

Pentwater Bible Church

God's Refuge; The Ark

Genesis Message Twenty-Three



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God's Grace-The Ark

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Review:

THE INTERMARRIAGE – GENESIS 6:2

The בְּנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים (*Bene HaElohim*)” The term is a general term that means to be brought into existence by God’s creative act. Because the term carries this meaning, it is used selectively. Throughout the Old Testament the term *Bene HaElohim* is always used of angels (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7). There is no reason to assign a different meaning in Genesis six for the sons of God then all the other Old Testament Hebrew usages.

In Genesis the text is dealing with a specific Hebrew expression, *Bene HaElohim* and as it is used in the Old Testament it is always used of Angels.

The second key expression in verse two is “daughters of men. (*Benoth Adam*)” This is a generic term for women, which includes females of both Sethites and Cainites. What the verse is saying is “the sons of God” saw the daughters of men.” If the meaning of the passage is kept consistent with its usage elsewhere in the Old Testament, the passage is clearly speaking of fallen angels intermarrying with human women. The context clearly speaks of a cohabitation that is unusual and unnatural which caused the worldwide flood. The loose morals on the earth at that time gave rise to sexual promiscuity and the women were willing to engage the fallen angels, which had taken on human form. Whenever angels appear on earth they are always young men and never women. (Gen 18:1-19:22; Mark 16:5-7; Luke 24:4-7; Acts 1:10-11)

THE PRODUCT OF THE INTERMARRIAGE

To get a clearer concept of what verse four is saying as a whole, the individual parts need to be discussed first.

First is the name Nephilim. In some translations the word Nephilim has been translated with the word giant (*gigentes*). People reading it picture huge human beings. But, the word does not mean giants; rather it means *fallen ones*. The word does not refer to giants in the sense of huge human beings, but to a race of fallen ones. The reason it was translated as giants is because of the Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of the O.T. around 250 B.C. The Jewish scholars who translated the Septuagint from Hebrew into Greek, used

giants. They did this because of the usage of the Greek word *gigentes*, which means Titans in Greek. Our English word giant comes from this Greek word *gigentes*. Who were the Titans in Greek mythology? They were part men and part God. Homer's *Iliad* is a classic example. The Jewish scholars clearly understood this passage to be a union of angels and humans and therefore they sought to characterize it in that way with a commonly understood Greek word. Actually, the Greeks derived their myths from this section of Genesis. This is another example of the corruption of the Biblical text. Other examples are the various flood stories in different non-Jewish or Christian cultures.

Therefore the purpose of the Flood was to destroy the product of the fallen angels with the human women. The demonical combination of the seed line of Cain with their self centered anti-God practices and the intermarriage of fallen angels with human women produced a civilization that were monsters which caused God to render His justice on the earth.

GOD'S REPENTANCE

First it is important for us to make two observations from *Genesis 6: 5-8*

1. *Wickedness of man was great on the earth*
2. *Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*

The wickedness from the line of Cain as well as the progeny of the fallen angels and promiscuous women produced people who were unrestrained in their wickedness. This is a description of their outward sinful behavior. Since our thoughts drive our behavior the second observation was descriptive regarding the degree of evil they were thinking. The Hebrew word for *imagination* is *yatzar*. It is the same word used in describing God's formation of man. God formed mankind by design but humanity took its God-given abilities (design) and devised evil continuously.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh within himself, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; But his heart is not with thee (ASV 1901).

Every thought was always evil. This statement is not hyperbole. The world was ultra sick. It is getting that way now too. The unsaved people of this world are driven to do evil. In the days of Noah there was no restraining influence to restrict their behavior. Today we have government and social protocol, which acts as a restrainer. So too is the Holy Spirit who is called the restrainer (II Thessalonians 2: 7). The influence of Christianity is strong on this earth since the Holy Spirit lives inside the genuine believers and this causes society to be restrained from doing evil continually. Today, evil is increasing in these last

times. Government is increasingly corrupt and immoral. Social protocol in society is gradually loosening to accept homosexuality, pedophilia as well as adultery, and abolishing the natural marriage between a man and a woman

The Scripture says that God repented that He had made man on the earth. Repentance as it is used of God requires some understanding of the nature of God. It generally means to change *in the objects* of His actions. Other Scripture says that God repented that He made Saul king (I Samuel 15: 11). Then we see in I Samuel 15: 29 that God does not repent. This can't be a contradiction. The resolution to this seemingly contradictory set of verses is one of perspective. That is, the perspective of a human and our God. God may seem to change His mind when man has changed his attitude toward Him. God was painfully and deeply hurt that His creation was so sinful.

LIFE ON THE PREFLOOD EARTH

The perfection of Noah (Genesis 6: 9) is from the Hebrew word *tamiym* or without blemish, sound, healthful, without spot, unimpaired. This means that 1) his gene pool had not been corrupted and 2) he was spiritually obedient to God's Word. Noah was well aware of God and was following Him in that he obeyed God's commands. Righteous in Hebrew is *tzaddik* and when coupled with *tamiym* it means wholly righteous and He was unlike all the others in his generation.

We will build on this Toldot (*And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth*) as we move through the rest of the book of Genesis. It is important to see that these three men and their families will populate the earth after the Flood. We will study their migratory patterns when we complete our study of the Flood and examine the repopulation of the earth.

What is important to see in this passage (*Genesis 6: 11-1*) is the affirmation of the degree of corruption and violence in the earth at that time. God uses the term *filled* with violence and *all* flesh being corrupt. This is not an exaggeration. It is an accurate depiction of the state of the earth at that time. It is rapidly becoming that way now too; just as Jesus said.

Matthew 24: 37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be (KJV).

In the first instance God destroyed the earth by a flood. When Christ returns the destructive means will be a fire with nuclear weapons contributing to it. But the sin on the earth during both instances had degraded to the point where violence was rampant and all flesh corrupted. The earth will continue to degenerate to the point that the Lord will rapture us off the face of the earth to be with Him leaving only the unsaved and a massively sinful population. The Great

Tribulation will follow this. Adam wrote parts of Genesis and we had his prediction of both the flood and the fire destructions of the earth.

Josephus affirmed Adam writing of which evidence was extant in his day (Cir.A.D.68).

“Adam's prediction that the world was to be destroyed at one time by the force of fire, and at another time by the violence and quantity of water, they made two pillars, the one of brick, the other of stone: they *inscribed* their discoveries on them both, that in case the pillar of brick should be destroyed by the flood, the pillar of stone might remain, and exhibit those discoveries to mankind; and also inform them that there was another pillar of brick erected by them. Now this remains in the land of Siriad (Egypt) to this day.” (The Antiquities of the Jews, Book 1 Chapter 2 para. 71)

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EARTH BEFORE DIVINE JUDGMENT

1. Preoccupation with physical appetites (Luke 17: 27)
2. Rapid advances in technology (Genesis 4: 22)
3. Grossly materialistic attitudes and interests (Luke17: 28)
4. Uniformitarian philosophies (Hebrews 11: 7)
5. Inordinate devotion to pleasure and comfort (Genesis 4: 21)
6. No concern for God in thought or deed (II Peter 2: 5; Jude 15)
7. Disregard for the sanctity of marriage (Matthew 24: 38)
8. Rejection of God’s Word (I Peter 3: 19)
9. Population explosion (Genesis 6: 1, 11)
10. Widespread violence (Genesis 6: 11, 13)
11. Corruption throughout society (Genesis 6: 12)
12. Preoccupation with illicit sexual activity (Genesis 4: 19; 6: 2)
13. Widespread words and thoughts of blasphemy (Jude 15)
14. Organized Satanic activity (Genesis 6: 1-4)
15. Promulgation of abnormal depravity (Genesis 6: 5, 12)

Today’s Message:

Genesis 6: 14-7:1 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is how thou shalt make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A light shalt thou make to the ark, and to a cubit shalt thou finish it upward; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the

side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it. And I, behold, I do bring the flood of waters upon this earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is in the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of the birds after their kind, and of the cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them. Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he. And Jehovah said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

MAKING THE ARK

Genesis 6: 14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

God talks to Noah in this section of Genesis seven times. Other Scriptures where God speaks in sevens are Psalm 29 and Revelation 10. He has just issued His decree of destruction and now He begins to give Noah detailed instructions for the construction of a large barge called an ark. The Hebrew text describes an unpowered sea vessel. The ark would be under construction for 120 years until the Flood came.

The first component mentioned is gopher wood. It is not known what type of wood this is and the word is only used one time in the Bible. The theological term for a unique appearance of a word in Scripture is a *hapax-legomenon*.

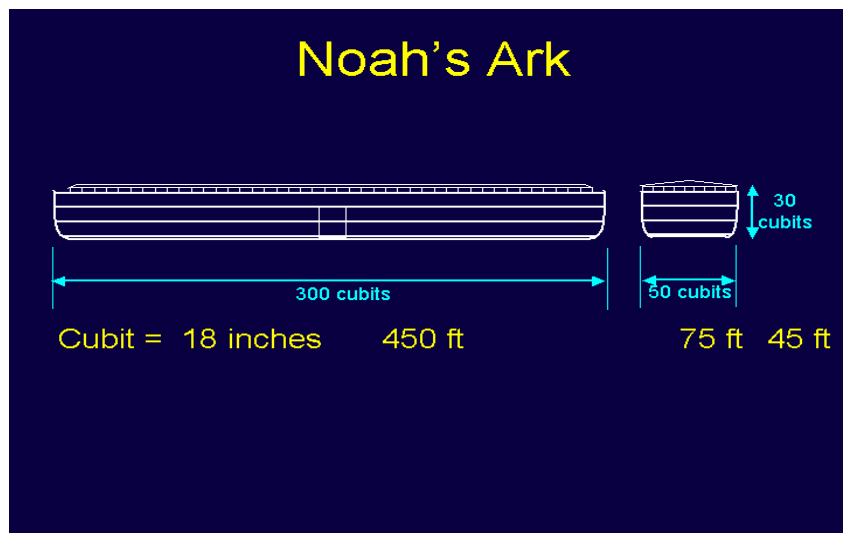
God then tells Noah to pitch (seal) the ark on the inside and the outside. Standard marine engineering only requires pitching on the outside to provide an adequate watertight seal. With this extra pitching it is probable that the ark will be found some day relatively intact. Many have tried. Some claim to have found pieces of it on the mountains of Ararat in Turkey. The extreme weather, spontaneous lightning storms, bandits and tortuous terrain have kept all but the most persistent away. One begins to think that the Lord has kept the ark for some future time when He will allow it to be revealed.

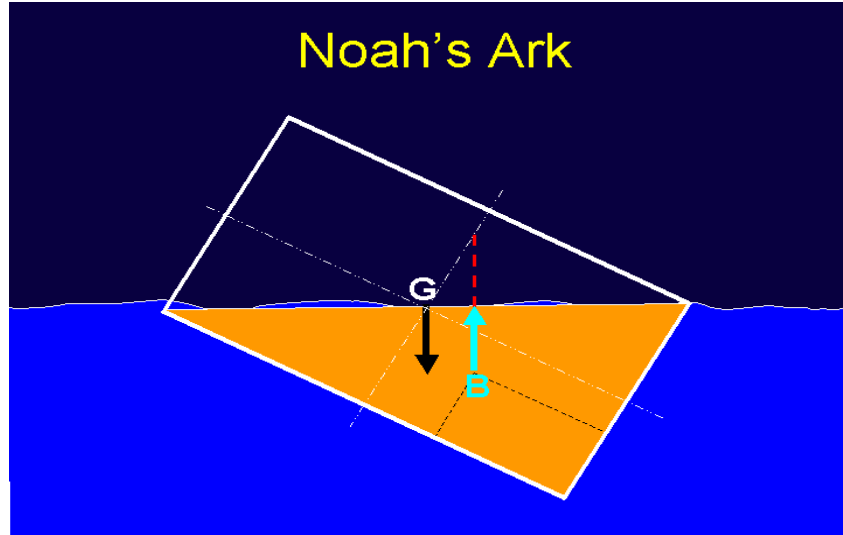
The Hebrew word for pitch is *kaphar*, which means a “covering.” It has the same root as the word “atonement.” In a direct parallel we are saved by the

covering of the blood of Christ (Revelation 1:5; 7:14). Noah was saved from the worldwide catastrophe and we will be saved from the Great Tribulation, which is coming on the earth. Sinful mankind has ruined the earth twice with his propensity to sin so God will cause them to be ruined with fire as He did with water the first time.

Genesis 6: 15-16 And this is how thou shalt make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A light shalt thou make to the ark, and to a cubit shalt thou finish it upward; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

The ark is measured in cubits. The traditional definition of a cubit is the length of a grown adult mans fingertip to his elbow. This can have many measurements depending on the man's size. Traditionally it ranges from 17.5 inches to 25 inches with 18 inches being the norm. Therefore with a length of 300 cubits and breadth of 50 cubits and a height of 30 cubits we have 450 ft. x 75 ft. x 45 ft. This would yield a displacement of 24,000 tons; 1,400,00 cubic ft. of space inside equal to the capacity of 550 livestock railroad cars. The Titanic was 882 Ft long and displaced 46,000 tons. It was over two times larger. A vessel of this size would be hydrodynamically stable. As the center of gravity pushed downward the buoyancy would be pushing upward. It could be tilted to any angle just short of 90° with an immediately righting of itself. It would align itself parallel with the direction of a major wave advance and experience minimum pitching most of the time. Even in giant waves it would be impossible to capsize.





Each livestock car can carry about 240 sheep so the total capacity in sheep would be 132,000. Considering the fact that there only about 18,000 species of land and air creatures on the earth with the vast majority of them smaller than an adult sheep it is certain they all could have been carried on the ark.

The ark was to have a window that seems to be at the roof level, about 18 inches high, which travels around the entire circumference of the roof for ventilation and daylight. It would be three stories in floor space and have a door on one side. There was only one door and therefore one way in. In Bible typology (modeling) we see the same principles applied to the New Testament wherein Christ is said to be the door (John 10:7-9), the only Way (John 14: 6) and those who are saved are His sheep that follow Him at the sound of His voice (John 10: 8, 16).

Genesis 6: 17-18 And I, behold, I do bring the flood of waters upon this earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is in the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

God then said that the flood would cover the entire earth. Man has found the fossils of sea life on the highest elevation of the earth and mammal fossils at the deepest levels of the oceans. The flood covered the entire earth to destroy all the living beings both man and animal on the earth and in the air. Fossils came from the residue of the Flood not some evolutionary explanation offered by the

paleontological community. God gives the first promise that after the Flood He would make a covenant with Noah, which is one, the eight major covenants in the Bible. He assures Noah that he would be saved as well as his family and their wives from the ravages of the waters upon the earth.

Genesis 6: 19-21 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of the birds after their kind, and of the cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

The purpose of the ark was to preserve life on the earth. God had them brought in pairs one of each sex for reproduction, to reproduce after their kind. There were three categories.

1. Birds after their kind
2. Cattle after their kind
3. Creeping things of the ground after their kind

Fish and the other sea creatures were not included since they could live in the water. The animals came to Noah. He did not have to go out and hunt them or chase them. God brought them to Noah. With about 18,000 species and each coming in pairs there was only about 36,000. Later God would have Noah bring clean animals in groups of seven pairs each. Given the exaggerated total of possibly 75,000 and ark's capacity of 132,000 this is only about 56.8% to capacity. There was plenty of room for all. Noah is told to provide his own food for the journey as well as that for the animal life.

Genesis 6: 22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

The text states that Noah was obedient to all of God's commands. Just as we should be too for it is only in obedience that we can experience God's blessings and safety and comfort. All of Noah's contemporaries were disobedient and lost their lives. Only believers will experience the safety of Heaven and avoid the coming judgment of fire on this earth. Most of the earth's population will die in the Great Tribulation. Christ said only a small number of the total populations will find salvation (Matthew 7: 13-14, Luke 13: 24). Noah's obedience is repeated three times (Genesis 7: 5, 7: 9, 7: 16). This is biblical emphasis for an important concept, which we must grasp.

Genesis 7: 1 And Jehovah said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

Finally the Lord issues His command to Noah to COME into his house, the ark, due to his righteousness. This does not mean that Noah was sinless. It means that he trusted God for his circumstances. He relied on God. (Proverbs 3: 5). We have the righteousness of God imparted to us at the point of belief (Romans 3: 22, 5: 17, 21, 8:10 etc.). We have come into the house of the Lord and are His when we believe. God does not push us into a relationship with Him. Just as we come to Christ, Noah was told by God to COME into the ark. God led the way. He was in the ark beckoning Noah to enter his life saving journey. This is what He asks of us too. Noah received God's grace and was spared from the judgment (in contrast with the wicked). After the time of the Exodus (Cir. 1445 B.C.) of Ancient Israel they would meet the Nephilim, the Anakites (Numbers 13:33), and the Rephaites (Deuteronomy 2:11; 3:13; Joshua 12:4) when they entered the land. Somehow these monsters resurfaced after the flood.



NEXT WEEK: THE FLOOD

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