

Mankind has degenerated to the point that violence and sin rule over the entire earth.

6:9 This is the history of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time. Noah walked with God. 6:10 Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. – Genesis 6:9-10

This Lesson Outline was prepared by John M. Wharton

July 2, 2006

SOURCES -+-

All bible text, unless otherwise indicated, is from the Public Domain World English Bible Translation. ASV indicates the American Standard Version, with KJV indicating the King James Version. Quotations are often included from various classic Christian commentaries such as John Gill's Expositor, Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures, and others. Greek and Hebrew word definitions are often included from the Strong's Concordance, unless otherwise indicated. All of these sources, both the bible text's, commentaries, and Strong's definition's are taken from THE WORD from Online Bible 1.00, or The Power Bible also from Online Bible, unless otherwise indicated.

Introduction -

But Noah found favor in Yahweh's eyes (Gen. 6:8). In Genesis 6 we see not only the mysterious story of the sons of God, and the giants on the earth at that time; but also the preparations of Noah, in the building of the ark, the collection of the creatures to be saved, and the food supplies for them and Noah's family, because of the flood to come. This was done by Noah in faith alone, because the Bible story tells us that it had not rained yet, but that the moisture was apparently dense enough to cause a dew upon the earth every day which was sufficient to water the plant life.

Lesson Text – Genesis 6 -

6:1 It happened, when men began to multiply on the surface of the ground, and daughters were born to them,

6:2 that God's sons saw that men's daughters were beautiful, and they took for themselves wives of all that they chose.

Gen 6:2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all that they chose. - ASV

6:3 Yahweh said, "My Spirit will not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; yet will his days be one hundred twenty years."

6:4 The Nephilim were in the earth in those days, and also after that, when God's sons came in to men's daughters. They bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

Gen 6:4 The Nephilim were in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of God came unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them:

the same were the mighty men that were of old, the men of renown. - ASV

Gen 6:4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. - KJV

Some significant word definitions for verses 6:2 and 4 -

Nephilim - H5303 נפיל נפיל n^ephíyl n^ephil *nef-eel', nef-eel'* From H5307; **properly, a feller, that is, a bully or tyrant:** - giant.

the sons - H1121 בן bèn *bane* From H1129; **a son** (as a *builder* of the family name), in the widest sense (of literal and figurative relationship, including *grandson, subject, nation, quality* or *condition*, etc., (like H1, H251, etc.): - + afflicted, age, [Aho-] [Ammon-] [Hachmon-] [Lev-]ite, [anoint-]ed one, appointed to, (+) arrow, [Assyr-] [Babylon-] [Egypt-] [Grec-]ian, one born, bough, branch, breed, + (young) bullock, + (young) calf, X came up in, child, colt, X common, X corn, daughter, X of first, + firstborn, foal, + very fruitful, + postage, X in, + kid, + lamb, (+) man, meet, + mighty, + nephew, old, (+) people, + rebel, + robber, X servant born, X soldier, son, + spark, + steward, + stranger, X surely, them of, + tumultuous one, + valiant[-est], whelp, worthy, young (one), youth.

of God - H430 אלהים 'èlohîym *el-o-heem'* **Plural of H433; gods in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural thus, especially with the article) of the supreme God; occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates; and sometimes as a superlative:** - angels, X exceeding, God (gods) (-dess, -ly), X (very) great, judges, X mighty.

mighty men - H1368 גבור גבור gibbôr gibbôr *ghib-bore', ghib-bore'* Intensive from the same as H1397; **powerful;** by implication **warrior, tyrant:** - champion, chief, X excel, giant, man, mighty (man, one), strong (man), valiant man.

the men - H376 איש 'iysh *eesh* Contracted for H582 (or perhaps rather from an unused root meaning to *be extant*); a *man* as an individual or a male person; often used as an adjunct to a more definite term (and in such cases frequently not expressed in translation.): - also, another, any (man), a certain, + champion, consent, each, every (one), fellow, [foot-, husband-] man, (good-, great, mighty) man, he, high (degree), him (that is), husband, man [-kind], + none, one, people, person, + steward, what (man) soever, whoso (-ever), worthy. Compare H802.

of renown - H8034 שם shêm *shame* A primitive word (perhaps rather from H7760 through **the idea of definite and conspicuous position;** compare H8064); **an appellation,** as a mark or memorial of individuality; by implication *honor, authority, character:* - + base, [in-] fame [-ous], name (-d), renown, report.

Comments –

There are mysteries within these four verses, more detail for them is in our lesson on Genesis 6 concerning the sons of God.

6:5 Yahweh saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6:6 Yahweh was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him in his heart.

6:7 Yahweh said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the surface of the ground; man, along with animals, creeping things, and birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them."

6:8 But Noah found favor in Yahweh's eyes.

Comments -

Within this one lineage there is only the one family of the current generation that is still staying true to the commands they have received from God. Most commentators understanding the sons of God in Gen. 6:2,4 to refer to righteous sons of Seth's line see them starting to marry any women they desired. thereby lowering the righteous standards of God's people. Those who understand the sons of God to refer to angelic beings, see them as in rebellion with Satan, and coming down to live among and mate with the women of this earth, thereby corrupting the genes of the human race before God was ready to reveal the oracle people of Israel and the Messiah who would win our salvation.

6:9 This is the history of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time. Noah walked with God.

Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible from the e-Sword Bible program -

Gen 6:8 -

Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord - Why? Because he was, 1. A just man, אִישׁ צַדִּיק ish tsaddik, a man who gave to all their due; for this is the ideal meaning of the original word. 2. He was perfect in his generation - he was in all things a consistent character, never departing from the truth in principle or practice. 3. He walked with God - he was not only righteous in his conduct, but he was pious, and had continual communion with God. The same word is used here as before in the case of Enoch. See [Gen 5:22](#).

6:10 Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

6:11 The earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

6:12 God saw the earth, and saw that it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

Comments -

It is interesting that the Book of Enoch says that the sons of God, being angels in rebellion, came to man, mated with the human women, and taught mankind many techniques, including the forging of weapons, occult practices, and other knowledge.

6:13 God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before me, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

6:14 Make a ship of gopher wood. You shall make rooms in the ship, and shall seal it inside and outside with pitch.

a ship - H8392 תֵּבָה tēbâh tay-baw' Perhaps of foreign derivation; a box: - ark.

Comments -

Classic protestant commentators such as Gill, saw the ark as not a ship at all, but a flat bottomed chest, meant not for sailing, but solely for floating. That is very different from the idea most today have of what Christians think about the ark, with it being a huge ship with that type of hull. This box like structure was meant to float on the top of the water. Gill had this perspective on what the ark was shaped like, and he lived and ministered in the 1700's.

6:15 This is how you shall make it. The length of the ship will be three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.

Comments -

"The length of the ship will be three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits." How big was the ark? Most sources will tell you that the cubit was 18 inches. The common cubit was. There was another cubit also used that was evidently almost 22 inches that was used by the Egyptians and others in that area as well. I believe that is the one some call the royal cubit. The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia article "cubit" in the e-Sword Bible program has an excellent explanation of the two cubits among the Assyrians, Egyptians, and Hebrews.

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia from the e-Sword Bible program -

Cubit

kū' bit (אֲמָה, 'ammāh; πῆχυς, péchus): The standard for measures of length among the Hebrews. They derived it from the Babylonians, but a similar measure was used in Egypt with which they must have been familiar....They had a double standard, the so-called royal cubit and the ordinary one. From the remains of buildings in Assyria and Babylonia, the former is made out to be about 20, 6 inches, and a cubit of similar length was used in Egypt and must have been known to the Hebrews...The ordinary cubit of commerce was shorter, and has been variously estimated at between 16 and 18 or more inches...

6:16 You shall make a roof in the ship, and you shall finish it to a cubit upward. You shall set the door of the ship in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third

levels.

6:17 I, even I, do bring the flood of waters on this earth, to destroy all flesh having the breath of life from under the sky. Everything that is in the earth will die.

6:18 But I will establish my covenant with you. You shall come into the ship, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

6:19 Of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ship, to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female.

6:20 Of the birds after their kind, of the livestock after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every sort shall come to you, to keep them alive.

6:21 Take with you of all food that is eaten, and gather it to yourself; and it will be for food for you, and for them."

Comments -

Adam Clarke's comments below on the number of creatures, and the amount of food supplies for them and Noah's family, are actually given by him for Genesis 6:15. They are excellent and applicable to those same questions in relation to Genesis 6:19-21 also. You should, at your convenience, review all his comments on Genesis 6:15-22 as well.

Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible from the e-Sword Bible program on Gen. 6:15 -

...When these dimensions are examined, the ark will be found to be a vessel whose capacity was more than sufficient to contain all persons and animals said to have been in it, with sufficient food for each for more than twelve months. This vessel Dr. Arbuthnot computes to have been eighty-one thousand and sixty-two tons in burden.

As many have supposed the capacity of the ark to have been much too small for the things which were contained in it, it will be necessary to examine this subject thoroughly, that every difficulty may be removed....

On the matter of how so many creatures and species could possibly be contained and maintained on a single vessel, even if made today, Adam Clarke has some wonderful comments that you should review in the e-Sword Bible program or the printed commentaries of Clarke. These answers and thoughts on the questions are especially significant in that Clarke lived and ministered in the 1700's through to the early 1800's. Again, such interesting thoughts and common sense answers, well before the the debates of our generations on origins, science, and the truth of our Judeo-Christian Bible.

6:22 Thus Noah did. According to all that God commanded him, so he did.

A question -

Noah and his family were saved from the terrible flood God sent upon the earth. We know that God in His word speaks to us in patterns and symbols. It is said that the New Testament is encapsulated in the Old Testament, and the Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament. We also know that the church is destined to to be taken from this earth before the horrible time of the Great Tribulation which is God's wrath poured out upon this earth. Do Noah and his family symbolize the taking of the church out before the Great Tribulation? I think not. Because Noah and his family are not preserved from all of the consequences of the judgment from God brought by the flood. Rather, they are preserved through it, and kept alive despite it, while all the rest of the earth was killed by it. Noah and his family symbolize the people of Israel, who will be back in the land at the time of the Great Tribulation, and will be delivered through it, although it will be, in that case so to speak , a deliverance by fire. Enoch, rather, represents the taking of the church out before the flood, symbolizing the tribulation, comes upon the earth. Enoch, in Genesis 5 walked with God, and he was not because God took him.

Gen 5:23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.

Gen 5:24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Enoch was taken from everyone's sight before the flood ever came upon the earth. But Noah and his family were preserved and kept alive through it by special provision of God.

Conclusion -

But Noah found favor in Yahweh's eyes (Gen. 6:8). In Genesis 6 we have seen that God warned Noah that the flood was going to come upon the entire earth and that he must prepare an ark for the deliverance of himself, his family, and all life upon the surface of the earth and in the air above it. The ark was to be huge in size, with rooms or nest areas for the various creatures to be kept. This was all done by Noah in faith alone, because there had not been rain upon the earth to that very time and Noah would not have known what it was like. Noah's faith saved himself, his family, and all life on the earth and in the air, thus making it possible for God to produce the oracle people of God, the people of Israel and to make it possible for the Messiah to one day be revealed on the earth to win our salvation from sin.