

The Grief Of God

Genesis 6:1-22

Sunday May 16th 2010 Morning Service

Jonathan Skinner

1.A Wickedness to Shun

Why did the people of Noah's time become so evil? The pathway to wickedness and judgement is set out in the New Testament: Romans 1:18-32. **Foolish perspective:** Reject evidence for a creator in creation. **Foolish thinking:** futile and darkened. **Foolish religion:** worship creation rather than the creator. **Foolish activity:** evil actions.

The result of wickedness: - Corruption (11) Possibly pagan idolatry; the corrupting of true worship. v13 'I am surely going to destroy both them **and the earth.**' Why the earth? The root of paganism and idolatry is to worship creation – so in God's judgment creation must be seen as under His rule. Note the rise of this sort of thing at key moments of rebellion and judgement in Scripture: the Tower of Babel, the Canaanites, Exile of Israel and the end of the world (see Revelation).

Wickedness (5) – 'every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.'

Violence (11) – violence is the death cry of a culture.

Was God just in wiping out the earth? Note the judgement on the Canaanites, Sodom and Gomorrah and that promised condemnation at the end of the world are all consistent with God acting against sin. First, there is an opportunity to return and then, in the end, people reach the point of no return.

Why did the slide into sin spread so rapidly to cause such a disaster? See the opening verse of chapter 6. There was compromise among the followers of God, the line of Abel. The Sons of God married the daughters of men. Sons of God are probably the line of Abel, and the daughters of men are probably the line of Cain and those they had influenced. Because of this compromise wickedness spread throughout the world. In what areas do we compromise?

2. A Warning to Heed 2 Warnings:

a. The Promptings of God's Spirit

The constraining work of the Spirit will not go on forever (3) – a searing of the conscience and a resisting of the convicting work of the Spirit will reach a point of no return. A personal warning to us: do not grieve and resist the Spirit. If you are an unbeliever, do not resist the promptings of the Spirit; he will not contend with you forever.

b. The Evidence in ongoing judgement

They were to live a shorter time (3). This fits in with Romans 1:18 – ‘the wrath of God *is* being revealed ...’ Our mortality and death are warnings to us to make us turn to God. **The Witness of Noah**: His blameless life (9); his building of the ark. See also Matthew 24:36-44. Are we listening to the warnings around us today? Are we ready for the final judgement?

3. A Judgement to Avoid

a. Flood (13; 17) This will not be repeated.

b. Fire This is approaching. See 2 Peter 3:3-13

Note the heart of God: - v6 ‘The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.’ This grief and pain is what the Lord feels when he sees our sin. We hurt his heart; we pain it. Also here we learn that God has emotions: he feels pain; he grieves.

4. A Salvation to Accept (14-16; 18)

The Ark is a picture of Jesus Christ.

- a. Before the flood Noah built the Ark among a people who were oblivious of their coming judgement** – the Lord is now building his church, his body. This is a sign to all those around that judgement is coming and pointing to the way of salvation. As the ark seemed ridiculous to unbelievers then, the church and the gospel appear ridiculous to those around us.
- b. The Lord makes a covenant with Noah**: V18 ‘I will establish **my covenant** with you, and you will enter the ark.’ We have the New Covenant, the New Agreement, the New Testament, that is, the gospel (1 Cor. 11:25; Heb. 9:15).
- c. Noah entered the ark. We enter into Jesus; we become ‘in Christ.’** In Jesus Christ is salvation. He is our ark, our refuge from the storm of judgement. Jesus is God’s provision for us to escape the coming wrath (1 Cor. 1:30; 15:22; 2 Cor. 5:17).
- d. Noah was saved through faith.** ‘By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became

heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.' (Heb 11:7) Like Noah, we are saved through faith.

- e. **Noah was lifted up above the judgment when it came.** Like Noah, at the moment of judgment we will be lifted up above the danger to meet with the Lord in the clouds. Judgment came in the torrent and flood, but God's people, Noah and his family, were lifted up at that moment to safety. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17. Sometimes this lifting up is called 'the rapture.'

What is our personal response to the way of salvation God has provided for us? We need repentance and dependence, that is, we must turn to Jesus and we must trust in Jesus.