



Genesis: Creation and Covenant

Genesis 6: Noah Found Favor

Genesis 6:1-8

Introduction

Big Interpretive Questions

1. Who are these "Sons of God" and "Daughters of Men?"

(1) The Sethite Theory

- ❖ Deuteronomy 32:8—*When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God.*

(2) The Fallen Angels Theory

- ❖ 2 Peter 2:4-5—*For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;*
- ❖ Jude 6—*And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—*

(3) The Great Men Theory

2. Who are the "Nephilim" and the "Geborim?"

3. What is meant by "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever...his days shall be 120 years?"

(1) The Shortened Life Span Theory

(2) The Final Countdown Theory

4. What is meant by God "regretting?" What does it mean when it says that it "grieved him to his heart?"

- ❖ Malachi 3:6—*"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed*
- ❖ James 1:17—*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*
- ❖ Numbers 23:19—*God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?*



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- ❖ 1 Samuel 15:29—*And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret.*
- ❖ Genesis 8:21—*And when **the Lord smelled the pleasing aroma**, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.*
- ❖ Exodus 6:6—*Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and **I will redeem you with an outstretched arm** and with great acts of judgment.*

"The grief that is here ascribed to God does not properly belong to him but refers to **our understanding of him. Since we cannot comprehend him as he is, he has to, in a certain sense, accommodate himself for our sake.** God is not sorrowful or sad but remains forever like himself in his heavenly and happy repose. Yet, because it could not otherwise be known in any other way how much God detests sin, the Spirit accommodates himself to our human understanding. These words about God's grief teach us that from the time man was so greatly corrupted, God would not count him as one of his creatures. It is as if he says, "This is no part of my creation; this is not that man who was formed in my image, on whom I have lavished such excellent gifts. I do not now acknowledge this degenerate and defiled creature as mine."¹

The Message of Genesis 6:1-8

1. Wickedness was great and God's patience had expired!

❖ Genesis 6:1-4

(1) Humanity was fallen...and still falling even further

- ❖ Genesis 3:6—*So when the woman **saw** that the tree was **good for food**, and that it was a **delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was **to be desired** to make one wise, she **took** of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*

(2) Humanity's sin was great

(3) God's Patience had expired

2. Wickedness was universal and God's furious judgment is imminent!

¹ Calvin, Genesis Crossway Classic Commentaries Olivetree Edition



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❖ **Genesis 6:5-7**

- ❖ Micah 7:2-4—*The godly has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among mankind; they all lie in wait for blood, and each hunts the other with a net. Their hands are on what is evil, to do it well; the prince and the judge ask for a bribe, and the great man utters the evil desire of his soul; thus they weave it together. The best of them is like a brier, the most upright of them a thorn hedge.*
- ❖ Romans 3:10-12—*None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."*
- ❖ Isaiah 1:5-6—*...The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it,*

3. But...Noah Found Favor!

❖ **Genesis 6:8**

- ❖ Ephesians 2:1-5—*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—*

Closing Application