

Introduction (Genesis 6)

Many people struggle with their finances. When people go to get financial counseling, one of the first things that is recommended is to take a look at how their money is being spent. Most people do not keep up with their expenses and have no idea where their money is going. It is difficult to create a budget if you do not know what your historical expenses are. So, financial counselors tell people to begin recording all their expenses. Afterwards, a budget can be established. History is a great tool for preparing for the future.

Prophecy generally is not historical. Samuel and many other prophets were called seers because they saw into the future. Prophecy is often foretelling. The passage that we are studying this week is both historical and prophetic. We have historical records of what happened since the very beginning. We have written historical documentation of what took place. In addition to the written documentation, there is scientific evidence that the flood took place. The passage is also prophetic. Both Matthew and Luke record Jesus teaching about His future return. Jesus said that “the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, 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 will the coming of the Son of Man be.” Our passage speaks prophetically to us about the future return of Christ. We have lessons to learn from the historical records, and we have lessons to learn from the prophetic implications.

(Matthew 24:35-39) “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. {36} But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. {37} For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. {38} For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, {39} and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.”

Our passage is a prophetic picture of the gospel through Noah. It begins with judgment on the sons of God. Then, there is judgment on the wicked. Next, we see God’s grace upon Noah and his family. Finally, we see God’s plan of salvation. This is historical, but it is also prophetic. There will be judgment on all men. The righteous will stand before God and give account. They will not be judged in the sense of going to hell, but they will be judged. There are five different crowns that people may or may not earn. There is also going to be a judgment on the wicked. Like the people at the time of Noah, it will be too late for them to enter into the kingdom of God. The ark represents Christ, who is our Savior. In addition to judgment, there is grace available for the righteous. Just as Noah received grace, all who call upon the name of Jesus will find grace in their time of need. Finally, God has a plan. God had Noah build an ark so that Noah and his family could enter into it and escape the judgment. The ark is a picture of Christ, and those who enter into a relationship with Christ will escape the judgment. Just as the people of Noah’s day did not take serious the imminent flood and judgment, the people today do not take serious the return of Christ and the judgment to come. It is a joy to teach on Deuteronomy 6 this morning. Let’s pray and get started.

A Prophetic Picture of the Gospel Through Noah

1. God’s Judgment
2. God’s Grace
3. God’s Plan

1. God's Judgment

Our passage begins with God's judgment on the sons of God. The second part of God's judgment was on the wicked. It is appropriate for God to begin with the judgment on the sons of God. In 1 Peter 4:17, God tells us, "*for it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God.*" Let's read Genesis 6:1-4.

a. God's judgment on the Sons of God

(Gen 6:1-4) "Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, {2} that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. {3} Then the LORD said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.' {4} The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

It begins by saying that when men began to multiply on the face of the land. I mentioned last week that some scholars estimate between seven and ten billion people on earth at the time of Noah. We have 7.6 billion on earth today, so there are some strong similarities.

Next we find that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful. We saw that Abel was righteous and Cain was evil. God gave Adam and Eve another son in place of Able, and that was Seth. The lineage of the sons of God went through Seth. We saw in Luke 3 where the lineage of Jesus Christ is given, that it goes back to Adam, and calls him the son of God. I believe that "the sons of God" refers to those who are descendants of Seth and Adam. After I had my outline of my message, I looked at what some of the commentaries and theologians had to say. Nearly all of them agree with my view on who the sons of God refers to.

(Luke 3:38) "the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God."

I believe that Job was one of the sons of God. I don't know if Adam, Seth, Methusaleh, or one of the other ones in the lineage of the sons of God was his father, but Job was living at that time. In Job 1:6, we read that "*there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.*" I believe that Job, Methusaleh, Seth, and whoever was alive at that time came and presented themselves before the Lord. Every morning in our prayer time, Karen and I pray Romans 12:1, where Paul urges us to present ourselves to the Lord as living and holy sacrifices. I believe this should be a daily thing that we do. We are His servants, doing His work, and we offer our lives to Him to use every day.

You and I are also called sons of God. We are not God. We are not infinite in wisdom and power. We are not without beginning or end. We are not sovereign over all the earth and the heavens. We are not the Creator. The Lord our God is One God, hallelujah. There is no other God besides God. But, we are called sons of God. For example, in Romans 8:14, we read, "*for all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.*" That is clearly referring to believers, or Christians. In Matthew 5:9, Jesus said, "*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*" Paul makes it even more clear in Galatians 3:26, when he writes, "*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*"

So the sons of God saw the daughters of men were beautiful, and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. God was trying to establish the lineage of Christ. He had a righteous seed that He was trying to establish. A few months ago we saw that God establishes boundaries. He set boundaries for the seas. He set boundaries for the land. He set boundaries for the heavens. I believe God set some boundaries for marriage. God had made a distinction between Cain and Abel. He also made a distinction in the two lineages. God wanted them kept separate. God was not happy about the sons of God choosing wives from the lineage of Cain and the wicked.

(Gen 6:1-4) “Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, {2} that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.”

There is a pattern. When the twelve tribes of Israel had been established, they were not to intermarry with the people of the lands that they would take. God was concerned that His people would be turned away from following Him and would serve other God.

(Deut 7:2-4) “and when the LORD your God delivers them before you and you defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them. {3} Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. {4} For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you and He will quickly destroy you.”

In the New Testament, God instructs us not to marry an unbeliever. In 2 Corinthians 6:14-16, Paul writes, “*do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.”* God does not want the believer marrying an unbeliever.

In 1 Corinthians 9:5, Paul asks a rhetorical question. “*Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?*” Yes, the apostle Paul had a right to take a wife, but not any wife. He had the right to take along a believing wife. There is a clear pattern in both the Old and New Testament that we are not to be unequally yoked with an unbeliever in marriage. The sons of God were not following that. Instead, they were looking for a wife on the basis of looks. They were being fleshly, rather than being led by the Spirit. God wants us to look at character. Young people, when you start looking for a mate to share your life with, ask yourself some questions.

- “Is this young lady or man a believer?”
- “Does this person love God with all their heart?”
- “Does this person walk with God?”
- “Does this person have a godly character?”
- “Is this person a servant?”
- “How does this person treat his/her mother and father?”
- “Is this young man a hard worker? Does he have the ability to provide for a family?”
- “How do my parents feel about this person? Are they in hearty agreement?”

When my mother met Karen for the first time, she took me aside and said, “Son, if I had to search the whole earth to try and find a perfect wife for you, I couldn’t find a better one. You better marry this woman.” She gave me her hearty approval, and four years later we got married. I waited for Karen to graduate from college before I asked her to marry me. The sons of God were not asking these questions. They were just looking at physical beauty. Physical beauty is a passing thing. Take a look at this picture if you think I am kidding you.

God was not pleased with the sons of God, and He said in verse three, “*My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.*” The only people this affected were the sons of God. The rest of the people were going to be destroyed in the flood. This was a judgment on the sons of God.

In verse 4, we read that the Nephelim were on the earth. The Nephelim were not a special breed of giants. Scholars say they were wicked tyrants who were oppressing the people. They were people who had wealth and power and used it to oppress people. It appears that some of these Nephelim were born out of these marriages between the people of God and the people of the world. Adam Clark’s Commentary said that nephelim comes from naphal, which means, “he fell. *Those who had apostatized or fallen from the true religion.* These were sons of God who had fallen away and were not walking uprightly. They had obtained power, and were using it to oppress people. God was not pleased with the sons of God and brought judgment on them.

(Gen 6:4) “The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

b. God’s Judgment on the Wicked

(Gen 6:5-7) “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. {6} The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. {7} The LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.”

Next, we have the judgment on the wicked. That is everybody except for Noah and his immediate family. The men and women who were part of the righteous lineage were not righteous. They were included among the wicked. The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. In Jeremiah 17:9, God said this about the heart. “*The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?*” Paul wrote in Romans 3:23, “*for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*” All of us have sinned. The hearts of all of us were wicked, with evil intents. There was so much wickedness that God was grieved in His heart and sorry that He had made man on the earth. Therefore, the Lord said that He was going to blot out man from the face of the land. All of creation was going to be destroyed.

We find in 2 Timothy 3 a description of what men will be like in the last days, before the return of Christ. This is the generation that we are living in. There is great wickedness on the earth in our day, which is a signal of His return.

(2 Tim 3:1-5) “But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. {2} For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents,

ungrateful, unholy, {3} unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, {4} treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, {5} holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.”

I read part of what Jesus said in Matthew about His return. I want to read from Luke 17 now.

(Luke 17:26-30) “And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: {27} they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. {28} It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; {29} but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. {30} It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.”

Notice that the two examples that Jesus gave were Noah and Lot. There was great evil on the earth at the time of Noah, and it brought God’s judgment. There was great wickedness and moral depravity in the days of Lot. Sodom and Gomorrah is very similar to what the world is becoming. There is great wickedness on the earth, and it grieves the heart of God.

2. **God’s Grace on the Righteous by Faith** (Gen 6:8-10, Heb 11:7)

(Gen 6:8-10) “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. {9} These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God. {10} Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.”

Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. The KJV says that Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. But Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time. Noah walked with God. We saw last week that walking with God is something that is ongoing, like a river. We saw that walking with God was relational. Noah had a relationship with God. Finally, walking with God is transformational. Noah’s life was being transformed as he was walking with God. In Hebrews 11:7 we find that Noah was a man of faith. He was an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. There were lots millions of people in the lineage of the sons of God, but only Noah and his household were saved.

(Heb 11:7) “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.”

Paul writes in Romans 2:28-29, “*For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. {29} But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.*” Being a descendant of Adam and Seth did not make you a believer. Being a descendant of Abraham and Israel did not make you a believer. A believer has his heart circumcised. A believer puts his faith in Jesus Christ. Noah put his faith in God, and he was righteous because of his faith. None of us are righteous on our own merit. We are all sinners. But, like Noah, God’s grace is available to those who will humble themselves like a child and receive Christ.

3. God's Plan To Save The Righteous (Gen 6:11-22)

(Gen 6:11-22) "Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. {12} God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. {13} Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth. {14} 'Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch. {15} This is how you shall make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. {16} You shall make a window for the ark, and finish it to a cubit from the top; and set the door of the ark in the side of it; you shall make it with lower, second, and third decks. {17} Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish. {18} But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you. {19} And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. {20} Of the birds after their kind, and of the animals after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. {21} As for you, take for yourself some of all food which is edible, and gather it to yourself; and it shall be for food for you and for them.' {22} Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did."

Finally, we have God's plan to save Noah and his family. His plan also included two of every kind of species, male and female. God created male and female. That was His design and plan for birds, animals, reptiles, and mankind. God also gave Noah the dimensions of the ark, and tells him how to seal and water proof it with pitch. He tells him that He is going to bring a flood. Up until this point, it had never rained, so this was a foreign concept. Noah never doubted God, and He built the ark.

God told Noah that He was going to establish His covenant with Him. We will look at the covenant in a few weeks. God's plan of salvation is through a covenant relationship with Him. Notice that God was establishing His covenant with Him and then he was going to enter the ark. We have to come into a covenant relationship with Christ before we are saved. This is a prophetic picture of salvation for all of us.

All of us have wicked hearts, and the thoughts and intentions are evil. All of us are deserving of the judgment that is coming. But, God had a plan for all of us to be saved. We cannot be saved by good works. We cannot be saved by being better than someone else. God does not grade on the curve. We are saved like Noah, by God's grace. We enter into His grace by coming into a covenant relationship with God. We will look more into covenants later in Genesis. Today, I just wanted to point out that just as Noah entered into a covenant with God, and then entered the ark, we must enter into a covenant with Christ in order to be saved.

God told Noah to take provisions for himself and for all the animals. Noah and his family had a very full schedule every day feeding all the animals and birds. They probably got tired of mucking stalls. They probably got tired of the smells in that ark. Not every chore that we have in life is pleasant. But, the things that God calls us to do are very important for fulfilling His plans on earth, and in our lives. Notice Noah's response. "*Thus Noah did, according to all that God had commanded him, so he did.*"

Conclusion

There may be someone here today who has not received Christ. You recognize that you are a sinner and that there is going to be a judgment of all men. Hebrews 9:27 says that *“inasmuch as it was appointed for all men to die once, after this comes judgment.”* The only way that we escape that judgment is through Christ. God’s plan for Noah was an ark. This was a picture to us of Christ. Just as Noah entered the ark, we must enter into a relationship with Christ. We must believe that Jesus is the Christ, and we must confess Him as Lord. We cannot earn God’s grace, it is a free gift of God. We enter His grace by receiving Christ our Lord. If you would like to receive Christ this morning, just lift your hand, and I will lead you in prayer.

This morning, we are going to end with taking communion. Can a couple of you please pass out the elements now. We celebrate communion every week. It is a reminder of the new covenant that we have through Christ. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He took our sins and exchanged it for His righteousness. In a covenant there are a number of exchanges. There is an exchange of garments. That is why we are clothed with Christ. He took our filthy garments and clothed us in righteousness.

This week I could not help but think of how wicked my life has been. The thoughts and intents of my heart were continually evil. I spent time confessing my sins. I was reminded that God had already forgiven and forgotten my sins. He removes them as far as the east is from the west. I was constantly reminded of how He has forgiven me and made me the righteousness of God in Him. I deserved the judgment that the people of the world got in Noah’s time. I deserved the judgment that the people on earth are going to get if they do not humble themselves and enter into Christ’s ark. Jesus took our payment for all the sins we have and ever will commit. We take the bread in remembrance of His broken body for our sins. “Jesus, thank You for taking our punishment for the sins we committed. We take this broken bread in remembrance of what You did for us.”

This week I am thankful for the cross and the new covenant that we have in Christ. Our sins are paid for by the body of Christ. But, we are made righteous by the blood of Christ and the new covenant that we have in Him. “Jesus, we thank You for the covenant that we have with You. Thank You for making us righteous and blameless like Noah. We drink this cup in remembrance and gratefulness for the new covenant.” Amen.