

Genesis 6 & 7 – The flood: Judgement is coming.

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Main Point – Humans are sinners, judgement is coming, and we can only escape it in Christ – trust him and prayerfully tell others.

Many dismiss Noah's ark and flood as a myth, or a Cinderella-like fairy-tale.-----

'There is no way millions of species could fit in there', is the claim.-----

It's understandable when kid's bibles and pictures suggest this sized boat. **(SLIDE)**

In his well-documented book, Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study, John Woodmorappe

(1996) suggests that far fewer animals would have been transported in the ark. **(SLIDE)**

By pointing out that the word "species" is not equivalent to the created "kinds" of Genesis, the author credibly demonstrates that as few as 2,000 animals may have been required on the ark.

To pad this number for error, he shows that the ark could easily accommodate 16,000 animals.-----

But, as Jonathan **Sarfati** from Creation Ministries writes, let's be generous and add on a reasonable number to include extinct animals. Then add on some more to satisfy even the most skeptical. (<https://creation.com/en/articles/how-did-all-the-animals-fit-on-noahs-ark>)

Let's assume 50,000 animals, far more animals than required, were on board the ark, and these need not have been the largest or even adult specimens.

Remember there are really only a few very large animals, such as the dinosaurs or the elephant, and these could be represented by young ones.

Assuming the average animal to be about the size of a sheep and using a railroad car for comparison, **(SLIDE)** we note that the average double-deck stock car can accommodate 240 sheep.-----

And the size of the ark? It had a capacity of over 500 railroad cattle cars, so enough to carry more than 120,000 sheep.-----

In this case, the 50,000 animals, filling only 37% of the ark, would leave much space to carry all the food, plus Noah's family of eight people.-----

Johan Huibers, **(SLIDE)** from the Netherlands has built a 7-story high life-size ark replica – and it has plenty of space.

So please don't think Gen 6-7 is fake news, or fantasy.

Please, don't think that science disproves what we read here, and not listen.-----

Pray that you will be open to what God's word says to you today.-----

In Gen 4&5, Cain was banished to live far away, Adam n' Eve had another son, Seth, who had a long-line of lots of long-lived descendants.

Now ch6 starts with a **Problem**. **(SLIDE)**

The problem that results in the flood, is humanity's wickedness.

Look at **ch6 v5**, 'The Lord saw that human wickedness (or evil) was widespread on the earth, and that every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time.'-----

Wow, what a statement: every thought, only evil, all the time.-----

Sin and evil inward and outward.

And we're given an example of this in **vv1-4**.-----

These verses are difficult to interpret; with an uncertain meaning.-----

It's hard to know who 'the sons of God' are in v2.

There's three possibilities.

First, Kings are sometimes called sons of god (1 Chron 28.6; Ps 2.7). And these men who married the beautiful women, may be tyrant kings who gathered harems.

Secondly, the sons of god may refer to the descendants of Seth, who married the daughters of Cain's line. This is the classic Christian view.

Yet I don't think Genesis supports the idea that Seth's line is all godly while Cain's is wicked.-----

The popular Jewish view and earliest Christian view, is that the sons of God refer to **angelic beings**, fallen angels.(**SLIDE**)-----[Job 1.6, 38.7; Ps 29.1; 89.6-7]

Demons if you will. who somehow had sexual unions with women.----

If so, the women and their fathers consented to this and are to blame.-----

We just can't be sure.

But the point is, two groups have wrongly had sexual relations.-----

And this is a new stage in mankind's decline into evil.-----

Who the **Nephilim** were, is also unclear.

These giants who were mighty in battle.-----

It seems they existed before these sinful marriages, yet maybe the offspring of the immoral marriages.

[Interestingly in Num 13.28,32-33, the Nephilim are the giants in Canaan, and

Goliath (nearly 3m tall (1Sam 17) was possibly a descendant (Josh 11.22)]

However we understand it, the point is God is angered by these actions, and He's not going to suspend judgement any longer.

God limits the lifespan of people to 120 years, **v3**.-----

Though this is slowly implemented.----- [Abraham lived to 175, Isaac-180 (35.28f), Jacob-147 (47.28), Joseph-110 (50.26), Moses-120 (Deut 34.7)]-----

The 120 years could also refer to the time left until the flood.-----

Having waded through that, let's be clear on the **main point**.

The problem God has with humanity is their sin.

As humanity increased on the earth, their wickedness increased.-----

The earth, **v11**, is corrupt in God's sight, it's ruined and rotten.-----

The word 'wickedness' there is more literally violence.

And the earth is filled with violence because all its people are violent, and doing wrong.-

People are rotten to the core and ripe for judgement.-----

That's a problem for a holy and good God.-----

The problem is so great that **v6**, 'The Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and he was deeply grieved, or 'grieved in his heart'.

That's huge.

It's not that God made a mistake [Mal 3.6; Jam 1.17], but it's human language to describe the depth of his feeling.

'Grieved' describes of a mix of anger and bitter anguish.

[Dinah's brothers felt this after she was raped (Gen 34.7). Jonathan felt this after he heard his father Saul, wanted to kill David (1Sam 20.34)]

God is grieved by them and promises to bring consequences.-----

What does God promise?-----

V7, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth" — people and animals.-----

Notice too that mankind's sin is intertwined with the earth.

It's like our sin infects and affects the world.-----

Like when Adam and Eve sinned and the world was cursed and suffered.

So this generation have corrupted the earth, and the punishment will fit the crime.----

God will to wipe out humanity.-----

He will **v13**, put an end to every creature and destroy them and the earth.----

This is not a fit of rage, but a slow and deliberate response to sin.-----

The promise is: judgement!

And what will that judgement look like?-----**V17**, A flood.

The Lord says, 'I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature, with the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.'-----

It's like some famous disaster movies(**SLIDE**) have pictured for us.-----

The flood will drown and kill every man, woman & child, and every land-dwelling animal.-----

This is it's not just a genocide, but the destruction n' killing of all humanity.-----

I wonder how you feel about this, and react?-----

Are you Ok with God being a just God who judges people?-----

Maybe you're wondering if it's right?

Or are you angry and thinking, 'It's outrageous that God would kill everyone'?

There is pressure for Christians to dump the idea of God's judgment.

Especially when our culture says it is intolerant or offensive.-----

But do we feel it's outrageous when we read v5 and consider how people respond to their Maker?-----

Maybe we and our culture is so infused with grace, that's come from our Christian heritage, that we have lost the sense of God's holiness?-----

People decide for themselves what they think God should be like & pigeon-hole him.

Yet we must deal with him as he is, in his word.

And the flood narrative makes clear that God is a God of justice and judgement, as well as salvation.-----

In fact the judgement of God upon sin is at the heart of the cross that saves us.

Without an understanding of God's anger, the cross of Christ becomes meaningless.---

Our Gospel is that Jesus bore God's righteous anger in our place.(**SLIDE-Isa 53.5**; Rom 3.25; Mk 15.34)

Believing in God's just anger and punishment explains the cross.-----

Coming back to Genesis 6 God says, All will perish.----- **Except one.**

Everyone is wicked, except one.-----

In judgement, God remembers mercy.-----

God makes a different promise to Noah.

He, his wife, sons and daughters-in-law, and the animals with them, will be kept alive, **v19**.

But why?----- Why does God promise to save them from the flood?----

Come back to **v8**, God was grieved at humanity, 'But----

Noah found favor, grace, with the Lord.'

Noah did not earn grace, he found grace.-----

Noah did not win God's favour by his righteousness.

Noah was a righteous man but he was righteous by faith.

We can know this because **Hebrews 11(v7-SLIDE)** says so – righteous by faith.

Salvation by grace always comes before a truly godly life.-----

As a man who was right with God he acted rightly.

He was blameless, as person of real godliness.----

True integrity, but not sinlessness.-----

Please, think for a moment **what it was like for Noah.**

One man in his society, alone in trying to live for God.
 Imagine how hard it was to resist the peer pressure of being surrounded by people who desire and do only evil, all the time.-----
 And I imagine he took heaps of criticism for building a massive boat on dry land.-----
 And speaking the truth to ungodly people who couldn't care less.(2Pet 2.5)
 Being blameless means obeying God, even when it's hard, even when we must live differently to those around us.
 What peer pressure does God want you to resist at the moment?-----
 Is it in the area of how you use your money, your body, your words, your time?---
 Does God want you to stop something?--- Or start something?-----
 Most people know that Noah built an ark. What they may not know is that he also built a godly character, alone in his generation.-----
 He's an example for us.-----

Which brings us to, **the obedience**, Noah's obedience.-----
 God promises, I am going to destroy all people and the earth, but I want you to build an ark, **v14**.-----
 The word ark means a box, and it's the same word for the basket that held baby Moses.
 So an ark is a thing that can save you from drowning.-----
 As we saw in the Netherlands replica,(**SLIDE**) it was huge, 140 m long, 23m wide, 13 meters high.-----
 It's to be water-proofed, have rooms, three levels and a roof.-----
 In **v19** Noah is told to bring in a pair of all creatures, and to collect food for them.
 So as **v22** says, Noah obeys, he did 'everything that God had commanded him'.
 Just imagine that mammoth task, for Noah & his family, no power tools.(**SLIDE**)-----
 He builds the ark, he starts gathering the animals and collecting their food.-----
 God adds in **7v2**, that of all the clean animals, 7 were to be taken, as they could later be eaten or sacrificed.-----
 Again it's repeated, **7.5**, Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.-----
 Now as I said at the start, we don't know exactly how many animals were on-board.
 But the word **kind** that's used, is not the same thing as modern scientific species.
 It's a priestly classification, and probably more like the scientific 'family'.
 For example,(**SLIDE**) horses, zebras and donkeys probably descended from an equine kind, that went on the ark.
 Dogs, wolves, foxes, jackals are probably from a canine kind.
 There was probably only one pair of parrots on the ark, not a pair for each of the 400 species around today.-----
 But instead of coming to the passage expecting our questions answered (could all the animals fit, were dinosaurs on it), please let the text define what's important.-----
 What's important is, God, by his grace, saved a remnant, which he did through one man trusting and obeying.-----
 Amazingly, even in that, Noah points us to Jesus.-----[Rom 5.17]

So just as God promised to flood and destroy the people and creatures of the earth, now **this is fulfilled**.

The fulfillment, from **7v6**.-----
 'Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth.'---
 God in **v9** made all the come to Noah and enter the ark.-----
 And it seems at the last moment, Noah and his family enter it, escaping the floodwaters. And **v17**, the Lord shut the door.----

The Lord saved them from the judgement.-----

Here's some **funny pictures(SLIDE)** that are fictional, but remind us how great a task Noah was asked to complete.-----

The water poured down from the sky and came up from underground springs, for forty days and forty nights, **v12**.-----

40 days is a number in the Bible associated with the purging of sin and purification from sin, like Israel's 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.-----

You'll see the flood events have an **ordered structure (SLIDE)**.-----

It's planned by God, who is totally in control.-----

So the water kept coming. The ark floated, **v18**, and the water level rose and rose, until 'all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered.'(**SLIDE**)-----

There are people who for various reasons have opted for a flood that was "limited" and not universal, not covering the whole world.

But if the sea level rose to the height of Mt Ararat at 17,000 feet, **8v4**, then it covered the whole earth.[and 8.5].-----

And **7v23** says, 'every living thing that was on the face of the earth' was wiped out. The judgement of the flood was universal.

And isn't it interesting that Australian aboriginals, the Chinese, Europeans, Indigenous north and south American, and Hinds have cataclysmic flood stories.-----

This is God's judgement upon sin. God's promise of judgement is fulfilled.

Excluding the sea creatures, every air-breathing thing perishes.

v21: all birds, all animals, all people.

They all die, v22, they are all wiped out, **v23**.

Do you get the message?-----

And the chapter finishes with these survivors floating over a flooded earth for months.----- [They'd remain in the ark for just over a year]

Let's remember the **main points** of these two chapters.

The main point is, mankind in Noah's day was supremely sinful, and God didn't let it continue forever.

God promised judgement, and he followed through on that.-----

God is just and punishes sin and disobedience.-----

But we also see that God is gracious. God graciously saves Noah.

By faith Noah was right with God and walked with God, living obediently.

And he and his family, and a remnant of creatures were saved, saved from the judgement, saved in the ark.-----

And Jesus himself says there is real similarity between the situation in Noah's day and the situation in ours.-----

The flood points forward to **another** judgement that we await the fulfillment of. (**SLIDE**)-----

Let's read **Matt 24 from v36.(SLIDE)**

³⁶ "Now concerning that day and hour no one knows...

³⁷ As the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be.

³⁸ For in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah boarded the ark. ³⁹ They didn't know until the flood came and swept them all away.

This is the way the coming of the Son of Man will be...

one will be taken and one left.

⁴² Therefore be alert, since you don't know what day^[m] your Lord is coming."

Jesus then says, you must be ready.-----

All of humanity that lived in Noah's day were complacent and not ready for the judgement to come.

They were just living life as if there'd always be tomorrow.

And then suddenly the flood took them all away.-----

Jesus says this is how it will be when he returns to judge the world.

Many will receive eternal death, with weeping and gnashing of teeth (Mt24.51)

While the few will enjoy God's banquet in heaven.-----

The question is, will we be ready.----- Will you?-----

And How then do we get ready?-----

How can we be saved from the judgement that is to come?-----

Well the way we are saved, is similar to the way Noah n' his family were saved.

To be saved, Noah and his family had to be in the ark, in the boat.

For us to be saved from condemnation & judgement **we need to be in Christ.(SLIDE)**

Rom 8:1 says, 'there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus'.

And in **2Tim 2:10**, 'salvation 'is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.'-----

Christ is like the ark, the lifeboat,(**SLIDE**) the only one in whom you can find life.

Only Jesus can save us from the sudden storm judgement to come upon us, for doing wrong and living as if God doesn't exist-----

Are you in Christ?----- You can be, by trusting in him.

You can be joined to him, and join his saved people, by putting your desperate, dependent trust in him.----- [Gal 2.16]

Will you keep trusting in him?-----

And so Always be ready?-----

Let the fact of God's past destruction of the world by flood, warn you of the pending destruction of the world by fire?----(**SLIDE-2 Pet 3.7**)

Today is your day of opportunity, to come to Christ and be saved.-----

Jesus says, Whoever comes I will never drive away.------(Jn 6.37)

And as our Meet Jesus Mission at Bundy in 3 weeks, Who do you know who needs to know, that Jesus can rescue them?-----

Maybe pray(SLIDE) that we'd invite 3 people to our Meet Jesus Sundays.

Please pray that we would build real friendships with people, so they want to accept our invitation.

Please pray that we would in love speak of Jesus who saves and gives life.

Please pray for God to open people's hearts to see the glory of Jesus, and desire the life he gives, now and forever.

I encourage you to intentionally set aside time to pray for this.-----

And let's pray that people will come to see that God is not only loving, but just.----

That they cannot reject God and get away with it.

They cannot presume they are good enough to be saved.

Pray people will come to know who God really is – perfect in majesty, holiness and justice, so that they will turn to Jesus.

As hard as that is to say it, people need to know that they need to get ready.-----

Judgement upon sinners came in that real flood.

Judgement will come again, unexpectedly and universally, and only those in Christ will be saved.-----

Pray many will get in his rescue boat.

Let's pray.