

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

Prelude to the Flood

¹ When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³ Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." 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.

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. ⁶ 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." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

- Genesis 6:1-8 (ESV)

PART 1: THE SONS OF GOD AND THE NEPHILIM (6:1-4)

Most scholars consider Genesis 6:1-4 to be one of the most difficult passages to interpret in the Pentateuch. Interpretational challenges include:

- Who are the "sons of God"? (v2,4)
- How do we translate the 120 years? (v3)
- Who are the Nephilim? (v4)

Video Notes: (Dr. Peter Gentry, Old Testament Interpretation Professor at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)

Interpreting Verse 3:

Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: *his days shall be 120 years.*"

There are basically two ways we can interpret the 120 years:

- 1) Either it describes the number of years remaining until the _____ and the destruction of the sinful generation, or
- 2) It's a _____ about human life spans.

PART 2: THE PROLIFERATION OF EVIL (6:5-8)

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. ⁶ 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." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

Verse 5: The Wickedness of Man

This verse concisely describes _____.

The Lord's evaluation of the human heart is that it's _____.

Humans took their God-given capacities and devised evil continually.

Verses 6-7: Divine Intervention

What does it mean that God "regretted" that he made mankind? Is God admitting here that he made a mistake by creating humanity?

God does not _____ and God does not _____. (See Num. 23:19; 1 Sam. 15:29)

God's action in Gen 6:6 is what we call an anthropopathism:

God was _____ that people chose _____ over a _____ with him.

God's pain over sin caused him to "destroy mankind that He created."

Verse 8: Grace

Noah and his family received the _____ and so escaped the corruption and destruction of the wicked world.

Even though God would bring punishment through the flood, there was a clear provision of His _____. Even though swift judgment would fall on the human race, that judgment would be delayed (120 years) and some would escape (by grace).

No one escapes _____ apart from grace.

CONCLUSION

The message of the New Testament that parallels Genesis 6-8 is that the corrupt world will be swept away by _____ before God's _____ will begin a new order.

³⁶ "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

- Matthew 24:36-39 (ESV)

Like the people of Noah's generation, people today are _____.

Like the people of Noah's generation, people today ignore God's _____.

Like the people of Noah's generation, people today deserve to be _____ for sinning against a holy God.

Like the people of Noah's day, people today are helpless without the provision of God's _____.

Unlike the people of Noah's day, we know that God offers his grace to us through _____.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16).

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

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21).

As recipients of God's grace through Jesus Christ, we are _____ from God's just punishment against sin.