

## THE WORLD GOD DESTROYED (II)

August 24, 2014

Genesis 6:1-22

**“And the Lord said, my spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.” Genesis 6:3**

This fourth message in a series on Noah continues the focus of the third message, contemplating the character of the world that God destroyed. Among the descendents of Adam and Eve, two family lines are traced: Cain’s and Seth’s. Cain’s descendents established a culture of ungodliness (4:1-24). Seth’s descendents were marked by their godliness (5:6-32). Both remained separate until the centuries preceding the flood, when intermarriage brought the entire human race together to embrace the wickedness of Cain and his descendents (6:1-7).

### I. MAN’S WICKEDNESS BEFORE THE FLOOD

The union of Seth’s and Cain’s descendents is described as “the sons of God” (Seth’s godly line) seeing the beauty of the “daughters of men” (Cain’s line) and taking “wives of all which they chose” (v. 2). This action excluded consideration of morality, character and spirituality, and focused rather upon external, sensual beauty (see Prov. 6:23-26; 31:30). The result was a degeneration of mankind, so that “every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (v. 5).

Among these were people described as “giants” (v. 4). The Hebrew word, used only here and in Numbers 13:33, speaks of men who inspire fear. It comes from a verb that means “fall upon” or “attack,” and is further explained by God’s observation that “the earth was filled with violence” (v. 11). These were “men of renown” (v. 4), a word implying “heroes,” indicating that they had gained high reputation for their wickedness. In short, the world esteemed wicked men with highest esteem. The earth “was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way” (v. 11, 12).

Other considerations are relevant. Long lives afforded much time to develop deceitful ways, to craft wickedness, invent evil and erect personal empires of corruption. One universal language facilitated the race-wide communication of this wickedness. The degenerative process described in Romans 1:18-32 was in full motion as men suppressed God-given light in order to pursue their own lusts. The text specifies, “the earth also was corrupt *before God*” (v. 11). Lest anyone fail to understand, Moses affirms that this wickedness was done *before God*. Like Cain’s and his grandson Lamech’s, it was an “in your face” affront to the Almighty. May all soberly consider that their sins are committed *before God*.

### II. GOD’S WAITING BEFORE THE FLOOD

- A. Warning was given that the flood would come in 120 years (v. 3)
- B. Peter reveals that the Spirit of Christ preached to men “when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing” (I Pet. 3:18-20).
- C. As Peter answered scoffers, explaining why Christ has not yet returned with judgment, he cited the longsuffering of God prior to the flood (II Pet. 3:4-12).



### III. GOD'S WITNESS BEFORE THE FLOOD

A. Enoch: "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord commeth with then thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him" (Jude 14).

B. Lamech, Seth's descendent: "And Lamech . . . begat a son: and he called his name Noah, saying, this same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord hath cursed" (Gen. 5:18, 29).

C. Noah: "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (Heb. 11:7).

God "spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing the flood upon the world of the ungodly" (II Pet. 2:5).

### IV. GOD'S WARNING BEFORE THE FLOOD

"My spirit shall not always strive with man" (Gen. 6:3).

"He that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy" (Prov. 29:1).

"Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: <sup>21</sup> She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying, <sup>22</sup> How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? <sup>23</sup> Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. <sup>24</sup> Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; <sup>25</sup> But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: <sup>26</sup> I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; <sup>27</sup> When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. <sup>28</sup> Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: <sup>29</sup> For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: <sup>30</sup> They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. <sup>31</sup> Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. <sup>32</sup> For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. <sup>33</sup> But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil" (Prov. 1:20-33).

