

CHAOS TO ORDER

The Corruption of All Mankind Genesis 6:1-22

Introduction

Genesis 6 reveals that the wickedness of Man eventually corrupts the whole earth. Genesis 6 also reveals God's call to Noah to prepare for the salvation of mankind since the judgment of God is inevitable.

The first two verses point out the wickedness of mankind in the days of Noah. The sinfulness is so widespread that it affects even those from the godly line of Seth. The intermarriage between the sons of God and the daughters of men only leads to the complete corruption of the whole earth.

Verse 1 says, "Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they *were* beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose." ([Genesis 6: 1-2 NKJV](#))

During the rapid population expansion and the long lifespans of the pre-flood world, a problem arose because of the ungodly intermarriage between the sons of God and the daughters of men. Many scholars believe the sons of God refer to those from the line of Seth, and the daughters of men were from the line of Cain. God specifically prohibits marriage between the godly and the ungodly in Deuteronomy 7:1-4 and 2 Corinthians 6:14.

However, some scholars say this view leaves many unanswered questions. Why did this make God angry enough to wipe out almost all of the earth's population? Why was there something unusual about the offspring of these unions, according to verse 4?

These scholars say the sons of God were either demons or fallen angels in rebellion against God or possibly uniquely demon-possessed men intermarrying with human women. In the book of Job, the phrase sons of God refers to angelic creatures (Job 1:6, 2:1, and 38:7).

The Septuagint also translated sons of God as angels. Jude 6 says, "And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." ([Jude 1:6-7 NKJV](#))

The occult boasts of sexual associations with the demonic, and some today actively pursue these associations. Jude 6 also makes it clear these wicked angels are reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day for not keeping their proper place. 1 Peter 3:19-20 tells us Jesus went to these

disobedient spirits in their prison and proclaimed His victory on the cross over them.

If Satan could send his fallen angels to intermarry with human women, he could pollute the genetic pool of mankind with a satanic corruption. It would amount to something like a genetic virus that would alter the human race and make it unfit for bringing forth the *Seed of the woman* – the Messiah – promised in Genesis 3:15. One writer says, “The Savior could not be born of a demon-possessed mother. So if Satan could succeed in infecting the entire race, the deliverer could not come.” (Boice)

Satan *almost* succeeded. The race was so polluted that God found it necessary to start with Noah and his sons again and imprison the demons that did this so they could never do it again.

In verse 3, God responds to this great wickedness. “And the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” There were giants 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.” (Genesis 6:3-4 NKJV)

God would not allow the human race to stay in this rebellious place forever. There is a point of no return in our rejection of God. God will not woo us forever; there is a point where He will say “no more.” All the more reason for us to say *today* is the day we will respond to Jesus instead of waiting for another day. We have no promise God will draw us some other day.

In verse 3, God says the days of mankind would be one hundred and twenty years. He’s not talking about the lifespan but about the number of years until the judgment of the flood. The flood happened 120 years after this announcement.

The giants that are mentioned refer to the unnatural offspring between the sons of God and the daughters of men. It says they were the mighty men of old, men of renown.

Verse 5 gives us a glimpse of the great wickedness in Noah’s day. “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” (Genesis 6:5-8 NKJV)

In Noah’s day, every intent of the thoughts of a person’s heart was only evil continually. That says a lot. There was no aspect of man’s nature not corrupted by sin. Jesus said, as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man

be (Matthew 24:37). In other words, the conditions of the world before the coming of Jesus will be like the conditions of the world before the flood:

- Exploding population (Genesis 6:1).
- Sexual perversion (Genesis 6:2).
- Demonic activity (Genesis 6:2).
- Constant evil in the heart of man (Genesis 6:5).
- Widespread corruption and violence (Genesis 6:11).

God's sorrow at man's choices and behaviors and the grief in His heart are striking. It doesn't mean that creation was out of control or God felt his plan was a failure. God knew this was how things would turn out, but seeing His plan for the ages unfold deeply affects Him. God is not unfeeling in the face of our sin and rebellion?

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD! God found one person He could begin again with – His name was Noah. Noah didn't earn grace; he found it. The truth is no one deserves grace, but we can all find it.

Romans 5:20 says, "But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so, grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

I. God Chooses Noah to Build the Ark.

In verse 9, we find the genealogy of Noah. "This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth." (Genesis 6:9-10 NKJV)
Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations.

This description of Noah not only refers to the righteous life of Noah but also to the fact he was uncorrupted by Satan's attempt to sow something like a virus into the genetic pool of mankind to alter man's DNA. An accurate translation of "perfect in his generations" is that "Noah was pure in his genetic profile."

"Did Noah live a perfect life?" No, of course not. The Scripture is simply stating that Noah's character was a righteous one. Noah had flaws in his character before and after the flood. How many of you know we all have flaws? But God still regarded Noah as righteous, something that is true for us as well. Spurgeon points out that we know Noah had the righteousness of faith because as soon as the floodwaters dried up, he left the ark and offered sacrifices (Genesis 8:20).

Noah also begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. These three sons will figure into the post-flood account significantly, and God will use them as a foundation for the rest of the human race.

Verse 11 tells us that the earth was full of corruption, but God's grace was also at work.

"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So

God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth." (Genesis 6: 11-13 NKJV)

Because of the extent of the corruption and violence on the earth, God told Noah that He would judge the wicked along with the earth. Some wonder if this judgment is too harsh; however, if Satan successfully corrupted humanity and altered their DNA, they were no longer redeemable as the mankind God created. It points to a deep and serious problem in the world at that time, something far beyond the issue of believers marrying those who do not believe.

God told all of this to Noah in order to save Noah and his family. The good news is that in the midst of all this corruption and judgment, there is also grace. Instead of wiping out the entire race, God preserved a remnant.

II. God Tells Noah to Build an Ark

In verse 14, God tells Noah to build an Ark. "Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it *with* lower, second, and third *decks*." (Genesis 6: 14-16 NKJV)

God made Noah the contractor in charge of building the Ark. The ark was about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. The Ark was not really a boat; it was a well-ventilated barge built only to float with no particular destination in mind. The truth is the Ark looked more like a floating shoebox than a sailing vessel. However, the ark was plenty large enough. In fact, it was about the size of the Titanic and had an 18-inch wide opening around the top.

It wasn't until 1858 that a boat larger than the ark was built. The ark was certainly big enough to do the job. If the ark carried two of every *family* of animals, there were around 700 pairs of animals, but if the ark took two of every *species* of animals, there were about 35,000 pairs of animals. A land animal's average size is smaller than a sheep's. The ark could carry 136,560 sheep in *half* of its capacity, leaving plenty of room for people, food, water, and whatever other provisions were needed.

God hasn't yet told Noah *why* he must build an ark. At this point, all Noah knew, was that God was planning to judge the earth, and he was supposed to build a giant barge. Since it hadn't rained yet on the earth, it is reasonable to suppose Noah didn't really understand the full plan. But Noah did build the Ark.

Beyond the Bible, there is rich historical evidence for the reality of Noah's Ark. In 275 B.C., Berosus, a Babylonian historian, wrote: "But of this ship that grounded in Armenia some part still remains in the mountains... and some get pitch from the

ship by scraping it off." In A.D. 75, Josephus said the locals collected relics from the ark and showed them off to this very day. He also said all the ancient historians he knew of wrote about the ark. In A.D. 180, Theophilus of Antioch wrote: "The remains [of the ark] are to this day to be seen... in the mountains." In 1876, a distinguished British statesman and author, Viscount James Bryce, climbed Ararat and reported finding a four-foot piece of hand-tooled timber at more than 13,000 feet. Six Turkish soldiers claimed to see the ark in 1916. In 1936, a young British archaeologist named Hardwicke Knight hiked across Ararat and discovered interlocking hand-tooled timbers at 14,000 feet. During World War II, two pilots saw and photographed something they believed was the ark on Mount Ararat. There have been many more recent attempts to find and document the ark, but they have been hindered by politics and surrounded by controversy.

Noah was told to cover the Ark inside and outside with pitch. The pitch waterproofed the wood, preserving it for a long time. Could it be that God still has a purpose for the ark? Maybe He planned to use it to remind our world of the judgment in Noah's day and how we are headed to judgment in our day.

2 Peter 3:1-7 relates the future judgment to the judgment of the flood saying, "Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation." For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." (2 Peter 3:1-7 NKJV)

III. Why Noah Built the Ark

In verse 17, God reveals why the ark must be built and what Noah must do.

"And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which *is* the breath of life; everything that *is* on the earth shall die. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every *sort* into the ark, to keep *them* alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every *kind* will come to you to keep *them* alive. And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather *it* to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them." (Genesis 6:17-21 NKJV)

We can only wonder what Noah felt when he heard this remarkable announcement from God that everything on the earth was going to die. Noah had the most prominent role in the greatest judgment and salvation the world at that time had seen.

Despite the dramatic judgment coming, God makes a covenant with Noah that he and his family will be saved. God also uses Noah to save a remnant of each animal so the earth can be populated with people and animals after the flood. God also commanded Noah to take all the food he could so there would be a lot of food for Noah and all the animals.

Conclusion

In verse 22, Chapter 6 ends with a statement of Noah's obedience to God. "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did." ([Genesis 6:22 NKJV](#))

When given this staggering job to do that would take 120 years, Noah did it. We don't hear of him complaining or rebelling; he simply obeyed. Noah didn't shrink from what God told him to do. The Bible presents Noah as a great hero, an excellent example of righteousness (Ezekiel 14:14), a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5), and one who condemned the world by offering salvation in the ark that the whole world rejected (Hebrews 11:7).

Noah was a *preacher of righteousness* (2 Peter 2:5), yet in his 120-year ministry, it seems that not one person was saved.

"The work of building the ark was laborious, costly, tedious, dangerous, and seemingly foolish and ridiculous; especially when all things continued in the same posture and safety for so many scores of years together; whereby Noah, without doubt, was all that while the song of the drunkards, and the sport of the wits of that age. So it is not strange that this is mentioned as an heroic act of faith." (Poole)

In Matthew 25, Jesus said that the world will be much the same before He returns to set up His earthly kingdom (Matthew 25:31–33). He warns us to "be ready, because He will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Second Timothy 3 gives us a clear picture of the state of the world before Jesus comes and most likely also describes the world in the days of Noah. But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ([2 Timothy 3:1-5 NKJV](#))

It is becoming increasingly evident that we are quickly headed towards days that are just like Noah faced. But at the end of the age, God will send Jesus to rescue us from the corruption and judgment, just as he did for Noah.