

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

### Message #22

### Genesis 6:1-8

The reason why Moses recorded this famous story is not because of its worldly fame or its humanistic interest, it is because of its theological importance. In this account, God destroys the world by flood. He reaches a point in which He says “that is enough.” This is the account of the wrath of God. Several years after the flood, our Lord Jesus Christ promised that the wrath of God would come again and that things would be just like they were in the “days of Noah” (Matthew 24:37; Luke 17:26).

**WHEN WICKEDNESS REACHES A CERTAIN LEVEL, GOD GETS FED UP AND POURS OUT HIS WRATH ON EVERYONE EXCEPT THOSE WHO ARE THE RECIPIENTS OF HIS GRACE.**

This passage clearly teaches that there are limits to God’s mercy and grace. When God has seen enough of the evil sin, He brings down His judgment.

**JUDGEMENT DETAIL #1** - The activity of Demons. 6:1-2

There have been five views as to who the “sons of God” are:

- 1) The line of Seth (the godly line) mingled with the line of Cain (the ungodly line).
- 2) Fallen angels - demons.
- 3) Lesser gods - spirits of famous demons.
- 4) Despots - demons indwelling powerful rulers.
- 5) Demons who possess all kinds of people.

Two facts help us reach our conclusion:

- A. The term “sons of God” often is used in reference to angels (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7).
- B. The N.T. confirms that certain demons did abandon their first estate for indulgence in sexual immorality and received a severe punishment for their act (Jude 6-7; II Peter 2:4-6).

Because of this, it is very safe to conclude that the “**sons of God**” are **fallen angels** (Demons), who either came in human form or indwelt all types of men and women, thus bringing the world to an unparalleled level of corruption.

**Feature #1** - When they acted. 6:1

The activity of demons took place when the population was large and women were plentiful. Apparently, when the numbers were small, there was better monitoring and control, but when things became large, things got out of control.

**Feature #2** - What they saw. 6:2a

The thing that stimulated these demons was the fact they saw the daughters were beautiful, a word that refers to physical beauty.

### **Feature #3** - What they did. 6:2b

These demons took wives of all whom they chose, as Jude says they went after “strange flesh.” These demons had their pick of women and none were turned down because of a woman’s relationship with God and her love for God. As Dr. Merrill Unger said, this was “a catastrophic outburst of occultism.” It is true that demons are neither married, nor given in marriage (Matthew 22:30), but in this case they took the form of a human or possessed a human in order to cohabit with human beings in immorality.

We may assume based on these verses that just before Christ returns there will be:

1) An increase in population; 2) An increase in emphasizing beautiful women drawn to ungodly things; 3) An increase in occultism and Satanism.

### **JUDGMENT DETAIL #2** - The warning of the LORD. 6:3

The Hebrew word “strive” is one that literally means to be low, to be depressed, to be inferior. This verse has been interpreted several ways, but the point seems to be that the LORD is warning that His Spirit, which at the time of Noah seemed to be the inferior power, would only be so for 120 more years. In other words, God would give man 120 more years to repent and then His judgment would come. We know that one of the ways the Spirit of God ministered to people was through the proclamation of Enoch and Noah - both of these predicted coming judgment because of great wickedness (I Peter 3:18-20; II Peter 2:5; Jude 14-15).

### **JUDGMENT DETAIL #3** - The development of society. 6:4

The words “nephilim”, “mighty” and “renown” describe the highest ranked, most famous, reputable, powerful fallen men who were on the face of the earth. The term “nephilim” probably does not as much refer to physical stature as to social stature. These godless, satanic people were the military leaders, the powerful and wealthy people who were controlling the world, but in 120 years they would be completely destroyed. Don’t be surprised to discover that those who are not right with God become giants in this world.

### **JUDGMENT DETAIL #4** - The evaluation of God. 6:5-6

**Evaluation #1** - God saw the wickedness. 6:5a The word “great”= evil was vast, large.

**Evaluation #2** - God saw the hearts. 6:5b God examined the hearts - they were totally depraved.

**Evaluation #3** - God groans because of wickedness. 6:6a “Sorry” = to sorrowfully groan.

**Evaluation #4** - God grieves because of wickedness. 6:6b Very emotional, God’s heart crying.

### **JUDGMENT DETAIL #5** - The judgment of the LORD. 6:7

The word “blot out” means to lay something to total waste, to utterly destroy.

## **JUDGMENT DETAIL #6 - The grace of God. 6:8**

At this time there were two lines of people on earth- the line of Cain and the line of Seth. Both lineages had apparently become completely corrupt, with the exception of one man - his name was Noah.

While the rest of the society was pursuing godlessness and about to be judged, Noah would pursue godliness and would be spared because of God's grace. The word "grace" or "favor" first appears in the Bible right here and it is the key to escaping God's judgment. Noah "found grace in the eyes of the LORD." As God sifted through the hearts and minds of people, He discovered that one man was still alive for whom and to whom He would grant His grace. One man was still interested in walking with God (Genesis 6:9), but he still needed God's grace. "Noah," as Dr. S.L. Johnson said, "is a prototype of a sinner saved by grace" (Study #14, p. 5).

To escape the wrath of God, you must be the recipient of the grace of God and God's grace is found by faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:24, 26).

Dr. Henry Morris listed 15 characteristics that existed in the days of Noah that will intensify as we near the moment of Christ's return (*The Genesis Record*, pp. 174-175):

- 1) Preoccupation with physical appetites (Luke 17:27)
- 2) Rapid advances in technology (Genesis 4:22)
- 3) Grossly materialistic attitudes and interests (Luke 17:28)
- 4) Uniformitarian philosophies which are worldwide (Hebrews 11:7)
- 5) Inordinate devotion to pleasure and comfort (Genesis 4:21)
- 6) No concern for God in either belief or conduct (II Peter 2:5; Jude 15)
- 7) Disregard for the sacredness of the marriage relation (Matthew 24:38)
- 8) Rejection of the inspired Word of God (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 sex 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 systems and movements of abnormal depravity (Genesis 6:5, 12)

These are the conditions of our day and there is good reason to believe that God's judgment is very near.