

Noah Found Favor

Introduction & Review

- ❑ After losing two sons, God gave Adam & Eve hope for the future through another faithful son – Seth (Gen. 4:25).
- ❑ God continued to give hope & fulfill His plan of redemption through a righteous grandson – Enosh (Gen. 4:26).
- ❑ Even though people fail miserably, God continues to use people in His great plan of redemption.
- ❑ God carried out His plan for a chosen line of people through the 3rd son of Adam & Eve (Gen. 5:6-7).
- ❑ God carried out His plan for a chosen line of people through 10 generations from Adam through Seth to Noah (Gen.5:1-32).

I. Man's Plan to Corrupt (Gen. 6:1-2, 4)

A. Yielding to sinful desire (Gen. 6:1-2)

God commanded Adam & Eve (humanity) to populate the earth (Gen. 1:28). After many generations, sinful desire led to sexual sin (Gen. 6:2) – “saw”, “attractive” & “took”. This is the pattern of sin (Gen. 3:6; Jas. 1:14-15). Two main interpretations of “sons of God”: fallen angels (Job 1:6) & godly descendants of Seth. The most plausible meaning is mixed marriages between Sethite men & Cainite women [Keil & Delitzsch]; godly & ungodly, God-lovers & God-haters, holy & unholy, blessed & cursed in marriage. They followed their own will, not God's – “any they chose”.

B. Consequences of sinful desire (Gen. 6:4)

The children from these mixed marriages were exceptional & extraordinary – “Nephilim”. They were probably large physically & skilled warriors – renowned. They were probably leaders & instigators in the violence that filled the land.

APPL: Sin will even corrupt God's good plans for an individual or group. Sometimes the initial result of sin looks good & acceptable – no apparent negative consequences. The dreadful impact of sin may not be realized for many years – after the children become adults!

II. God's Plan to Correct (Gen. 6:3, 5-8)

A. God's complete knowledge (Gen 6:5)

God is fully aware of all wicked & evil activity everywhere. The grossest of sins is committed while God is an eye-witness (Ps 139:11-12) – murder, rape, idolatry, theft. etc. God not only sees all wicked activity, but He also knows the motives & intentions of every action. Sin had spread out wide on the earth & deep within humanity. Humanity had become thoroughly & completely wicked – “every”, “only” & “continually”.

B. God's corrective plan (Gen. 6:3, 6-8)

Humanity had proven they would rather yield to the flesh than the Spirit, so God would remove His Spirit soon – 120 years (v. 3). Sin affects God directly & personally (v. 6) – “regretted” & “grieved”. God is not only grieved, but He is also angry about sin (Ps. 5:5-6). God will punish those that are wicked in judgment (v. 7; Rom. 9:19-24). God will preserve those that are righteous in judgment (v. 8). God not only sees the wicked, He also sees the activities & knows the heart of the righteous (Ps. 34:15). God sees that one man is willing to live holy & be different from the rest of the world – unpopularity & persecution for righteousness sake.

APPL: Judgment from God is essential to keep the effects of sin from utterly destroying God's creation. Judgment from God is always justified & the level of punishment is always right – never hasty, obsessive, unfair, etc. **But favor or grace from God is never merited by the recipient – Noah did not find favor because he deserved it or earned it. Favor or grace from God is simply a free gift from Him to the recipient (Eph. 2:8-9).**