

6. The human depravity at its worst

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The majority of people in America don't understand the corruption and depravity of mankind well. Those who are involved with law enforcement field see the portion of its ugly truth day in and day out. It is no wonder why some police officers shut off their feeling to victims' and their families' emotion. They don't mean anything bad, but it is their way of survival mechanism that they choose to use to go on in their daily work.

As long as there are criminals, police officers and correctional officers in prisons will never have to face lay-off situation. We all know that there is no end of supply of criminals. As a matter of fact, it is getting worse each and every day. What we see and what we hear from news media does not even cover a tip of iceberg for what one human can do to another.

This morning we are going to see when even our merciful God says, "Enough is enough," and He is about to pull the plug on the human depravity. But in the midst of this horrible and unending human wickedness, a couple of men find grace in the Lord. Let's learn from these two people.

A. THE GENEALOGY FROM ADAM TO NOAH

Genesis 5:1-6 This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created. 3 And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. 4 After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters. 5 So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.

'930 years', can you imagine his birthday cake with all those 930 candles? To blow off those candle, Adam would need a hurricane, huh?

The Bible critics surely have a major problem of the extremely long life spans here. In this chapter, no one lived less than 365 years – and this is Enoch, who was a special case, and Methuselah lived 969 years. How is this possible?

Some have thought this is speaking figuratively or counting months as years. But if that is the case, Enoch fathered Methuselah when he was five and one-half years old.

It is more likely that people did live much, much longer before the flood. This is because the environment in the pre-flood world was so different, with the UV protective blanket of water vapors surrounding the earth. In the post-flood world, life spans quickly came down to the life-spans we are familiar with today.

When Eve gave birth, it was in Adam's likeness, not God's. Why? Because depravity had flooded humanity and polluted their innocence. Sin entered into the human lives.

Genesis 5:6-24 Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh. 7 After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years, and had sons

and daughters. 8 So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died. 9 Enosh lived ninety years, and begot Cainan. 10 After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and had sons and daughters. 11 So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died. 12 Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel. 13 After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived eight hundred and forty years, and had sons and daughters. 14 So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died. 15 Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared. 16 After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years, and had sons and daughters. 17 So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died. 18 Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch. 19 After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters. 20 So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died. 21 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. 22 After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. 23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. 24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Don't you feel like we are walking through a graveyard and reading a bunch of tombstones? In the midst of many death, we find a bright spot of Enoch.

This is one of the most remarkable things, that in the midst of death one man was removed from this earth. It is said of Enoch that he "walked with God."

We are told that he did not die but that God took him. That means that he was translated. What do we mean by translation? Translation is the taking of a word from one language and putting it into another language without changing its meaning. Enoch was translated from this earth to heaven.

Enoch had a very close relationship with God. It is like this: God enjoyed time with Enoch so much and they walked around all over. As they walked toward heaven, God said to Enoch, "It is late, why don't you stay with me at my home in heaven?"

Walking with God means walking by faith according to 2 Cor 5:7, walking in the light according to 1 John 1:5-7, and walking in agreement with God according to Amos 3:3.

How about us? We cannot walk in faith, in light and in agreement with Him, unless we spend time with Him in reading His Word and in prayers. Our God loves to spend time with us. Do we want to spend time with Him, too? I am not talking about praying before meals and before we go to sleep. Do we spend time alone with God in our devotion? Don't tell me you don't have time. We do have time. It is a matter of priority for us to put God in the first place of our lives.

Genesis 5:25-32 Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. 26 After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. 27 So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died. 28 Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. 29 And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed." 30 After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and had sons and daughters. 31 So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and

seventy-seven years; and he died. 32 And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

At the birth of Methuselah, Enoch had a special awareness from God that judgment was coming, and this was one of the things that got him closer in his walk with God.

Methuselah's long life was no accident. It was because of the grace of God. When Methuselah died, the flood came. God kept him alive longer than anybody to give people as long as possible to repent.

God is doing the same thing right now. If God sent back His Son Jesus to take all the believers home in rapture twenty years ago, how many of us would make to heaven? Not many. I wouldn't be able to, either.

In His grace and mercy, God is extending the time of rapture, so that the last one who should get saved can come to know Him. Then, it would be the time. No one knows that time. It can be today, or tomorrow. It is better to be ready than being too late.

Before we go on to chapter 6, we find a very interesting thing about these ten people's name:

Adam	Man
Seth	Appointed
Enosh	Subjected to death
Cainan	Sorrowful
Mahalalel	From the presence of God
Jared	One comes down
Enoch	Dedicated
Methuselah	When he is dead, it shall come
Lamech	To the poor and needy
Noah	Bringing the rest

If we link all the definitions of the names: "Man, appointed, subjected to death, from the presence of God, one comes down, dedicated. When he is dead, it shall come, to the poor and needy, bringing the rest." Who would that be? Jesus who is in the line of Adam.

A. THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

Genesis 6:1-2 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 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.

During these days of rapid population expansion, especially because of long life spans in the pre-flood world, there was a problem with ungodly intermarriage between the sons of God and the daughters of men.

Now we could go on with the argument for identity of 'Sons of God'. It is useless to speculate on the nature of this union. Whether it was brought about by something like demon possession, or whether angels have power permanently to assume the form of men is not revealed. But we should understand the occult is filled with the idea of perversive sexual associations.

The one important thing is that if demons who are the fallen angels had sexual unions with female humans and they get pregnant, that would be incarnation. That

means that Jesus was not the only incarnation in the history. I don't believe that God would have allowed that. Only our God can create incarnation between the Holy Spirit and a human.

Genesis 6:3-4 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.

God did not allow the human race to stay in this rebellious place forever. This means there is a "point of no return" in our rejection of God.

We are approaching to that "point of no return" fast again, ladies and gentlemen. We don't have to look hard to find out how wicked the world becomes.

Genesis 6:5-7 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. 6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 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."

V5 says a lot. It means there was no aspect of man's nature not corrupted by sin.

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

Jesus said, "as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" in 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 world population in Genesis 6:1
- Sexual perversion in Genesis 6:2
- Demonic activities in Genesis 6:2
- Constant evil in the heart of man in Genesis 6:5
- Widespread corruption and violence in Genesis 6:11

Doesn't that sound like the current headlines from Fox News and CNN reports?

God's sorrow for the mankind and the grief in His heart, are striking. God knew all along that this was how things would turn out, but our text tells us loud and clear that as God sees His plan for the ages unfold, it hurts His heart. He was sorrowful because of human sin and rebellion.

Genesis 6:8-10 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. 9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

While God saw the wickedness all over the world, He found one man with whom to begin again. Noah didn't earn grace. He found it. No one earns grace, but we can all find it in God.

It was true then, and it is true today. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more according to Romans 5:20.

C. THE GRACE OF GOD IN THE MIDDLE OF CORRUPTION

Genesis 6:11-12 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was

corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13 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.

Some wonder if this is too harsh a judgment. However, since the fall in Genesis 3, every human being has a death sentence. The timing and method of that death is completely in the hands of God.

Genesis 6:14-16 "Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. 15 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. 16 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.

In the midst of such corruption and judgment, there is also grace. Instead of wiping out the entire race, God preserved a remnant.

Then God gave Noah a "Noah-Do-List" that would last 120 years. The ark was as long as a 30-story building is high – about 450 feet, and it was about 75 feet wide and 45 feet high which is about the size of the Titanic. What is described is not really a ship, but a well-ventilated barge, meant only to float and not to sail anywhere. After all, an ark is a chest, not a ship.

The total available floor space on the ark would have been over 100,000 sq. ft., which would be more floor space than in 20 standard-sized basketball courts. Noah's Ark would have had a cubic volume equal to 569 modern railroad stock cars.

God had not yet told Noah why he must build an ark. At this point, all Noah knew was that God will judge the earth, and he was supposed to build a big barge. Since it had not rained yet on the earth, it is reasonable to suppose Noah didn't know what God was meant yet.

The pitch worked to waterproof the wood. Because of this mention of pitch which is a petroleum product in what most people think is the Middle East, an Oil Tycoon John D. Rockefeller found oil in that region based on this verse.

D. THE JUDGEMENT IS COMING

Genesis 6:17-22 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. 18 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. 19 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. 20 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. 21 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." 22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Why would God bring such a Flood? There are a couple of reasons:

1) The Flood was the most effective way of purging the world.

It would wash it clean so that not a trace of the wicked could be found.

2) The Flood was used by God to start a new creation.

The first Creation with Adam is paralleled here by the second with Noah. Much as the dry land appeared from the receding waters in 1:9, so here the waters receded until the ark came to rest on Ararat in 8:4. When Noah was finished with the ark God commissioned him to be fruitful and multiply and to have dominion over the earth in chapter 9, just as He had told Adam.

We can only wonder what Noah felt when he heard this remarkable announcement from God. God called Noah to an essential role in the greatest judgment - and greatest salvation - the world had seen.

Despite the dramatic judgment coming, God will make a covenant with Noah, and he and his family will be saved. God will also use Noah to save a remnant of each animal so the earth could be populated with people and animals after the flood.

When given this staggering job to do, Noah did it. We don't hear of him complaining or rebelling. He simply obeyed. It took 120 years to finish the ark. Can you imagine the mockeries he had to endure while he was building the ark in his driveway? At that time, they didn't have rain, if I may remind you.

The Bible presents Noah as a great hero of God. He was an outstanding example of righteousness according to Ezekiel 14:14, a preacher of righteousness according to 2 Peter 2:5, and Noah condemned the world by offering salvation in the ark that the whole world rejected according to Hebrews 11:7.

E. APPLICATIONS

1) Walking with God means walking by faith in God, walking in the light of God, and walking in agreement with God.

2) When God tells us to do something that doesn't make a sense, we need to follow Him without complaining and rebelling.

Our Father knows best.