

GREATER THE WICKEDNESS, GREATER IS GOD'S GRACE!

GENESIS CH6:1-8

RE-CAP!

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament ascribes Moses as the writer of the first five Books of the Bible (the Pentateuch – Exodus Ch17:14; Deuteronomy Ch31:24; Joshua Ch8:31; 2 Kings Ch14:6; John Ch1:17, Ch5:46, Ch7:19, 23; Romans Ch10:5; 2 Corinthians Ch3:15). The account opens with a clear statement about the Creator and Creation. The opening ten words in Genesis Ch1:1 are the **foundation** of all that is to follow in the Bible. The purpose of the statement is threefold:

1. to identify the creator
2. to explain the origin of the world
3. to tie the work of God in the past (creation) to the work of God in the future (salvation)

ILLUSTRATION

In 1829 two men, George Wilson and James Porter, robbed a United States mail carrier. Both were subsequently captured and tried in a court of law. In May 1830 both men were found guilty of six charges, including robbery of the mail “and putting the life of the driver in jeopardy.” Both Wilson and Porter received their sentences: Execution by hanging, to be carried out on July 2. Porter was executed on schedule, but Wilson was not. Influential friends pleaded for mercy to the President of the United States, Andrew Jackson, on his behalf. President Jackson issued a formal pardon, dropping all charges. Wilson would have to serve time in prison, but incredibly, he refused to accept the pardon. An official report stated Wilson chose to “waive and decline any advantage or protection which might be supposed to arise from the pardon . . .” Wilson also stated he “. . . had nothing to say, and did not wish in any manner to avail himself in order to avoid sentence.” The authorities did not know what to do with him.

They sent it to the courts and it made its way all the way up to the Supreme Court. ***The U.S. Supreme Court determined, “The court cannot give the prisoner the benefit of the pardon, unless he claims the benefit of it . . . It is a grant to him: it is his property; and he may accept it or not as he pleases.”*** [Chief Justice John Marshall](#) wrote, ***“A pardon is an act of grace, proceeding from the power entrusted with the execution of the laws . . . (But) delivery is not completed without acceptance. It may then be rejected by the person to whom it is tendered, and . . . we have no power in a court to force it on him.”*** They hanged him. George Wilson chose to die.

DEMONIZED MARRIAGE! V1-4

What do verses 1-4, reveal?

1. V1 human population is continuing to increase!
2. V1 this is happening over a period of around 1656 years, looking at the ages in Ch5 and when the flood came!
3. V2 the “sons of God”, whatever that phrase means, acted like Eve (Gen Ch3:6)!
4. V2 they saw, beautiful (good), took and sinned!
5. V3 the Lord shortens the life of human beings, by a 7th! (Eventually 3 score and 10 – Psalm 90:10)
6. V4 The “Nephilim” whoever they were, and acted violently towards women!

So how do we make sense of these verses?

OPTION 1 - That we understand the phrase "the sons of God" where God declares His people, to be His sons, as seen in Deuteronomy Ch14:1; Isaiah Ch1:2; and Hosea Ch1:10. Sethites marrying Cainites and producing offspring "the Nephilim", men known for their might and violence! Quite simple and could follow quite nicely from Ch4 + Ch5 of Genesis.

OPTION 2 - Job however, says, "**Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them**" Job Ch1:6. And again in Ch2:1 it says "**Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord**". Finally, in Job Ch38:7 God says "**when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?**" These verses would strongly suggest that "the sons of God" were indeed angels, or fallen angels, also known as demons!

Daniel Ch3:25 says "**He answered and said 'But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt: and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.'**"

We also have examples in the Gospels of demons **craving human bodies** – Mark Ch5:11-13; Luke Ch8:31-33 + Luke Ch11:24-26!

If we are to understand that "the sons of god" are indeed, Angels or demons, then because they are sexless and cannot procreate (according to Matthew Ch20:30 + Luke Ch20:34-36), we must have in Gen Ch6:1-4, fallen angels, marrying the "daughters of man", by possessing, the bodies of men, taking the daughters of man, resulting in the birth of the Nephilim, known for being mighty and violent!

In summary, as the human population grows and wickedness out grows the population. This happens through continued work of the demonic, tempting, and working in a demonic way, especially in certain marriages, which end up being demonized! The wickedness increases to such an extent, that God decreases the life of human beings, by a 7th (7 meaning complete)!

DIVINE JUDGEMENT! V5-7

What a statement by Moses! "..... the wickedness of man was great every intention was only evil continually". How emphatic (forceful and clear)! Man's wickedness was not temporary, it continued without relenting, resting or repenting. Evil, all the time, for all time, including every time!

With this as the context, Moses gives us an opening into how this affected God. We must remember that God's eternal joy and happiness cannot be disturbed, but He is also not a "disinterested observer"! One of the qualities of God's personality, like Jesus who wept at Lazarus' death, is His feelings. Moses records for us that God has a feeling of regret and sadness, because of what He is observing! God isn't taken by surprise!

The words that are used by Moses, encompass "the most intense expression of God's emotions", showing that He loves, He cares, and He is righteous! ***There will be divine judgement, in the form of the flood! His judgement would erase almost everything from creation. The destruction, not complete, of everything from man to animals.***

DIVINE GRACE! V8

But where wickedness of humans increases, so does the grace of God toward human beings increase! Noah, we can understand, like Enoch in his generation, had responded in the same way to the truth about God that he had been told. He stood out amongst his own generation, he wasn't marked by evil, wickedness or violence. ***The Scriptures tell us that, like Enoch, Noah “walked with God (v9), in deepest intimacy and obedience!***

Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord, otherwise, being a sinner like us, he too would have perished. God chose to favour Noah and Noah was able to be seen as righteous in God's eyes, not because of anything he could do, but because of how he responded to God's Word, the Gospel (Gen Ch3:15).

APPLICATION

Kent Hughes says in his commentary on Genesis page 129 that “This side of the flood, we don't have to fear a universal deluge. Nevertheless we must fear a more lethal flood- that being forever drowned beneath the cold water of our own sin. Our only hope is in God's great grace.”

Do not be like George Wilson and others, but receive the gracious grace pardon of the Lord Jesus Christ, today!