain was a recipient of God’s grace when God put the mark on his forehead to protect him from being killed after he had killed Abel – we saw that in chapter four.

While God commanded all the earth to be cleansed of this wickedness and corruption, God found one man with whom to begin again: Noah, who found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Please notice how Noah didn’t earn grace; he found it.

As I study the life of Noah, I find it interesting that the description of Noah being a good guy comes after Noah finding grace – not before.

There are many nonbelievers today and even some prodigals, who refuse to come to church or to draw closer to the Lord because of what they have done in the past or a sin that presently has a hold on them. **They feel that they don't deserve God's grace – which by the way, they don't and neither do we.**

I was speaking to someone a few weeks ago and they made the statement that before they would commit to church, they would have to “clean up a little” – this is just empty works church.

Only by the blood of Jesus can we be cleansed.

Listen, we can't earn our way to heaven.

We know our entrance into heaven, isn't based on our good works, it's based on the favor/grace that God has shown us by sending Jesus Christ to die for our sins.

(Ephesians 2:8 NKJV) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Because of Jesus' sacrifice for us, we are allowed to be forgiven if we will only trust God.

No one earns grace, but we can all certainly find it.

Apostle Paul is one who found grace in the New Testament -

And one of the things that Paul learned in his life was that when difficulties came, God wouldn't always take the difficulty away.

But something else that Paul learned was that God would never stop loving him and that God would never stop showing grace to him. And that was enough for Paul to continue.

[2 Corinthians 12:7-10 NKJV] 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in

infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

For Noah, God didn't take the flood away, but God allowed Noah to rise above the flood. Noah could trust in God's grace toward him.

Now in the New Testament, we have two other verses that give us insight on Noah.

[Heb 11:7 NKJV] 7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Noah had the fear of God. This isn't a fear as in being scared of God.

Noah's fear is reverence of God. To love God with everything you got because you don't want to disappoint Him – that is the fear of God.

This fear of God is the motivating factor for us to surrender to the His will.

And of course, Noah also demonstrated faith in what God spoke to him – and we know that it is impossible to please God without faith.

[Gen 6:9-13 CSB] 9 These are the family records of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked

with God. 10 And Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. 11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with wickedness. 12 God saw how corrupt the earth was, for every creature had corrupted its way on the earth. 13 Then God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to every creature, for the earth is filled with wickedness because of them; therefore I am going to destroy them along with the earth.

I want to point out three things that the scriptures say about Noah –

1. It says in verse 9 that Noah was a righteous man. This is the first time that the word **righteousness** is used in scripture – and it is attributed to Noah.

Now, Noah's righteousness didn't come from his good works.

However, Noah's good works are a result of his righteousness.

Righteousness does not mean that he was perfect – it simply means that God considered him righteous because of his faith.

As believers, we are righteous before the eyes of God, not based upon what we do but on what Jesus Christ did on the cross.

[2 Corinthians 5:21 CSB] 21 He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2. The second thing the scriptures tell us about Noah was that he was blameless among his contemporaries. Being blameless means that Noah's neighbors couldn't find any fault in him. Nothing sticks out –
3. The third thing that the scriptures point out is that Noah walked with God – just like his grandfather Enoch. And because Noah walked with God, God was going to safely take him through the judgment.

Now as believers, the process of maturing in Christ in itself is a walk.

We are commanded to walk by faith. However, we are also told to...

walk in love (Ephesians 5:2)

walk as children of the light (Ephesians 5:8)

walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:16)

and to walk circumspectly (Ephesians 5:15)

And we do this every day as we walk with the Lord, by faith. One day at a time, one step at a time. As long as we continue to walk with Him, He guides us into His will and blesses us with His wisdom and His strength.

This is how we walk with God.

Another quality of Noah was that he was obedient to the word of God and we see that in the last portion of scripture for tonight.

[Gen 6:14-22 CSB] "Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and outside. 15 "This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. 16 "You are to make a roof, finishing the sides of the ark to within eighteen inches of the roof. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks. 17 "Understand that I am bringing a flood; floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature under heaven with the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. 18 "But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark with your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives. 19 "You are also to bring into the ark two of all the living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. 20 "Two of everything ;from the birds according to their kinds, from the livestock according to their kinds, and from the animals that crawl on the ground according to their kinds; will come to you so that you can keep them alive. 21 "Take with you every kind of food that is eaten; gather it as food for you and

for them." 22 And Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him.

Many people will ask, how can you make the claim that the God of the bible is a loving and merciful God if He is about to wipe out billions of people from the earth.

The same argument is made when the children of Israel return to Canaan and God commands them to kill every inhabitant from the land.

Church, every time there is a judgment in the scriptures, God has always set aside a time of grace for the people beforehand.

God gave the people 120 years for them to repent of their wickedness yet, we will see that no one accepted God's grace.

People saw Noah build the ark for 120 years and were unresponsive.

We just finished Jonah and we saw that God gave them a 40 day grace period and they did respond with true repentance.

Starting in verse 14, we start to get an idea of what the ark looked like.

For many of us, when we hear about Noah's ark, we picture Noah's ark as the picture that is on the front of a child's bible or a coloring book.

A crowded small tugboat with the giraffe's neck sticking out of the top or an elephant peeking outside one of the windows.

Wrong, wrong, wrong.

First of all, the Hebrew word utilized for ark means "box"

The only other time in scripture that the same Hebrew word is utilized, is in the basket that Moses was placed in order to hide him from Pharaoh – in the beginning of Exodus, you might remember that Pharaoh commands that all the male Hebrew babies be thrown into the river.

Moses' mother and sister place Moses in the ark and later he is found by the Pharaoh's daughter.

In both examples, the ark kept the individuals from the judgment of water.

So the ark might have looked more like a giant shoebox than an actual boat.

There was no sail, no rudder, no helm to steer the ark. You see, Noah wasn't the captain of the ark, God was.

Now check this out,

God also instructed Noah to cover the inside and the outside of the ark with pitch. Pitch is a tarlike substance that would prevent the floodwaters from entering the ark..

The Hebrew word for pitch means atonement.

This pitch/atonement was going to save them from the judgment.

The same way that we have atonement through what Jesus Christ did on the cross.

In verse 16, God instructed Noah to build the ark in three levels,

Here is a question for you guys, if the ark was built in three level and there were only windows on the top level, how did they get light to the bottom two floors?

Anyone? Easy, they used floodlights.:)

19 "You are also to bring into the ark two of all the living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. 20 "Two of everything ;from the birds according to their kinds, from the livestock according to their kinds, and from the animals that crawl on the ground according to their kinds; will come to you so that you can keep them alive.

There are many people that say, how was Noah able to gather all these animals?

First of all, Noah didn't have to go get the animals. God made the animals come to Noah.

Where there dinosaurs on the ark? – That is another question I hear a lot.

If God said that he wanted two of every kind in the ark, then there must have been dinosaurs on the ark.

Not all the dinosaurs were giants and also God never said that all the animals had to be mature. They could have been younger, therefore, smaller.

The ark was big enough to hold all the animals along with the feed for the animals as well as the food for Noah and his family.

There is a big misconception that Noah and his family along with the animals were only in the ark for 40 days.

The rain stopped after 40 days. They actually had to spend over a year on the ark and I will walk you guys through entire event next week.

The chapter ends with Noah's obedience.

22 And Noah did this. He did **everything** that God had commanded him.

It must have taken a lot of faith for Noah to build this giant ark during this time. Remember, it still had not rained yet. The earth still had that canopy of water over the earth.

Can you imagine the ridicule that he must have gone through? Yet he never complained.

Noah didn't have the hundreds of examples in the bible that would be able to give him encouragement. But we do.

Noah didn't have the privilege to fellowship with other believers. But we do.

Then, how much more should our obedience be than that of Noah.

Why would God have Noah build this giant box on dry land?

I believe that by working in this way God gives us an opportunity to put our faith in action and also He gives us the opportunity to place our trust in Him.

We are just here for the ride church. Sooner or later, we are going to have to come to conclusion that God is our captain.

This is complete surrender.

In closing tonight, turn to Matthew 24

In Matthew 24, Jesus spoke of His second coming

[Mat 24:36-44 CSB] 36 "Now concerning that day and hour no one knows neither the angels of heaven nor the Son; except the Father alone. 37 "As the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be. 38 "For in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah boarded the ark. 39 "They didn't know until the flood came and swept them all away. This is the way the coming of the Son of Man will be. 40 "Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 "Two women will be grinding grain with a hand mill; one will be taken and one left. 42 "Therefore be alert, since you don't know what day your Lord is coming. 43 "But know this: If the homeowner had known what time the thief was coming, he would have stayed alert and not let his house be broken into. 44 "This is why you are also to be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

God gave the people of Noah's time 120 years of grace. We are approaching 2000 years since our Lord spoke these words.

Why hasn't the Lord returned? It's all about His grace. It is not time yet.

We must be ready and alert and while we are awaiting His return, we must be obedient to the will that He has set for us. We must be ready – just like Noah.

Amen.

Let's pray...