

The Flood (Part 1)

Purpose: to show that God's judgments are righteous, but He also makes a way to escape.

In Genesis 5 and 6 we saw how the sin of Cain had a damaging effect on his children and eventually on all men. We looked at the genealogies of both Cain and Seth, and saw how they overlapped. We also considered how the "daughters of men" eventually corrupted the "sons of God". Now we will see how the condition of men developed and how God responded. Let's begin by reading Genesis 6:5-22.

What was the condition of men at that time?

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

Genesis 6:12

Corrupt – (Hebrew shachath) to decay, ruin, batter, cast off, destroy. In English, it means immoral, debase, dishonest.

Definition: having or showing a willingness to act dishonestly in return for money of personal gain. There are three areas in which corruption shows itself in society:

- Business
- Politics
- Religion

Men left to themselves will become corrupt. Corruption comes when godly people become one with the world. If you think that you can ride the fence with one foot in and the other out, chances are that you are already on the outside.

Violence – (Hebrew chamas) unjust gain, cruelty, damage, false, injustice. In English it means ferocity, aggression.

Definition: behaviour involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something.

Violence was shown in their conduct towards one another. When there is no fear of God, then self-preservation kicks in and violence is the result. Take God out of our society and men riot

Why the earth? Why all created creatures?

The earth is the place that man dwells. The bible speaks of it as a witness of all that takes place in it: One very good example of this is when Cain killed his brother Abel. When Cain would not confess this was God's response:

And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

Genesis 4:10

Jeremiah spoke of the effects of the sins of the people on the land.

How long will the land mourn, And the herbs of every field wither? The beasts and birds are consumed, For the wickedness of those who dwell there, Because they said, "He will not see our final end."

Jeremiah 12:4

Our sins have consequences that are far reaching. They affect all that is around us. Now let's compare their condition with modern times.

Compare Genesis 6:5;

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.

With Romans 1:20, 21

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are **without excuse**, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

Jesus warned His disciples that His coming would be like the days of Noah:

But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Matthew 24:37

Paul speaks of these days like this:

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

God's response to the wickedness of man is one of justice and mercy.

- **Justice** – means that He deals with sin by doing something about it. God's judgment is just.
 - *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."*

Genesis 6:7

- **Mercy** – means that he is still prepared to save the entire human race through the righteous of one man.

- *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*

Genesis 6:8

What do we know about Noah?

*This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a **just man, perfect** in his generations. Noah walked with God.*

Genesis 6:9

He was a **just man** – he was right with God

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Hebrews 11:7

Noah was made just by faith! Just as we are today,

Noah was **perfect** – because he was sincere and upright in his heart, God gave him the ability to live a holy life even in the midst of the ungodly.

What did he do? He was a preacher of righteousness:

*...and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;
2 Peter 2:5*

He obeyed God completely:

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

Genesis 6:22

One man's obedience meant salvation for many. Though God is right and just to judge the earth, yet he is merciful and compassionate. This is what God does:

- He gives them 120 years to repent
- He gives them a righteous man to preach repentance to them
- He gives them a huge sign – an ark
- He establishes his covenant with Noah (and anyone who else who would come)
- He saves a remnant of all creatures living on the earth - even though man messed up the earth, God has a plan to clean it up and re-populate it.

What can we learn from all of this?

- Sin will ultimately corrupt everything – including our families and our environment
- God is righteous and just to deal with sin.
- God is extremely merciful, not willing that any should perish
- God is patient – he gave them 120 years to repent!
- God gave them a way out – the ark of safety!
- Nothing has changed – as things were then, they are becoming now
- God still gives us a way out – Jesus!