

Genesis Chapter 6 Commentary

1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

"**when men began to multiply on the face of the earth**" We see here that men began to multiply. One thing to keep in mind is that men included the lineage of God's people and the lineage of those driven out from the presence of God. Why? We remember in the excommunicated lineage that they soon began to practice bigamy. This makes it possible; that the increase of the ungodly was at a much higher rate, than the godly, who practiced as God set things in order.

2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

We saw back in Genesis 4 that Lamech started bigamy and here is recorded how man, in total disregard to God's commandment, has started living like a dog and sleeping with whoever he can and/or wants to.

Let us now consider; much time has passed and many people now inhabit the earth. Some are of the lineage of Cain, and some are of the lineage of Seth. We believe that the "**sons of God**" are represented in the lineage of Seth and "**the daughters of men**" are represented in the lineage of Cain.

Now, do we see a picture of the life and times of man? God's people are drawn away "**of their own lust**" and they shack up with the enemy's daughters, representative of the temptations of satan to God's people. As we shall see below, and have seen previously, God is not pleased when man becomes disobedient. What do you mean? God has given only 2 commands so far:

- The first: "**do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,**"
- The second: "**Man shall leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife,**"

God did not command man to cleave unto his wives (plural) but wife (singular).

3 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.

As a result of man's disobedience to God, God has now shortened the life span of man from almost 1,000 years (Methuselah lived to be 996) of life to 120 years of life. Many commentators think of this as the time allotted to man to repent before the time of the flood.

4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

The definition of giants is: *properly, a feller, a bully or tyrant, the fallen earth-born men, with the animal and devilish mind.* This exact same word is used in one other place in scripture and gives a clear definition. **Nu 13:33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which came of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.** Obviously these were larger than normal men.

The definition of mighty men is: *powerful; by implication, warrior, tyrant: champion, chief, giant, man, mighty (man, one), strong (man), valiant man.* This is indicative to us; that even if they were not men of larger than normal stature, they were men who were regarded highly by their fellow men. Such men as would be tribal leaders, kings, or principle rulers.

I believe that this is significant; in that it demonstrates man's fallen, sinful, rebellious, nature; and it shows that satan is busy tempting man to turn from godliness. This demonstrates the demonic power of the devil to try to overcome the godly. How you ask?

- we have already seen that he used bigamy to gain greater numbers "***the lust of the flesh***"
- we see that now he is using the sexual appeal of the woman to lure the godly away from the commandment of God "***the lust of the eyes***"
- we see man beginning to create classes of people by making some be bigger than others "***the pride of life***"

This brings us to remembrance of; ***1Jo 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*** We definitely see that it is in the world, and of the world, and has not changed through time.

5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

- The definition of imagination is: *conception or purpose, thing framed, work.*
- The definition of thoughts is: *a contrivance, intention, plan, purpose.*
- The definition of heart is: *the will and even the intellect; likewise for the center of anything: care for, consent, willingly, wisdom.*

We see from these definitions that the ungodly, who are the greatest in number, have from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, gained much strength in the evil domain. We must remember; the ungodly care not for the things of God, and therefore they do not sow seeds of goodness but of unrighteousness, they are the children of the flesh and servant to the devil.

6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

As God watched the scenes of life play out; it was a source of great grief to Him, that man was so easily turned aside, and so quick to defy God's commandments.

7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

- The definition of destroy is: *erase, to rub out.*
- The definition of repented is: *to be sorry, to avenge oneself, comfort self, ease one's self.*

God is now setting a pattern for us to be aware of; God is a God of judgment, justice, vengeance, and he will repay. God here demonstrates; when He is tired of looking upon the sinfulness of man; He will destroy it all; with the exception of the 8 souls saved alive. This is a picture of the end of time in the New Testament.

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

This is the first time grace is mentioned in the bible.

9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

Why did Noah find grace and favor with God? Because he "**walked with God.**" This is the same thing we find in **Ge 5:22-24** where Enoch walked with God. It certainly demonstrates that the grace of God was at work in time.

Now let's consider some things that may help us put all we have studied so far in Genesis into a perspective:

- We have seen creation in perfection
- We have seen the fall of man in sin and disobedience
- We have seen murder begin
- We have seen bigamy begin
- We have seen God drive man away in retribution for his sinfulness (Adam & Eve from the garden) (Cain from the presence of the Lord and his family)
- We have seen the separation of the Godly and the ungodly
- We have seen men defying God and mixing with the ungodly
- We have seen the proliferation of the ungodly over the godly
- We have seen the desire of the righteous to be delivered from the ungodly
- We have seen that, even though there is no written commandment to worship God, the godly have continued to do so, even until now.

We shall see now; there is good reason to be godly, and worship God in Spirit and Truth. In other words, to walk with God. Why?

- Who was salvation granted to? The ones who walked with God.
- The effect, of salvation in Noah's life, was extended to his own family.
- We see the prophetic picture of what shall transpire through time until the end thereof.

10 And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. 11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. 13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

As we read these three verses; we see a picture that not only is man corrupted, the animal kingdom is also corrupted. How can we know this? Go back and read **Ge 6:7; 13**; and you will get the picture:

- **Ge 6:7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.**

- **Ge 6:13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.**

14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

It is interesting to see; even here as we see salvation portrayed, and the means thereof, we see that God used an "**ark**" to be representative of the means of salvation, how?

- The ark was built before the flood of destruction; which gives us a picture of the age of grace, and salvation thereby, being established by Christ, before the end of time and final destruction of the heaven and earth.
- In the future; when God delivers his people from Egypt; they are commanded to build an ark. This happened before the coming of Christ; and was a prophetic picture of Christ, and the salvation and the forgiveness of sins He would provide

Consider how foolish Noah building an ark, was to the "whole earth". The eyes of man, blinded by sin, cannot see the effectual purpose of God. They didn't see it here, they didn't see it under the law, and they didn't see it with the coming of Christ into the world; who is the "**ark**" of salvation to all God's people.

This presents us the picture of today; the lost man deems the gospel of Christ as nothing; while to the saved it is the message of salvation and eternal life with God; as seen in: **1Co 1:18-21; 18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.** Just as the unsaved in Noah's time did not believe God, so it is today. At the end of time, salvation eternal will be the prize of the saved, and eternal damnation, in the lake of fire, will be the fate of the unsaved.

15 And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

This begins God describing how to make the ark. It is a picture of how God has given us specific instruction to live our lives. In all our actions we must follow the divine rule. If our religious observances have not this inscription upon them "**Thus saith the Lord,**" they will profit us nothing.

In following the divine rule, we find that it applies in nature just the same. How you ask? Even in ship building today, we are told, they still use the same dimension ratios, as God prescribed here, to build ships: Length divided by 6 equals the width, Length divided by 10 equals the height.

16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

We see, in these 2 verses; a portrait of salvation and the limits thereof. Why or how you ask? Consider:

- In the building of the ark, here in Genesis, and those who are saved; we see the picture that God's salvation is not to all mankind (every person), but to those He has chosen to save.
- In Exodus; we have the building of an ark (God also gave them specific dimensions to build it by), and we see that God's salvation was limited to a people, which He chose to bear his name on the earth, the nation Israel.
- In the description of the New Jerusalem, the city of God, where God had John to measure the city, we see that God set the limitations of the boundaries thereof.

All these specifics help us understand that there are definite limits to God's salvation, and that they do not include every person born on the earth in time. Scripture does not say that God didn't have the power to save everyone, simply that He did not choose to save every person. If this concept were not true, then why the need of salvation, and the existence of hell? Also, because of sin; we all deserved to be condemned to the eternal lake of fire, but God, in the richness of his mercy and grace, chose to redeem some for his own reasons.

17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and everything that is in the earth shall die.

Destruction, and vengeance, comes by the desire and command of God. ***Ro 12:19 Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*** Vengeance is used at least 59 times in scripture, in the context of God's indignation and punishment of the ungodly, and in conjunction with the preservation and grace upon his saints.

18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

In Genesis 6:14-17, we see:

- The limits of God's salvation being established.
- The requirement of man to follow God's instruction if he desires salvation and blessing from God.
- God's salvation will be established with him whom he chooses.
- There is also established the fact, man must be in communion (walk with God) with God, and be enabled to hear the voice of God, to be found among the saved by God's grace.

Some will automatically say; we can see then that man is in control of his salvation and it is established by works. This is not true. Why? We see that, ***Ge 6:8 "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD"*** This demonstrates who chose who. It was God that chose Noah, not the other way around.

We see in Ge 6:8 "***But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD***" What is grace? Grace means: *properly, to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor, bestow; (be) merciful, have pity upon.*

- Who was the inferior, the creator or the created? The answer is the created.
- Who found favor in whose sight? Noah found favor in God's sight.
- Who bestowed? God did the bestowing.
- Who was merciful? God was merciful.
- Who had pity upon who? God had pity upon Noah and his family.
- Who established a covenant with who? God with the saved man, not the unsaved

We have this further demonstrated in NT scripture in; ***Tit 2:11-14; 11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*** We notice in this text that it says "***and purify unto himself a peculiar people***" which means a special people. They are special because of the desire to do good works; unlike the lost, who have no such desires. What it does not say is; that a peculiar people purified themselves. What it does say is; God and Christ purified to themselves a peculiar people.

19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. 20 Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. 21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

In verses 18-21; we see the preservation of life and seed (man, animal, & vegetative) for the renewal of earth after the flood. We see in this; a portrait of the preservation of God's people, on earth, with the fulfillment of the law and the ascension of Christ, so that there is yet on earth a people bearing the name of God. We see further a portrait of that eternal day of preservation; when all God's people shall be gathered unto himself.

22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

We see that it is needful that we all, as Christians, be obedient to the "***thou shalt nots***" and the "***thou shalts***" in scripture. We find further in NT scriptures that God's people will have the innate desire to be obedient to him, because Christ is in them, and Christ can do no sin. See 1John chapter 3.

"***according to all that God commanded him, so did he.***" This gives us the picture of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ in incarnation. How? Christ is the only one who, in human flesh, did not sin against God. Christ is represented here as the ark that God commanded Noah to build. Christ did all that God commanded him, and thus accomplished all, that God required for the salvation of God's people, from the destruction that was coming. Praise the Lord for obedient hearts to do God's bidding.