

“God’s Grace in a Wicked World” Gen 6:1-8

- Note: Noah was a real, historical person (Lk 17:26-27). Genesis is history, not myth/allegory.
- 1 – As fallen man proliferates, so does evil (v5, Isa 64:6, Mk 7:21, Gal 5:19-21). God’s judgment against sin is always righteous and in perfect proportion to the heinousness of the offenses committed (Mt 11:12, Lk 12:47-48, 2 Pet 2:20-21). He is Holy; fear Him, not man!
- 2 – The “sons of God” are introduced with no earlier reference to angels... but many in church history (Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Cyprian, Ambrose) have taken the interpretation that angels are in view because of the way this phrase is used later (sometimes for men or prophets, but *often* angelic beings) and they also connect this w/ 2 Pet 2:4-5 and Jude 6-7.
 - However, Jesus Himself says that angels *do not marry or procreate* (Mt 22:30).
- Matthew Henry: The text is referring to the seed of Seth (the “sons of God”) and the seed of Cain (the ungodly line). This makes sense as the temptation to intermarry with unbelievers is something Israel will struggle with in the future (Deut 7:3-4, Ezra 10:10-11, 2 Cor 6:14-18).
 - App: Unmarried Christians, you have great freedom in pursuing a spouse! Consider wisdom in many areas but follow this one law of God absolutely: Marry a believer. Outward beauty, talent/skill or worldly wealth are worth nothing if the soul lives in darkness. This is your closest companion on earth, pursue kingdom life together.
- 3 – The days of man are numbered, but these 120 years display His astounding patience...
- 4 – The “Nephilim” are called “giants” in some translations, while others leave this word untranslated (it may refer to great deeds/accomplishments). The only other occurrence of this word is when the Israelite spies see “men of great stature” in Canaan (Num 13:32-33).
- 5 – Man’s rebellion against God is always noticed (Prov 5:21, Rom 1:18-2:2, Heb 4:13).
 - To think that any sin is justifiable or understandable is to distort reality. In His holiness, God cannot dwell with *any* sin (Ps 5:4, 1 Jn 1:5) – how much more are great offenses contrary repulsive to His nature (Ezek 8:6, Mt 11:12, 23:23, Jn 19:11, see also *Westminster Larger Catechism, Q 150-151*). God will judge all sin (1 Pet 2:23b).
- 6-7 – God’s sorrow over making man is *anthropomorphic language*, not a statement limiting God’s omniscience or sovereignty. Note, God is angry with *mankind*, not angels.
 - God is not a man, that He should change His sovereign decrees (Num 23:19, 1 Sam 15:29, Ps 33:11, Mal 3:6, 2 Tim 1:9, Heb 13:8, Jas 1:7). Nevertheless, we see that His threats of judgment are *contingent* upon unrepentance (i.e., Ex 31:14, Jonah 3:10).
- 8 – But Noah found grace...not because He was unfallen or guiltless, but because God found him (1 Jn 4:19). Grace is favor that is *undeserved*, in fact, that is given *despite our demerit*.
 - The covenant God makes with Noah is that of *grace* (expanding on that first covenant of grace made with Adam in Gen 3:15-16 w/ the promise of a Redeemer).
 - Grace & peace given to believers because of the finished work of Christ and the application of that work by the Holy Spirit, not because of anything we have done ourselves (Rom 9:13-24, 1 Cor 15:10, 2 Cor 12:9, 1 Tim 1:15-17, Jas 4:6, 1 Pet 5:10).
 - App: Sovereign grace is a gift of God so boasting is excluded (Eph 2:8-10)!