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Judgment and Salvation Belong to God **Genesis 6:7-22**

Keywords: Judgment, Flood, Sin, Will of God, Sovereignty of God, Ark, Salvation

PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE

SermonAudio Blurb: In the presence of extreme wickedness of mankind God has weighed humanity and has found it wanting. It is now time to bring judgment, wrath and, thankfully, salvation.

I. Introduction.

- A. Read 6:5-22
- B. We continue with our examination of Genesis and are now in the midst of this story of the Flood.
- C. The lives of the people then were much longer and very different from today.
 1. Think of what you could accomplish if you had 700-900 years to think and explore and develop.
 2. I personally believe that many things were developed that we simply can't even grasp. And when the flood was done and Noah's family emerged from the ark that it was a slow process to recover those lost skills and lost knowledge.
 3. This becomes a point to consider as we go through this Flood story. It is a big ship and it is very possible the first ship. How did it get built?
- D. The earth is filled with humanity, but humanity under the power of sin. And Genesis 6:1-5 gave us two examples and descriptions of how that sin looked.
 1. Sons of God and daughters of men.
 2. The fulness of sin in the core of our being and extensive throughout the earth.
 3. God's all-knowing and all-seeing eye looked at mankind and saw evil, rebellion, perversions and corruption.
 4. The result is the regret of God over humanity and the preparation to judge humanity.

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- E. It is worth noting that this decision by God is one that He keeps to Himself.
 - 1. This is something I find very sobering. We are easily lulled into a false sense of peace. And only when disaster strikes do we react.
 - 2. “. . . in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:38-39).
 - 3. God is grieved over the sin before Him. And so He decides to destroy.
- F. My plan today is to take you through the narrative and let it flow as God has chosen it to be told.
 - 1. In this section we are seeing the reason for the coming worldwide flood and the preparations for it.
 - 2. And through this part of the story we see both the judgment/wrath of God and

II. Preparations for judgment and salvation (7-22).

- A. God’s decision to judge (7).
 - 1. There is a bit of irony taking place in this passage.
 - a. In vs 4 we see some who are known as the “mighty men” and the term there is one about the great strength and power found in them.
 - b. And then we see in vs 7 God’s simple, almost casual decision to destroy all. Not “try” but actually do so.
 - c. It is reminiscent of Psalm 2:2-5, “The kings of the earth take their stand, And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed: ‘Let us tear their fetters apart, And cast away their cords from us!’ He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury.”
 - d. This, of course, is repeated over and over with every new generation. Without the grace of God we are all rebellious fools.
 - 2. The decision to destroy humanity was due to their sin and their delight in sin.

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- a. We saw this in vs 5 but it is reiterated in vs 12.
 - b. This is not some capricious god of the Greeks or Romans who torments people in some perverse pleasure. This is the holy Creator dealing righteously with His rebellious creation.
3. But there is sorrow in some way that we don't fully grasp in God's judgment.
- a. He is sorry He made humanity. It is grievous for Him to see how hard they pant after their evil and perversions.
 - b. And instead of trying to understand how all of that works I think it is more wise to consider the complexity of God and the way so many disparate things coexist in His being.
 - (1) He was not surprised by the Fall. He knew what would occur. The bible is clear.
 - (2) But He also grieved then and grieves even now. You will see it throughout the Old Testament but it is most powerfully seen in Jesus Christ. He is about to raise Lazarus but He weeps with Mary over Lazarus.
 - (3) He looks upon Israel and then weeps at her hard heart saying "Jerusalem, oh Jerusalem." And yet Romans 11 makes it clear that God harden the heart of Israel and is currently saving Gentiles.
 - (4) 6:7 is not a passage to use to distort the biblical revelation of God. It is one to gather close into your soul to ponder as to why you do not grieve over your sin and the sin of others as God does.
4. Do not miss this beloved. Judgment is made right here and nothing is turning it back.
- a. Moms and dads are still having babies. Young men and women are dreaming of who might be their spouse and what great thing they might accomplish. Children are making sand castles and playing with pets.

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- b. And all along they are living out their sinful heart's desires. They continue to commit those sins. They try new ones. They invent even more ways to explore evil.
 - c. And all of this seems to be done without any serious consequences. God does not see. God does not care. God may not even exist. In fact, if He did exist surely He would have acted. Therefore, no, there is no God.
 - d. And God says to Himself, "I will blot out man whom I have created."
5. And in this decision He makes the important point that the people and animals who shall be destroyed are His to do as He pleases. He is their Creator. And soon He shall be their Destroyer. Let you who are wise hear.
- B. God's decision to save (8-11).
1. Just as it is God's decision and right to tear down and to destroy; it is also His to determine to save.
 2. "Favor" here is better translated as "grace." And that is what we have here.
 - a. Picture this with me. God's eyes roam the earth. He gazes into the very soup from which our dreams and thoughts arise. Nothing is hidden from His sight. And all He sees is evil. Evil continually and only.
 - b. He righteously decides it is time to judge and to destroy and here we expect that none can stand before Him.
 - c. And then there is grace. Grace to this man Noah and to his family.
 3. This salvation is a sovereign decision. It resides not in the will of man but in the determination of God.
 - a. So do not look at Noah and think that he deserved it.
 - b. Left to himself only judgment and God wrath is what Noah would deserve. He too was wicked. He too had a heart from which every intent of the heart was only evil continually.

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- c. He was just like you and me. Until the eyes of our Maker looked upon us with favor. A favor that lifted us up out of sin and into true life.
- 4. And this grace brings with it life. And that is what you see in vs 9.
 - a. Now we don't know exactly when this grace was shown by God. We only know that Noah was shown grace.
 - b. But because of grace Noah lived differently in this fallen and corrupt world.
 - c. He walked with God. He stood out in a world of sin and evil as a beacon of faith in God.
 - d. And because of this favor, this grace, not only was he kept safe but others in his family as well. It is like what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 7:14 that a Christian man or woman makes holy in some sense their unbelieving spouse and their children.
- C. God's instructions to Noah (12-21).
 - 1. First, notice that God brings Noah into His confidence. He tells Noah in vs 13 what is to come.
 - a. This is no different than what God does for us. None here who is a Christian can claim ignorance. God has revealed to us what shall come about in God's time.
 - b. God has fixed a day when He shall say, "It is enough." And the end shall come.
 - c. So before God tells Noah to do something that will look very strange and very foolish He first tells him why.
 - d. And we see yet again that the foolish things of God are actually the wise things. The way of salvation and rest.
 - 2. Second, He then gives instructions to Noah to build the ark as a means of salvation.
 - a. A lot of ink has been spilled regarding the ark. Much of it is speculation and sometimes it is sheer fantasy. Other times it is nothing less than unbelief.

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- b. “Ark” simply means a box. That’s it. It isn’t a ship in the proper sense of the word. It isn’t designed to go anywhere. There is no rudder and no sail or any sort of locomotion.
 - c. The purpose is not to get somewhere, it is designed to keep them safe in the flood.
 - d. So whatever picture you have in your mind about what it looked like is probably wrong unless you have a big rectangle shape.
 - e. It wasn’t a thing of beauty. It was pure function.
3. Many question this because how does a man build an ark back then. People will point out that the replica done at the Ark Encounter took several years and heavy machinery to build.
- a. But think about it. It took 120 years to build. There is nothing in this text that says he didn’t have help.
 - b. Remember also that people lived very long then and the development of skills were such that they were likely even more advanced than we were in many areas.
 - c. If slaves can build a massive pyramid in Egypt without cranes then surely the people of that day could cut trees, square the timbers up and make a huge box.
 - d. In fact ICR did some calculations having only Noah and the three sons working and it came out to be 65 years if they only did 15 cubic feet of wood per day
(<https://www.icr.org/article/how-could-noah-have-built-ark-all-by-himself>)
 - e. In another study by physics students at a university it was determined that only about 1/3 of the Ark’s capacity would be filled with the animals. More than enough space for the necessary food and room for Noah and family.
(<https://www.icr.org/article/students-surprised-find-noahs-ark-feasible>)
 - f. It is worth noting that the ark was built to a 6:1 ratio length to width, which is optimum for stability. Tests done on models showed that the ark would need to be almost vertical before it would topple over.

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- g. He goes on to tell Noah that he is to bring a male and female of every kind of animal into the ark and to care for them.
 - (1) This has echoes of Adam and the garden commands.
 - (2) Again there is this one man who is to take the creation that God gives him and care for it.
 - h. How that task is to be done is not revealed at this point. And frankly Noah did not need to know though he may have wanted to know. He had an ark to build first.
- D. Noah's faithful obedience (22).
- 1. Notice it says "all that God commanded."
 - 2. No vague obedience going on here. It is a life of diligence for the next 120 years of labor, mockery, hardship and faith. A whole lot of faith.
 - 3. "By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith" (Hebrews 11:7).
 - 4. It is ever and always a life of faith or no faith. We believe God or we don't. There is no middle ground.
 - 5. By faith he cut the wood. By faith he shaped the wood. By faith he joined the timbers together. By faith he reminded his family of what was to come day after day. By faith he would preach to his neighbors of the judgment that was to come.
 - 6. By faith he obeyed. Faith that is saving faith always shows itself in obedience and action.
 - 7. Faith, true faith is observable.
- E. And so we close out this chapter with an ark being built and a man standing firm in faith against an entire culture of unbelief.

III. Conclusion.

- A. God is Creator and therefore He has the right to make anything and all things for His purposes (Romans 9:18-22).

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1. Many read the Flood account and they become angry. How can God do this to so many people? Where is the justice? I can't trust or love a God like this!
 2. Part of the judgment that shall come upon people in the end shall be the times they shouted in hate that God might take from them that which was precious to them.
 3. But they fail to grasp that anything more precious than God Himself is merely an idol. They fail to grasp that every moment they live is a gift from God. That moment by moment they are upheld by His patient and all-powerful hand. They are awash in the grace of God and they give no thanks.
 4. "In the day of prosperity be happy, But in the day of adversity (calamity/evil) consider— God has made the one as well as the other So that man may not discover anything that will be after him" (Ecclesiastes 7:14).
- B. God is not slack in His promises. And this includes judgment and wrath.
1. We seem to believe this and disbelieve it at the same time.
 2. We often think tomorrow shall be that day that we turn to God or turn away from sin to God.
 3. But we must fight this sense of apathy with true faith in the faithfulness of God.
 - a. We are told to show kindness to our enemies because God shall bring about justice and vengeance. This only works if we really believe that.
 - b. There is a time when all of this comes to an end. And God makes all things right.
 4. But this also is true of God's saving work. Every Christian here faces that battle of faith.
 - a. You will at times grow weary. You want to fit in. You want to experience certain things.
 - b. You suffer loss of friends and family. You weary of being that odd-person who others find offensive.

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- c. But in those times you must go back not to your strength, not to your wisdom, not to your faithfulness. All these are like mist rising from the ground and disappearing.
 - d. You must go back to the truth that God cannot lie and He has promised to bring you into eternal life. He promised He shall vanquish every enemy.
- C. God is incredibly patient but there is an end to that patience.
- 1. In fact God is so patient that you could begin to think that the patience shall never end. But it does and it shall.
 - 2. Paul warns us in Romans 2:4-6, “Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to every man according to his deeds.”
 - 3. This is the point here. Around 1600 years have passed since the creation of Adam and Eve. Life is continuing. A judgment is passed by God but no one knows it. And then the end will come.
- D. Finally, there is the brutal reality that God hates sin and shall punish all who are sinners.
- 1. He will punish all who are not found safe in Jesus Christ.
 - 2. And it is brutal. Utterly brutal, without any kindness or limit.
 - 3. He will punish you. He will punish your family. He will punish our nation. He will punish this world.
- E. So today He shows you patience. He shows you kindness. And the question is what shall you do with it?
- 1. Assume it is yours forever and you shall die in your sin.
 - 2. Let it awaken you to your frightening position before your Creator, flee to Jesus Christ for salvation, and find a whole new type of patience and kindness.
 - 3. Choose you must, so choose wisely.