

## The Wickedness of Man

### ❖ Recap

#### ➤ Genesis 1

- God Creates the heavens and the earth...
- Genesis 1 sets the stage that this story will be His story
- He is the sovereign creator ... and not just sovereign but good...
- God's creation of heaven and earth and man... were very good... **not just for God, But also for man**

#### ➤ Genesis 2

- 1) God is Creator of Man in His Image 2) God Provides for Man
- 3) God Creates Man for Relationship
- 4) God Creates Man to Work 5) God Reminds Man He is God

#### ➤ Genesis 3

- 1) Man's Temptation. 2) Man's Sin. 3) Man's Shame
- 4) God's Judgment 5) God's Mercy

#### ➤ Genesis 4

- The Story of Cain and Able and the Nature of sin is revealed to be murderous
- God does not accept Cain's offering b/c it was not what God asked for
- God asked the gift to be the best of what he had... the firstfruits...
- Cain was jealous of Able's righteousness... and his relationship with God
- God warned Cain that sin was crouching at his door to rule him...
- And that He must rule over sin... but instead... Cain rose up and killed Able... So sad
- God judged Cain... but allowed him to live...

#### ➤ Genesis 5

- We see the genealogy of Adam through his Son Seth... whom he had when he was 130 years old
- We see man living for many years... Adam lived to be 930 years old...
- We also see the birth of Enoch
  - who fathered Methuselah who would live longer than anyone recorded
  - But the neat thing about Enoch is that he did not die like other people...
  - **Genesis 5:23-24 Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. <sup>24</sup>Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.**
- **The chapter ends with the birth of Noah and his three sons...**
  - Ham, Shem and Japheth

### ❖ Introduction

#### ➤ There are really two main thoughts running through this chapter...

- We see the wickedness of mankind with God's judgment
- We see God's mercy and kindness on Man by rescuing him

#### ➤ **Outline will be divided into 6 parts... the first three dealing with man's wickedness**

- The next three dealing with man's rescue
- 1) The Sons of God and the Daughters of Men
- 2) The Wickedness of Man
- 3) The Judgment of God
- 4) The Favor of God
- 5) The Protection of God
- 6) The Mercy of God

### ❖ 1) The Sons of God and the Daughters of Men

- When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup>the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. <sup>3</sup>Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” <sup>4</sup>The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.
- **The first thing we see this morning is this odd story about the Sons of God and the daughters of men**
  - And these first 4 verses have caused a lot of debate over the years...
  - But... I do not think the answer is all that difficult... as to what is happening...
  - What is difficult is our 21<sup>st</sup> century capacity to understand it... to accept it...
    - The supernatural is not something we like to admit to...
- **Who are the Sons of God?**
  - The sons of God are heavenly beings... likely fallen angels... by this point...
    - We know they are angelic beings because this is how the term sons of God is used in the O.T.
    - **Job 1:6** <sup>6</sup>Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.
    - **Job 38:7** when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
    - Plus there are other verses calling them holy ones... or even gods themselves...
  - **Is this the correct interpretation...?**
    - Yes... And there is really no other good interpretation...
    - Making them out to be the Sons of Seth... or great kings does injustice to biblical interpretation
- **The Daughters of Men... they were just that...**
  - Daughters of Men... born by the grace and kindness of God...
  - And they were beautiful... but notice that the women are not only to blame...
  - It seems that their fathers were complicit in this... allowing this...
- **What happened?**
  - **These fallen angels... they married these women...**
    - Now... we do not know if they took on the form of a man... this is possible...
    - Angels are seen like men throughout the O.T.
    - Sometimes appearing glorious but also able to blend in...
    - So it is possible they showed up like a man and took wives...
  - **Or... they possessed men...**
    - And we know this is possible as well... where they possess the host of the man...
  - **Either way.... This is outside of God’s will and plan... they were not supposed to do this...**
    - And we know from later on in the N.T. in 1 Peter, 2 Peter and Jude
    - That these spirits are put into prison over it...
    - It is explained that they had left their domain... they crossed over in a way unacceptable
- **Why did the daughters of men and the angels do this?**
  - I think it is the age old lie of Satan... You can be like God...
  - Mankind is always wanting to usurp the authority of God in their life...
  - And it never turns out as they hope...
- **What were the results?**
  - Children were born to them... and not just regular kids here... they became Mighty Ones
  - These men were men of renown... great warriors... likely giants
  - The offspring of this union were amazing men.... BUT...
  - Guess what... they were only men... and they would one day die
- **Something about this union is connected to the wickedness of man and coming judgment**
  - It is not coincidence that this happens... and then God speaks of judgment...

- <sup>3</sup>Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.”
- **God is unhappy with this... So He gives them 120 years...**
  - Now... this 120 years likely refers to the amount of time until the flood...
    - ◆ But it could also refer to a limit on how long He would allow man to live...
    - ◆ Because we see that man’s lifespan is reduced dramatically over time...
  - **To the point where 120 years was seen as all we could live...**
    - ◆ And it could have meant both here...
  - **But I think it is the amount of time God will be gracious to warn men of the flood...**
    - ◆ We know that Peter says Noah was a preacher of Righteousness...
    - ◆ Likely preaching to people of God’s judgment while he was building the ark...
    - ◆ Or his building of the ark was a form of preaching itself...
- **God would judge both the fallen heavenly beings... and man over this...**
  - We see that mankind will be destroyed by the flood... and these angels...
  - They would be put into pits of darkness... we know this from elsewhere in the Bible...
  - Chained in gloomy pits of darkness
- **So... what should we learn from these 4 verses?**
  - We should learn that Satan is always at work deceiving man...
  - His demonic following goes about corrupting man
  - Satanic influence was alive and well in those days... and it led to wickedness
  - This continues to this day.... Notice what follows...

## ❖ 2) The Wickedness of Man

- <sup>5</sup>The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup>And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.
- <sup>11</sup>Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup>And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.
- **Now... I do not think that the wickedness of man is only a result of these intermarriages...**
  - They do serve as an intro to the depth that man and satan are willing to go
- **Here... we see man is extremely wicked...**
  - It is described in absolute terms... every intention of his heart was only evil...
  - Men were violent... and the earth was corrupted...
  - And it seems to be very widespread...
- **This is a lesson for all of us...**
  - Please see this... these were our ancestors... their fallen nature is the same as ours...
  - This is our fate without Jesus... Do you know this?
  - Do you know that without the kindness of God in sending His Son Jesus...
    - This is a picture of you?
  - Romans 3:10-12 <sup>10</sup>as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup>no one understands; no one seeks for God. <sup>12</sup>All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”
- **It is so bad... that God regrets that He had even made man...**
  - This is a sad state... Genesis 1 says... God saw all that He had made... and it was really very good!
  - Genesis 6... God regrets that He made man... He is grieved...
- **Let’s deal with this very briefly...**
  - it is important to understand a few things so your theology doesn’t get bad
  - **First of all... from the perspective of this author at this time...**

- He wants to show how deeply God is grieved at the sin of man...
- To the point of regret... or some versions say repent... he repented of making man
- The author wants you to feel the weight of this...
- **But... does this mean that this caught God unaware?**
  - That God had to make a change of plans? I don't think so.
  - That the future is open with God... and He has to make adjustments?
  - This is called open theism... and does not describe God at all...
- **God is described differently...**
  - **Isaiah 46:9 I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done,**
- **So... what does it mean...?**
  - It means God regretted making man... but not in the sense that He would go back and do it again
  - Rather... in the sense that He lamented over their wickedness...
  - God loves His creation... And He made it good... yet here it is wicked
  - **In the same way that if a father were to spank his child...**
    - And the child would then run away from home...
    - The father would feel sad that the child ran away... and sad that He had to spank him
    - But... although there would be remorse over the actions of the child in connection to the father's actions...
      - ◆ The father would still do it again... because it was the right thing to do...
- **God created a world where mankind could rebel against Him...**
  - And to God... this was the best way to create... yet... it does lead to judgment

### ❖ 3) The Judgment of God

- <sup>7</sup> So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."
- <sup>13</sup> And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.
- <sup>17</sup> For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.
- **Because of man's sin and wickedness... God is going to bring judgment...**
  - And not only is He going to destroy man... but also all flesh on the earth... even the animals...
  - If you ever wonder how bad wickedness is in the eyes of God...
  - Consider His judgment against it...
  - God would wipe out ALL of Life on the earth... ALL of it...
  - **Noah and the ark story isn't as cute anymore is it?**
    - It is the story of God the creator killing every man woman and child on the earth except 8
    - We are talking millions... maybe even billions
- **What should we learn from this?**
  - God is the creator of life... And He is Sovereign to do as He pleases...
  - But... remember... God has passed down the death sentence to all men even to this day...
  - **So... I do not want you to get caught up in how God hands down His judgment...**
    - Death could come through a heart attack, or war or vehicle crash... or a flood....
    - Or God could send a nation in to wipe out another nation b/c of their sin
  - **So... remember... God is not unkind because He passes down a death sentence**
    - That is the result of sin... that is on us... because we are rebellious...
    - Don't let the world say that God is mean.... Because He judges with death...
    - God is merciful to show us our need for Him...

- And what better way than to show us we are but flesh!
- In need of God's life giving mercy... Oh how quickly we believe the lies of Satan

#### ❖ 4) The Favor of God

- **<sup>8</sup>But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. <sup>9</sup>These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. <sup>10</sup>And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.**
- **In God's grace... we see the preservation of man...**
  - Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord...
- **Why did he find favor?**
  - Well... he is described as a righteous man... blameless in his generation...
  - **What does this mean?**
    - Well... I am certain it does not mean he was perfect...
  - **But notice it says Noah walked with God...**
    - He had a relationship with God...
    - Guess who else is spoken of like this? Enoch... Enoch walked with God and God took him
- **When He is called a righteous man...**
  - Essentially the writer is saying... Noah was a good man...
- **What does it mean that He was blameless**
  - I think it means that in the eyes of God Noah was without blame...
  - Seems that Noah walked with God in such a way that although he wasn't perfect...
  - He was considered righteous and blameless...
- **I think the author of Hebrews helps us understand why**
  - **Hebrews 11:7 <sup>7</sup>By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.**
- **Noah's faith made him righteous and blameless before God...**
  - He feared God... after being warned by God...
  - He believed God... He was righteous through Faith...
    - Isn't that the way of righteousness for all of us?
- **But never forget...**
  - **His faith was made evident by his obedience to build an ark...**
  - Which was a crazy idea I would assume at this time... believing the entire world would flood
  - Yet... He trusted God and God saved him.... Through this ark

#### ❖ 5) The Protection of God

- **<sup>14</sup>Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. <sup>15</sup>This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. <sup>16</sup>Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.**
- **I'm not going to say much here...**
  - Simply to say... this was a big boat... and it had three decks...
  - And it was plenty big enough to hold 2 animals of each kind...
  - especially if you took younger smaller animals... and only one type of cow or dog or cat etc
- **The Ark was big:**
  - Almost 1 and a half football fields... And it was as tall as a four story house
- **And this ark was God's protection of Mankind through Noah and His family...**
  - Now... we are not saying that every person on the earth before the flood went to hell

- The Bible does not teach that... we do not know...
- It is very possible there were many who followed God...
- But only Noah is chosen to preserve the human race...

➤ **The Ark was also a Picture of Jesus...**

- God provided an ark for man to go into... to be safe from the devastating effects
- Of God's righteous wrath... The Ark was the salvation of mankind by faith...
- Just as Jesus is the salvation of mankind by Faith...

❖ **6) The Mercy of God**

➤ **18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 19 And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. 20 Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. 21 Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them." 22 Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.**

➤ **In the closing verses of chapter 6 we see God's detailed plan to be merciful to Noah**

- And God establishes a covenant to save and be with Noah...
- An agreement from God to Noah...

➤ **God in His mercy... will destroy the wickedness throughout the earth...**

- To give mankind a new start essentially...
- To give them less corruption around them...
- Imagine life for Noah's three sons and their children... growing up around rampant wickedness
- **Bad company corrupts good morals doesn't it? Proverbs...**

➤ **God also saves all of the animals...**

- He brings in two of every kind... Male and Female...
- Notice that... Male and Female... This is God's plan for procreation...

➤ **Noah is commanded to take every sort of food that is eaten...**

- God makes Noah work! And work he did...

➤ **Noah did this.... He did all that God commanded him...**

- Noah built the ark to God's design... He warned people... **He brought in the animals and the food...**
- He sustained life on this earth for us today... **Imagine our world if Noah had gotten a little lazy**
  - **That is a lesson in and of itself for today!!**

❖ **Invitation**

➤ **The flood is not a fun story... it is not simply a story for children**

- It is the story of Man's Wickedness before God almighty...
- And God's hatred toward this wickedness... and his ultimate judgment

➤ **Today the earth is marred with sign after sign of Noah's flood...**

- **Serving as a witness to man that God hates sin...**
- **Science will tell you the grand Canyon was carved over millions of years by the Colo River**
- **But it would have had to flow up hill... which is impossible...**
- **Only a worldwide flood could have caused a canyon like that...**
- **The evidence is overwhelming**

➤ **Do you live your life in rebellion against Almighty God?**

- Do you need to repent for the first time today?

➤ **Christian... how is your life before God... are you walking by the faith you claim?**

- Do you need to come and examine yourself and ask God to help you? I do!