

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

“God’s Impending Judgment”

Genesis 6:1-22

2002

Introduction

Here in chapter 6 we have the account of God’s impending judgment on a corrupt and rebellious world.

Interestingly, the Lord compared the moral and spiritual climate of Noah’s day to the conditions immediately preceding the return of Jesus Christ.

Luke 17:26-27 “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man -- exploding population (6:1), sexual perversion (6:2), demonic activity (6:2), constant evil in the heart of man (6:5), and widespread corruption and violence (6:11).

I The Corruption Of Mankind

A. The corruption of man’s **seed** [Verse 1-4]

1. The sons of God married the daughters of men

Possible interpretations:

a. It refers to intermarriage between the line of Cain and the line of Seth.

But this interpretation has several difficulties:

1. The line of Cain would correlate to the "sons of God," which hardly seems appropriate considering Cain’s ungodly character and rejection of God.

2. Intermarriage between believers and unbelievers may produce confused children, but it doesn’t produce “Nephilim” who were known for their enormous size and strength.

3. Intermarriage, though prohibited (Deut 7:3-4; 2 Cor 6:14), wouldn’t make God angry enough to wipe out the entire population of the earth.

b. It is more accurate to see the **sons of God** as fallen angels and the **daughters of men** as human women.

Support for this interpretation:

1. The phrase **sons of God** refers exclusively to angels when it is used the three other times in the Old Testament (Job 1:6, 2:1, and 38:7).

2. The ancient rabbis, early church fathers and translators of the Septuagint all believed the “sons of God” to be fallen angels.

Jude 6-7 “And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home -- these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.”

3. The Apocryphal book of Enoch (while not part of the cannon) of scripture, supports this view.

"And it came to pass that the children of men had multiplied that in those days were born unto them beautiful and comely daughters. And the angels, the children of heaven, saw and lusted after them, and said to one another: 'Come, let us choose us wives from among the children of men and beget us children . . . [They] took unto themselves wives, and each chose for himself one, and they began to go unto them and to defile themselves with them, and they taught them charms and enchantments . . . And they became pregnant, and they bare great giants . . . And there arose much godlessness, and they committed fornication, and they were led astray, and became corrupt in all their ways."

4. The unusual nature of the offspring, supports this view

An objection offered to this understanding is found in Matthew 22:30, where Jesus said angels *neither marry nor are given in marriage*; but Jesus never said angels were sexless.

Why would Satan send his angels to intermarry with human women? Satan was trying to pollute the genetic "pool" of mankind -- to put a genetic "virus" which would make the human race unfit for bringing forth the *Seed of the woman* - the Messiah - promised in Genesis 3:15.

And to a degree, he succeeded. The human race was so polluted that God had no choice but to imprison these fallen angels and begin again with Noah and his family.

a. God's warning of impending **judgment**

God pronounces that man's days will be 120 years. This is sometimes regarded as a reference to the reduced length of life of man as a result of sin. But in this context I believe it is a prophetic deadline set by God – "120 years and My judgment against man will take place."

Application:

God promises His Spirit will not contend with man forever. There is a "point of no return" in our rejection of God. A day coming when He will say "no more."

Ezekiel 33:11 "Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?'"

2. The **product** of their union: Nephilim
Nephilim = "The fallen ones"

We find repeated references to these gigantic men in the land of Canaan, which the Bible calls the Canaanites or the Raphites.

Num 13:33 “We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

Archaeologists have now discovered the giant-cities of Bashan, and they confirm the fact that there was a race of gigantic beings. Beings who were the product of fallen angels. (Deut 3:11) (Stedman, R. “Signs of Collapse”. https://cdn.pbc.org/Main_Service/1967/12/31/0325.html)

One of the disturbing aspects of the Old Testament record was God's instructions to the people of Israel to wipe out every man, woman, and child of certain tribes inhabiting Canaan. This is difficult to understand until you realize that the inhabitants of Canaan were the offspring of the Nephilim.

We are also told in verse 4, that these unholy unions took place after the flood.

a. They were the heroes of old

Heroes = Gibbor = “Mighty men, champions or giants”

Here we have an explanation for the stories of mythology – stories about the demi-gods – beings that were half man and half god -- such as Hercules, Zeus and others. Mythology, by the way, is no mere invention of the mind of man; it grows out of the traditions, memories, and legends which were a corruption and perversion of historical truths.

b. They were men of renown

Renown = Shem = “Honor or fame”

1 Sam 17:4 “A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall.”

B. The corruption of man's **heart** [Verse 5-6]

1. The Lord saw:

a. How great man's **wickedness** had become

Ps 14:1-3 “The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

b. That every inclination of his heart was **evil**

Inclination = Machashabah = “Imagination, intention, or thought”

Outward wickedness is always the eventual expression of inward corruption.

Mark 7:21-22 “For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.”

2 Cor 10:5 “... take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

2. The Lord's response [Verse 7]

a. He was **grieved** that he had made man

Grieved = Nacham = “To sigh heavily; by implication, to be sorry”

1 Sam 15:10-11 “Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: “I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.”

b. His heart was filled with **pain**

Filled his heart with pain = `atsab = “To grieve, hurt, or vex”

God knew all along that this was how things would turn out, but His foreknowledge of these events didn't dampen the pain and grief He experienced as a result of man's sin.

Illustration: Jesus weeping over Jerusalem

Luke 19:41-42 “As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it.”

c. He determined to destroy mankind and animal life

Destroy = Machah = “To wipe out”

This wasn't the capricious act of vengeance, but a strategic necessity in order to once again purify the bloodline of mankind in preparation for the promised Messiah.

Lamentations 3:22-23 “Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

II The Faith Of Noah

A. He found **favor** in the eyes of the Lord [Verse 8]

Favor = Chen = “Grace or approval”

While God condemned the earth for its corruption, He found one man with whom he found favor. The question is, “What was the basis of the Lord's favor?” Did he earn it? NO!

Noah didn't **earn** God's favor; he **found** it. No one ever earns it, but we can all receive it. We receive God's favor in the same way Noah found favor with God – by faith!

Hebrews 11:7 “By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast.”

B. He was a **righteous** man [Verse 9a]

Righteous = Tsaddiyq (tsad-deek') = “Just or lawful”

It’s a righteousness, which is not a result of our working, not a result of our best efforts put forth to try to please God, but a righteousness, which comes by believing God.

That was the basis of Noah’s righteousness.

Rom 1:17 “For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith.”

1. Blameless among the people of his time

Blameless = Tamiym (taw-meem') = “Whole, perfect or complete”

When we are told Noah was a man **blameless among the people of his time** (a term unique to Noah). It not only refers to the righteous life of Noah, but also to the fact he was uncorrupted by Satan’s attempt to sow a "virus" among the genetic pool of mankind. He was a whole person, free from the genetic impurity of the fallen angels and righteous before God.

Ps 37:37-38 “Consider the blameless, observe the upright; there is a future for the man of peace. But all sinners will be destroyed; the future of the wicked will be cut off.”

C. He **walked** with God [Verse 9b]

1. He went in God’s **direction**

Amos 3:3 “Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?”

Despite the fact that in his 120-year ministry, not one person converted.

2. He kept in **step** with God

You cannot walk with somebody if you do not keep in step with him.

Gal 5:25 “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

Noah was in continual communication and fellowship with God. I believe that God not only gave Noah the design and specifications of the Ark, but also discussed with him in detail the actual building of the ark from day to day as Noah constructed this mammoth vessel.

Application:

Now God may never ask you to take on something as monumental as building an Ark, but I know one thing: Whatever He is asking you to do will require His design, resources and power as well as continual communication with the Master Planner to pull it off!

D. He had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth [Verse 10]

Noah had a family and all the responsibilities that go along with being the head of his household. And I think it is worth pointing out that it wasn't because of Shem, Ham, and Japheth that they entered the ark; it was because of Noah.

Application: Men. We must lead our families! Are you sure your wife and children know the Lord and are walking with Him? We are the spiritual heads of our homes.

III The Judgment of God

A. The **assessment** of God [Verse 11-12]

1. The earth was corrupt in His sight

Corrupt = Shachath (shaw-khath') = "Ruined or spoiled"

Corruption and violence are always the mark, in any civilization, of an impending cultural, social, economic and political meltdown.

2. The earth was full of **violence**

Violence = Chamac (khaw-mawce') = "Physical cruelty or injustice"

The inward pollution of spiritual corruption inevitably leads to outward violence, destruction, and eventually to the decay and collapse of cultures and societies.

Ps 11:5-6 "The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates."

3. The people had corrupted their ways

Psalms 53:2-3 "God looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. Everyone has turned away, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one."

B. The **revelation** of God to Noah [Verse 13]

1. I am going to put an **end** to all people

a. For the earth is filled with violence because of them

2. I am going to **destroy** all people and the earth

Destroy = Shachath = "To cast off or utterly ruin"

Lamentations 3:31-33 "For men are not cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men."

IV The Provision Of God

A. God provides Noah a means of **deliverance**: The Ark [Verse 14-16]

1. Made of cypress wood

Cypress wood = Gopher = No one really knows what kind of wood this is.

Pitch = Kaphar = "To cover or atone"

Gopher and the word *pitch* are all from the same basic Hebrew root, which means, "to cover." Thus the ark was made from "atonement wood," "redemption wood," and it was made waterproof with pitch or an "atonement covering." The Ark is a foreshadowing of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ who was sent as our "Ark" to deliver us from God's future judgment of the world.

2. 450' long, 75' wide, 45' high with three decks

This is approximately the size of the Titanic but it had no means of propulsion – it was simply designed to be a floating barge.

3. One door

It is interesting that there was only one door in the ark. There is not a door for the elephants and another door for the mice, and another for the insects.

Application:

John 10:9 "I am the gate [or door]; whoever enters through me will be saved."

Luke 13:24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to."

"The work of building the ark was laborious, costly, tedious, dangerous, and seemingly foolish and ridiculous; especially when all things continued in the same posture and safety for so many scores of years together; whereby Noah, without doubt, was all that while the song of the drunkards, and the sport of the wits of that age. So it is not strange that this is mentioned as an heroic act of faith."
(Poole)

B. God promises to bring **floodwaters** [Verse 17]

1. To destroy all life under the heavens

2. To destroy every creature that has breath of life in it

Job 12:10 "In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."

3. To destroy everything on earth

Rom 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

C. God establishes a **covenant** with Noah [Verse 18-22]

Covenant = Beriyth (ber-eeth') = "Cutting a covenant (made by passing between pieces of a sacrificed animal)"

It wasn't the ark that saved Noah -- that was the means by which his salvation was accomplished. What really saved Noah was God's agreement with him.

Gen 9:10-11 "I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

1. He was to enter the ark with his family

Ps 36:6 “Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O LORD, you preserve both man and beast.”

2. He was to preserve two of every living creature

a. They came to Noah to be kept alive

Gen 7:15-16 “Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark.”

If the ark carried two of every *family* of animal, there would be around 700 pairs of animals; but if the ark carried two of every *species* of animals, there would be around 35,000 pairs of animals.

The average size of a land animal is smaller than a sheep. The ark could carry 136,560 sheep in *half* of its capacity, leaving plenty of room for people, food, water, and other provisions for their long voyage.

3. He was to take food for the trip

4. He did **everything** just as God commanded him!

Despite the staggering job God entrusted to Noah, Noah did it. We have no record of him ever complaining or rebelling against God. He simply obeyed!

1 John 5:2-3 “This is love for God: to obey his commands.”

Conclusion

Two final thoughts:

1. Are you on God’s “Ark?” Have you made the decision to accept God’s gift of salvation from the coming judgment?

2. Are you completing the work God has given you to do?

John 17:4 “I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.”

Acts 20:24 “I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me -- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.”

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