

“A Coming Judgment” Genesis 6:1-13

INCREASING CORRUPTION ON THE EARTH. v.1-4

1. Who are “the sons of God” in v. 1-2? A few options...

- They are fallen angels (i.e., demons) who came to earth and had relations with women.
-This view is likely the most widely held. Ref. Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7. Also, 1 Pet 3:19-20; 2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6.

→ Main idea: as sin was progressing, demonic activity was taking over and dominating human affairs

- Another view held by many: “sons of God” are those from the line of Seth, the godly line of faith descended from Adam, while the “daughters of men” are descendants of Cain’s ungodly, unbelieving line.
-This fits the immediate context (4:17-26: the lineage of Cain, the seed of the serpent; 5:6-32: lineage of Seth, the seed of the woman). Ref. Gen. 3:15

→ Main idea: Faith followers of God were intermarrying with those who did not know or follow the LORD.

2. Who/what are the Nephilim? v.4

- No evidence they were offspring of the union between “sons of God” and “daughters of men”.
- “Nephilim” close to Heb. verb ‘to fall’. I.e., ‘fallen ones’ They were “mighty men” & “men of renown”.
- NOTE: Nephilim are also mentioned in Numbers 13:33

→ Remember the ‘original audience’ of Genesis: Leaving Egypt and possessing Canaan was God’s plan for Israel.

3. God set a time for judgment. v.3

- Not a reference to lifespan. Ref. Gen. 11; Ps. 90:10. God would withdraw life from mankind in 120 years.
- 2 Peter 3:9: The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

4. How did they fall into a growing spiral of corruption? v.2

- Genesis 6:2: the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose.
- Look BACK at the fall (Gen 3:6): So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate....
- Look AHEAD to Lot (Gen 13:10-11): And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other.
- Matthew 6:22-23: The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

→ James 1:27: Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

THE GREAT WICKEDNESS OF FALLEN MANKIND. v.5-10

1. The LORD saw... v.5

- The wickedness of man was great. Compare with Creation account, “And God saw that it was good” 7 X’s
- Note the absolute language: wickedness of man was great, every intention, only evil, continually.

2. The LORD was sorry and grieved. v.6

- God’s ‘emotions’ are not like man’s. Some translations: God ‘repented’. NOT a good way to phrase.
- 1 Sam. 15:29: The Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret.
- Numbers 23:19: God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

3. The LORD spoke. v.7

- I will blot out man whom I have created...
- “blot out” is a unique phrase in Scripture. It means to erase, to completely remove.
- God is planning a judgment to erase all living beings from the earth: man, animals, creeping things, birds.

4. But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. v.8

A COMING JUDGMENT FOR SIN. v.11-13

Moses does not deem it worthy of condemnation that regard was had to beauty, in the choice of wives; but that mere lust reigned. For marriage is a thing too sacred to allow that men should be induced to it by the lust of the eyes. For this union is inseparable, comprising all the parts of life; as we have before seen, that the woman was created to be a helper of the man. Therefore our appetite becomes brutal, when we are so ravished with the charms of beauty, that those things which are chief are not taken into account.

“Gate of the Year”

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”
And he replied:
“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day...
~Minnie Haskins (1908)