GENESIS CHAPTER 6

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REDEMPTIVE JUDGMENT AND RE-CREATION

DYNASTY OF TYRANTS (GENESIS 6:1-4)

The “sons of god/gods” is the sardonic designation for the idolatrous antediluvian kings. The narrator had described the spirit of ancient paganism behind which was the satanic influence (Genesis 4:1-24, 6:1-4). The theistic expression was used for these Cainite kings’ self-designation for power over others. It is not surprising because even today there are kings claiming divine fatherhood or ancestry to glorify themselves and to inspire awe in those they wish to dominate, control or oppress. The “sons of god/gods” were men of aristocracy, princes and nobles. The “daughters of men” were socially inferior. The nephilim gibborim were “giant warriors” from men’s perspective, but “fallen warriors” from God’s perspective.

The genealogy of the “sons of god/gods” is found in the genealogy of Cain in Genesis 4:16-24, which is also the record of the origin of city organizations. Cain named the city after his son Enoch, who constituted the inauguration of kingship and a dynasty. Lamech’s son began keeping livestock and another son started the entertainment industry (4:20, 21). The discovery of Tubal Cain who forged implements of bronze and iron made Lamech into a powerful sword wielding king. The same situation arose in king David’s time when the Philistines had powerful metallic agricultural tools and weapons and were a constant threat to the Israelites (1 Samuel 13:19-22). The wickedness of Cain had escalated into the tyrannical, idolatrous Lamech who was a polygamous and cruel king who scorned God’s ordinances and even God’s providence of a divine judicial system in his boast of avenging seventy-sevenfold (4:23-24). That divine judicial system had protected his forefather Cain. The taking of another human person, made in the image of God was not the prerogative of an individual even in seeking vengeance. It still is the God-ordained function of the state (Romans 13:1ff.).

The list of Cain’s line of descendants continues from chapter 4 in chapter 6, after Seth’s line in chapter 5. Lamech and the “sons of god/gods” in chapter 6:1-4 had similar behavior of polygamy, tyranny and exploitation of others, and polygamy had escalated into the keeping of harems. These considered themselves to be higher than God and above God’s laws and ordinances. These are the seed of the serpent that had tempted the woman to become like God (Genesis 3:5). There is no reference or mention of God in Lamech’s speech. He already considered himself to be a god.

This account is not a myth because why would there be judgment on non-corporeal, non human beings? These are not angels because angels neither marry nor are given in marriage (Matthew 22:30). Besides, that will also make the Nephilim gibborim half-men. The word man/men (Hebrew: ha adam) in verse 1 should be interpreted the
same as the repeated Hebrew word in verses 2 – 7 and taken in the context of the previous chapters that form a narrative unit.¹

**GOD’S GRIEF AT THE ESCALATION OF WICKEDNESS (GENESIS 6:5-12)**

There was an anti-Christ crisis that was wiping out the godly people on earth. Only Noah was left. Lamech was a type of anti-Christ. Man made in the image of God had degenerated into beastlike creatures, and were destroying the world that they were suppose to have dominion over and develop by ruling wisely. God had to intervene at the hour of peril for mankind and the earth and the creatures that God had created.

- Wickedness was great on the earth (6:5)
- God knew that every intent of the thoughts of man’s heart was only evil continually or wholly (6:5).
- The earth was corrupt and filled with violence, going into destruction and ruin before God’s face (6:11, 12).
- All flesh was destroying their future with their evil (6:11, 12).

God acted. God initiated the deliverance of his people and the earth. God revealed his decree to Noah, his prophet. It was to be a water ordeal and the wicked will perish, but the righteous will be saved by his providence and covenant love. The historical event was also a dramatic, true to life proleptic revelation of the eschatological death and resurrection of Christ and his people. The apostle Peter perceived it as corresponding to the Holy Spirit regeneration baptism through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:18-22).

**THE DELUGE – ESCHATOLOGICAL JUDGMENT AND ESCHATOLOGICAL REVERSAL**

The account of the flood takes up 3 chapters in Genesis compared to the chapters that account for the period between Adam and Noah, and the chapter that accounts for the period between Noah and Abraham.

ADAM TO NOAH (4:1 – 6:8)

THE DELUGE CRISIS (6:9 – 8:22)

NOAH TO ABRAHAM (9:1 – 11:26)

THE RECORD OF THE DELUGE (GENESIS 6:9 – 8:22) IS PRESENTED IN 7 CHIASTIC SECTIONS WHICH COVERED A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR

A. THE BUILDING OF THE ARK (6:13 – 22) – This begins with God’s word in v. 13 and concludes with Noah’s obedience in v. 22

B. EMBARKATION (7:1 – 5) – This begins with God’s command in v. 1 and Noah’s obedience in v. 5.

C. THE FLOOD (7:6 – 17) – 40 days and nights of flood proper. Water prevailed for 150 days total (Genesis 7:24)

D. JUDGMENT AND DEATH FOR THE WICKED OR SALVATION AND RESURRECTION THRU WATER ORDEAL FOR GOD’S PEOPLE (7:18-24) ESCHATOLOGICAL REVERSAL FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

C¹ DECREASING OF WATERS, DRYING OF THE EARTH (8:1 – 14)
It took 150 days for the water to recede (Genesis 8:3).

B¹ DISEMBARKATION (8:15-19) – This began with God’s command to leave the ark and ends with Noah’s obedience.

A¹ THE BUILDING OF THE ALTAR (8:20 – 22) – This begins with God’s command in 8:15 and Noah’s obedience in 8:20. This is Noah’s altar of consecration in response to the covenant keeping God. God accepts the sacrifice.

Notes

- Dimension of the ark according to NIV study bible is length - 450 feet, width - 75 feet and height 45 feet; a 3-storey ark with a total area of at least 2.3 acres (Genesis 6:15)
- After Noah and family and critters entered the ark, and the Lord closed the door, it began to rain 40 days and 40 nights and the floodgates of the great deep burst open. (Genesis 7:4, 11, 16)
- When Noah was 600 years old on the 17th day of the 2nd month, it started to rain for 40 days and 40 nights.
- Water prevailed for 150 days upon the earth (Genesis 7:24)
- Ark rested on the mountains of Ararat on the 17th day of the 7th month for 3 days. For 5 months they were floating on the waters. Waters began to recede for 150 days after the ark was at rest for 3 days on the mountains of Ararat. (Genesis 8:3-4)
- Noah left the ark when he was 601 years old, on the 27th day of the 2nd month (8:14-16). According to the lunar calendar, it is exactly one year and 10 days in the ark.
THE ARK & HER OCCUPANTS

God provided the architectural design of:

- The Ark (Genesis 6:14-16).
- The Garden of Eden, (Genesis 2:8)
- The Tabernacle (Exodus 25:8ff) and
- The Temple built by Solomon (1 Chronicles 28:19)
- The Heavenly Temple (Hebrews 9:5ff, Ezekiel 11:10)
- The Holy City from Heaven (Revelation 21:10-27).

There are the earthly or prophetic copies of the heavenly sanctuary. The occupants are the delivered, redeemed glorified mankind and the new/recreated world order under the dominion of God’s chosen people. Peter in 1 Peter 2:4-9 referred to believers as “living stones of a spiritual house” and Christ is the corner stone of that house. God’s revelation of the Incarnate Christ as his temple unfolds in redemptive history. Even as God accomplished the deliverance of Noah and his family, God will supernaturally accomplish the eschatological glorification of the new man in Christ:

- God designed the ark
- Revealed its pattern to his prophet
- Gathered the occupants
- Personally enclosed his people and creation in the ark
- Guarded and guided them securely through the cataclysm into the new world.
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GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Look up Genesis 9:12 – 17. When you see a rainbow in the sky, what do you think?

2. Think about a time of danger or difficult decisions. Share your testimony about how your covenant God carried you through it.

3. Have you ever prayed about a situation and found an eschatological reversal in answer to your prayer? Share with your group to edify others.

4. How can we be like Noah who tried to turn people from their wicked ways? Can you think of some creative ways besides preaching hell fire and brimstone?

5. What does it mean to be “a living stone of a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5)?
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GENESIS CHAPTER 7

PREP QUESTIONS

1. What does the narrator mean when he wrote “Noah found grace (Hebrew “chen”) in the eyes of the Lord” in Genesis 6:8? Look up these verses to find out how this word translated favor/grace is used in the Old Testament. Was there a reward given?
   a. Genesis 39:4
   b. Genesis 50:4
   c. Numbers 32:5
   d. Deuteronomy 24:1
   e. Proverbs 3:4
   f. Luke 2:52

2. How is Noah a type of Christ?
   a. In his character (Genesis 6:9)
   b. In the building of the ark? (Genesis 14, 15:1)
   c. In his role as a priest? (Genesis 8:20-22)
   d. In his role as a prophet? (Genesis 6:8, 9, 13; 7:1, 5, )

3. Do you see any similarities in the:
   a. The Ark (Genesis 6:14-16).
   b. The Garden of Eden, (Genesis 2:8)
   c. The Tabernacle (Exodus 25:8ff) and
   d. The Temple built by Solomon (1 Chronicles 28:19)
   e. The Heavenly Temple (Hebrews 9:5ff, Ezekiel 11:10)
   f. The Holy City Jerusalem from heaven (Revelation 21:10-27).

4. Read 1 Peter 3:8-22. What does the flood ordeal correspond to? Refer also to John 3:5 to find out more about this. What does Jesus do that John the Baptist cannot do (Matthew 3:11)?