

God's Judgment and God's Grace

Genesis 6:5-12

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Introduction

People often think that they are basically good, and worthy of honor. They often think that their good deeds outweigh their bad deeds. In fact, it is this belief that prompts people to make fun of the true Christian doctrine.

2 Peter 3:3-7 *First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' He promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*

People today do not believe that they will be judged because they would see themselves as good. They think God is loving and will take everyone to heaven, but they forget that God destroyed the world by water...the Flood. He will do so again with fire before Jesus comes again. They ignore God's warnings and live as they have lived.

What we see here in this section of Genesis is God's fearful judgment, but also God's grace. We see His severity and His goodness.

Genesis 6:5-12 *The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. 6 The LORD was grieved that He had made man on the earth, and His heart was filled with pain. 7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. 9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. 10 Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. 11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. 12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.*

I. Corrupted Humanity (6:5-7, 11-12)

- The Lord saw
 - God is not surprised here
 - God is omniscient—He knows all things
 - He is seeing man's heart
 - God is aware, knowing the sins in and out

Hebrews 4:13 *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

- The Lord saw how great man's wickedness has become
 - Contrast this with

Genesis 1:31 *God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.*

- In 5 chapters
 - From Creation to Flood
 - 10 Generations of have passed
- God is the Judge
 - He is the Standard and people have violated His perfect standard
- Man's wickedness (or total depravity)
 - **Genesis 6:5** is the verse that defines total depravity
 - Only evil all the time
 - Sin affects all men and women, their very being
 - Internal
 - Every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time
 - Thoughts of his heart
 - Heart = center of thinking and behavior
 - Center of thinking = wicked
 - Why? Because man is a sinner

Matthew 15:17-20 *Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? 18 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. 20 These are what make a man 'unclean';*

- It starts with sinful man's desires

James 1:14 *but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.*

- God is seeing the heart...not just the actions
- Starts from conception (**Psalm 51:5**)
- Even babies and young children are depraved

Genesis 8:21b *every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. (after the Flood)*

- External
 - Because of their evil heart, they act on their desires
 - All kinds of sexual perversions

Genesis 6:2 *the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.*

- All kinds of violence and conflict

Genesis 6:11 *Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence.*

- Continually
- Widespread

Genesis 6:12 *God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.*

- All people on earth were corrupt—including Noah
- Unwilling to respond to God’s grace
 - God used Noah as a preacher (“preacher of righteousness” **2 Peter 2:5**)
 - Not only Noah, but Enoch preached as well (**Jude 14-15**)
 - They warned people of God’s coming judgment
 - They all refused to listen and refused to believe

***John 5:40-47** yet you refuse to come to Me to have life. **41** I do not accept praise from men, **42** but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. **43** I have come in My Father's name, and you do not accept Me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. **44** How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God? **45** But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. **46** If you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. **47** But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?*

- God’s judgment on humanity
 - Lord was grieved
 - God was grieved—using human emotions to explain His feelings
 - God wasn’t feeling pain because He was surprised
 - God wasn’t feeling pain because humans were doing opposite of what He wanted them to do
 - He is feeling pain because His holiness demands He judge them
 - Destroying the earth
 - He judges by destroying all the men on earth and all of land and air animals
 - Total destruction of the earth by the Flood

***2 Peter 3:6** By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.*

II. Redeemed Family (6:8-10)

- Noah found favor
 - Favor = grace
 - Idea of becoming friends
 - How did Noah befriend God?
 - Was it because of what Noah did?
 - No
 - Noah = sinner just like us
 - Just as corrupted as everyone on earth that time
- Salvation by grace through faith

***Ephesians 2:8-9** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast.*

- Order of sequence in Noah’s salvation
 - God chooses Noah
 - Because he was righteous?
 - Note how Moses orders this

- Noah found favor with God
- Then Noah was a righteous man, blameless
- Moses was careful in saying that Noah did not found favor with God because he was righteous
- No
- God's sovereign choice

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 *The LORD did not set His affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath He swore to your forefathers*

- It is because God loved Noah and saved him
- God tells Noah to build a boat

Genesis 6:13-14 *So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. 14 So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.*

- Noah believes God

Genesis 6:22 *Noah did everything just as God commanded him.*

- Noah is accredited righteousness

Genesis 15:6 *Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.*

Hebrews 11:6-7 *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. 7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*

- He is covered with God's righteousness
- Righteousness of Christ
- Noah the sanctified man
 - Blameless
 - How other people sees him—no fault (above reproach)
 - Walks with God
 - Salvation is always God's work alone!
- Noah's family