



Genesis 6:1-22

# JUDGMENT ACCORDING TO GOD

*The present section of Genesis has been the subject of debate for centuries, most scholars considering it to be one of the most difficult passages to interpret in the Pentateuch. At the center of the discussion is the identity of the “sons of God” and the “daughters of men.” Most of the early church fathers interpreted the sons of God to be angels, probably because of certain manuscripts of the Septuagint. But this view was met with resistance from rabbinical circles, for their position was more commonly that the sons of God were human judges. In fact, there was a curse pronounced on anyone taking the angel view (Genesis Rabba 26:5). Later, in the medieval period...there was a preference for the interpretation that the sons of God were Sethites, and the daughters of men, Cainites. Whatever view the expositor takes of some of the details in the passage, the passage as a whole is clearly portraying how wicked the human race had become and indicating that death would be the punishment. This judgment would be severe because the sin was great.*

—Allen Ross

Genesis 6 is one of the most difficult chapters in all of Scripture to interpret. There is debate regarding the identity of the *sons of God*, the meaning of *120 years*, the identity of the *Nephilim*, the “regret” of the Lord in creating humanity, and the reality of the Flood itself. But regardless of the interpretive difficulties, the message is clear:

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## THE GREATNESS OF THE WORLD’S DEPRAVITY (6:1-13)

- The population greatly increases (6:1).
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of humanity greatly increases (6:2, 5).

### Who are the “sons of God”?

1. **Fallen angels.** Angels saw the beauty of human women and somehow (whether through possession or transformation) cohabited with them, producing some kind of angel-human mutant beings (*Nephilim*) that fully corrupted the earth.
2. **Mighty kings.** The sons of *elohim* refer to mighty human rulers who began to dominate the earth and assemble large harems. They would also be closely identified with the *Nephilim*.
3. **The godly line of Seth.** The “sons of God” are those tied to Seth’s godly line. They forsook godliness in order to engage in sexual immorality with whomever they wanted. Thus, even the godly were fully corrupted during this age, resulting in the increase of *Nephilim*, mighty tyrants, who dominated the earth.

- \_\_\_\_\_ greatly increases (6:4).
- \_\_\_\_\_ greatly increases (6:11-13)

*What does Moses mean? I do not know, and I do not believe anyone knows.*

—Albertus Pieters

*That ancient figment, concerning the intercourse of angels with women, is abundantly refuted by its own absurdity.*

—John Calvin

*Anywhere sexual immorality is found, a chaotic catastrophe comes to the world, which kills the righteous along with the wicked.*

—Rabbi Simlai (~AD 200)

*The actions of the “sons of God” are described in language reminiscent of Eve’s sin—she “saw” that the fruit was “good” and “took.”*

—Kenneth A. Mathews

**Giants.** Heb., *Nephilim*, lit., fallen ones. “Not bulk of body, but tyranny and oppression, inasmuch as they domineered by force, falling and preying upon those beneath them” (Luther). Only used here and in Numbers 13:33 where the meaning of “giants” is implied.

*The text presents us with men who are controlled by fallen angels.*

—Willem H. Gispen

## THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S GOODNESS (6:3-8)

*And the Lord was sorry that He made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart... But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. (6:6, 8)*

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

## THE GREATNESS OF NOAH'S FAITH (6:9)

*This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generations. Noah walked with God. (6:9)*

- Noah had a \_\_\_\_\_ faith.
- Noah had a \_\_\_\_\_ faith.
- Noah had a \_\_\_\_\_ faith.

## THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S JUDGMENT (6:11-22)

*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." (6:12-13)*

- God's judgment is based on perfect \_\_\_\_\_.
- God's judgment is against sin's \_\_\_\_\_.
- God's judgment is executed with perfect \_\_\_\_\_.
- God's judgment can be escaped through means of His grace.
  - The ark was sufficient to save.
  - The ark was sealed with grace.
  - The ark was secure from judgment.
  - The ark was supplied with only one door.

*Whereas man plots evil in his heart, God's response ... is a wounded heart filled with pain.*

—Kenneth A. Mathews

**Sorry.** Heb., *nachum*, "to sigh, to be sorry, to lament, to grieve."

**Grieve.** Heb., *atsab*, "to be cut; to be pained emotionally, to suffer."

*God's judgment is seasoned by grace. The 120-year delay allows time for people to repent.*

—Bruce K. Waltke

*Nothing was more corrupt than that age. Thus, it was a remarkable instance of constancy, that Noah being surrounded on every side with the filth of iniquity, should hence have contracted no contagion.*

—John Calvin

**Corrupt.** Heb., *sachat*, "to corrupt, go to ruin, spoil, decay, destroy."

**Violence.** Heb., *hamas*, "immoral, cruel, ruthless acts of violence."

**Pitch.** Heb., *kaphur*, "to cover, purge, make atonement." Used 102x in OT, 101x as atonement.

*All writers of barbarian histories make mention of this flood and of this ark. Among whom is Berosus the Chaldean, Hieronymous the Egyptian, and Mnaseas, and a great many more.*

—Flavius Josephus (AD 37-100)

*God's wrath is His utter intolerance of whatever degrades and destroys. He hates iniquity as a mother hates the disease that would destroy the life of her child.*

—A. W. Tozer

Jesus Christ is the ark of salvation to everyone who believes in Him!