

16. Enough is enough

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Sin is one of those topics we would like to avoid but must learn to face and deal with honestly. This is the reality. There is a terrible and inescapable condition in the human soul. The Bible calls it sin. It started the moment when the first two humans had the idea to become disobedient to the Lord. Eating forbidden fruits was simply a result of their thought. We all suffer from the same depraved mind as Adam and Eve did.

This Book called the Bible may be old, but it's NEVER outdated, because it deals with our human depravity and divine grace through Jesus Christ. That human depravity yields fruits: sinfulness, sinful thoughts, sinful words, and eventually sinful actions.

You may insist that you are not as bad as inmates in prison or criminals on the streets. But according to the standard of God, the answer is "Yes, we are.":

Matthew 5:21-22a "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.

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.

A. THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

Genesis 6:1-10 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. 3 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." 4 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. 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. 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." 8 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.

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 the 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 an incarnation. It means that Jesus was not the only incarnation in history according to some Bible students' argument. I don't believe that God would have allowed it. Only our God can create incarnation between the Holy Spirit and a human, not demons.

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

Some Bible students insist that v3 is God's declaration of limiting human age to 120. In context, it is not so. Noah lived to 600 years even after God's declaration, and his sons also lived hundreds of years after this declaration. Generations later we still find Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob living well past the age of 120 years. Even today people are reported to live longer than 120 years old on rare, rare occasions. Then, why did God limited human age to 120? I don't know. There are many things that I don't know in the Bible and this is one of them. It also is not the length of the ark construction like many believe. There is no biblical references for the length of the construction.

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

Jeremiah 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?

God's sorrow for mankind and the grief in His heart, are striking. God knew from the beginning 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.

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.

There's Noah, who lived an uncompromised life according to v8. Times were so bad that wickedness was full to the brim, yet Noah faithfully served the Lord despite the criticism of his culture. He raised his family as believers as well and preached to others. With that in mind, I have a question for you and me: "Do we live the uncompromising life that represents Jesus in this decaying world? Or the unbelievers could not tell the difference between us and them?"

The longer we walk with the Lord, the more we realize that we really don't know what each new day may bring. A phone call that comes in the middle of the night, or a knock at the door, or the opening of a letter can shatter our happiness. Suddenly everything changes.

I don't say these things to conjure up fear in our hearts, but simply to remind us that God alone knows our future. And there's no safer, no better, no more rewarding place to be than in the nucleus of His will, regardless of where that may be.

We are only finite human beings. We can only see the present and the past. The future is a little frightening to us. So we need to hold on to His hand and trust Him to calm our fears. And at those times when we're stubborn and resisting and God shakes us by the shoulders to get our attention, we're reminded that we don't call the shots, God has a plan for us.

All the risks notwithstanding, the center of His will is still the safest place on earth to be.

B. THE GRACE OF GOD IN THE MIDDLE OF CORRUPTION

Genesis 6:11-16 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. 14 "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.

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 are completely in the hands of God.

In the midst of such corruption and judgment, there is also grace. Instead of wiping out the entire race, God preserved a remnant of 8 people.

Then God gave Noah a "Noah-Do-List" that would last 120 long time. The ark was about 450 feet, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high, higher than a modern four-story building. What is described is not really a ship, but a well-built barge, meant only to float and not to sail anywhere.

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. The Ark had the same storage capacity as about 450 standard semi-trailers. A standard livestock trailer holds about 250 sheep, so the Ark had the capacity to hold at least 120,000 sheep.

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 meant yet.

The pitch worked to waterproof the wood. Because of this mention of the 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.

Someone boasted before the maiden and the only voyage of the Titanic in 1912, "God Himself could not sink this ship." Well, the professional people built the Titanic, the amateurs with God's plan built the ark.

C. 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. 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.

D. 2 APPLICATIONS AND 1 QUESTION

Application 1) There's no safer, no better, no more rewarding place to be than in the nucleus of His will, regardless of where that may be.

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

Question) Do we live the uncompromising life that represents Jesus in this decaying world? Or the unbelievers could not tell the difference between us and them?"