

Noah Found Grace

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“And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. 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. And God 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. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” (Genesis 6:1–8)

The text before us is a familiar one. Some 1500 years after the fall of man, the corruption of the human race is so bad that God has determined that it is time to wipe man off the face of the earth with a flood. It sure didn't take long did it? And as we look back in history, what was this, something like 4500 years ago, we must remember that our days are not much different.

“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” (Matthew 24:37–39)

So with that thought in mind, let us examine the text to see what the Lord has for us today.

God Is Not Ignorant About What Is Happening

“And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years...And God 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.” (Genesis 6:1-3, 5)

Note well, God knows what it is that is going on in this world! As he looked down, he saw no Charles Spurgeons, no George Washingtons, no good Samaritans I can assure you. He saw rather types such as , Charles Manson, and Adolf Hitler and criminals of all types.

A good description of the world is found in Romans 3:10-18:

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.” (Romans 3:10–18)

Now, a person walking around down here might say, “Ah it aint that bad!” And a person walking around in the world before the flood might have said the same thing. But we sometimes don’t see things the way God sees it.

Man’s Depravity Is Horrible In God’s Eyes

“And God 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. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.” (Genesis 6:5–7)

The Scripture says “it grieved him at the heart.” You and I cannot presume to fathom the depth of meaning of such language when spoken of the infinite and all-perfect God. How the guilt and folly of sin affects the divine nature is unknown to us but this language is here to bring us to a better understanding of what God feels.

Consider the following:

“And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.” (Luke 19:41–44)

Jesus wept over the city and stone sense of the evils that were about to come over it. I think it interesting to study that in the Scriptures we find our Lord of a great tender spirit, and never read of him laughing but on more than one occasion we read of him in tears. When was the last time we wept over sin? When did we weep over a sinner? May God help us to see sin as God does!

Noah Found Grace

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." (Genesis 6:8)

I love this verse. You've got to hear the bad news to get to the good news. Thank the Lord for verse 8. Without a verse 8, without the conjunction, the word but there, there would be no hope for the rest of the human race, excepting of course God destroyed all of his original creation and started fresh. But Noah found grace....

I'm often amazed at how many folks think that Noah was a great man among a bunch of sinners. No! Read it again. Genesis 6:5-7. Noah was included in that. He deserved to be wiped out off the face of the world just like everyone else. Noah found grace...he obtained mercy and favor. Grace doesn't mean one thing in the Old Testament and something else in the New Testament. There was no worth or work on his part. Noah was guilty of the common corruption of human nature that he needed God's grace and mercy to pardon and preserve him from the destruction to come! Were it not for God's grace he would have been swept away in the flood along with the rest of humanity.

Noah found grace...he obtained mercy and favor. Not of any worth or work on his part. He was guilty of the common corruption of human nature that he needed God's grace and mercy to pardon and preserve him from the destruction to come. You and I also have found grace in God's eyes.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Mark well, the world is full of sin. And God will destroy the world. But there is grace. And we have been saved by His grace. It is not of our works nor of our worth that we have safety in Christ. Jesus died for the sins of His people because He first loved us. May we serve Him and be a witness in this world we live in.

"These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God." (Genesis 6:9)

Here was a just man, justified, before God and perfect, morally mature. He walked with God. The rest of the world was still corrupted and still on the path to destruction, but not Noah. He was on His way to safety. He had work to do and He did it. You and I have a work to do as well. Will we do it?