



Bible

GENESIS 6

The world is already immersed in sin and God's heart is deeply troubled. He decides to destroy the earth and raises up Noah to build an ark so a remnant can be saved; living creatures are also rescued who will reproduce in due time.

What was the sin described in v. 1-4?

The three primary views on the identity of the sons of God are:

- 1) they were fallen angels
- 2) they were powerful human rulers, or
- 3) they were godly descendants of Seth, intermarrying with the wicked descendants of Cain.

Whichever view you take, the bottom line is that sexual behaviour was taking place in a way that greatly displeased God.

Whether it was angels having sexual relations with women, or godly descendants of Seth with ungodly descendants of Cain, we cannot be completely sure.

But we do know that God has ordained an appropriate place for sex, while the devil is always working hard to persuade people to use that gift carelessly and destructively.

Sometimes, children can suffer illness or disability inherited because of the ungodly sexual activities of their parents.

The extent of sin v. 5-6

Every inclination of the human heart was evil. The Bible never exaggerates. It is a horrifying conclusion. It is a description of a warped and disturbed mind. The whole mentality of human beings was corrupt and hostile towards God and

godliness. God's heart was deeply troubled. All He had planned for humanity seemed to have been shattered. God is not ruled by emotion, but our God does have feelings. He can be blessed and encouraged and He can be disappointed and displeased.

God's judgement v.7

God declares He will wipe out the human race that He created, together with the animals.

God's regret. The action that God will take is done with a heavy heart. As a righteous, holy God, He will not hesitate to deal with sin, but bringing judgment is painful, something He would avoid if it were not wholly necessary.

God's mercy v. 8-10

God sees Noah as a righteous man. Amongst the people where he lived, Noah was different. He was blameless and did not join in with their sinful ways.

Noah had three sons and we can assume they also kept away from the sinful behaviour they saw around them. Their willingness later to enter the ark shows respect for their father and the work God had given Noah to do.

The task set for Noah v. 11-22

1) The first thing is for Noah to listen to God's plan.

God wants to fellowship with and explain to Noah what He will do and why He is doing it. God still looks for friendship and fellowship with us today. Jesus spoke about us as friends not just servants (John 15:15). God has shown us how He will bring all things to an end. He has given us insight into heaven and hell. He has pointed out the signs of the end of time.

2) The second thing is to build the ark.

The shape and structure of the ark are given. The wood he should use and how he will waterproof it is all described. God is a God of detail and planning.

3) The third thing is God's covenant with Noah.

God explains that Noah, his wife, his sons, and his sons' wives will enter the ark because flood waters are coming and all living things will be destroyed. Noah must take male and female of all living creatures and food for them. God is showing that a new day is coming for Noah and all who trust in God as he does.

The chapter ends with the affirmation that Noah did everything just as God had commanded him: a wonderful contrast to the descriptions of sin and evil that the chapter begins with.

Points to consider:

How do we respond to the descriptions of sexual sin in verses 1-4?

What does this story tell us about God`s response to human sinfulness?

What made Noah different to the rest of humanity?

How much do you reflect on the truth that God wants to share His heart with us?

Noah quickly obeyed the Lord`s command to build the ark? Did God tell *you* to do something and He is still waiting?

How thoughtful are we to build to God`s blueprint and not just use our ideas?