



## Genesis – Chapter 6:1-22 Noah Found Grace in the Eyes of the Lord! (Lesson #12)

*1 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. 3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." 4 ¶ 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. 5 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. 6 ¶ And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 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." 8 ¶ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD." (Ge 6:1-8 ESV)*

**Vs 1** – We talked about this last week and this is straight forward enough.

The word translated daughters is **בַּת (bath)**, it means daughter, daughter-in-law, sister, or female. Why does it say females were born to them. I believe we are correct to assume that males and females were being born, but it says females. Why?

One thing this does for sure, is pull our attention to females (daughters) that are being born.

**Vs 2** - Last week we looked at the phrase “sons of God” **בְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים (‘elohiym)**.

As we discussed this EXACT phrase is only used in **five verses** in the Old Testament, Gen **6:2, 6:4, Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7**. Most agree, that in all cases in the **book of Job** where this phrase is used, **it is talking about the angels**. **Thus, at first blush, it would seem the sons of God, must be angels. (Int#2 or Int#3).**

In the New Testament, this phrase is used a **number of times** where it serves as a **synonym for believers** (Mat 5:9, Luk 20:36, Rom 8:14, Rom 8:19).

But in the **Old Testament** the idea that **God’s children**, those who identified themselves with the covenant, even if they were disobedient, is quite common. They were in some sense **His sons**, this was expressed in many **different places** (Deut 14:1, Ps 82:6-7, Is 43:5-6, Ex 4:21-23, Deut 32:4-5).

**In fact**, the idea of being a “**son of God**” was used **more in the Old Testament** to describe a professing covenant member, more than it was of angels. **But the context is what you will need to rely upon to settle it in your mind.**

**Now at this point, you should be wondering two things:**

- 1) If God meant daughters of Seth, why didn’t he say that? Good question.
- 2) If God meant fallen angels, why didn’t he say that, for there is a perfectly good Hebrew word for angels **מַלְאָךְ (mal’ak)** that is used **214 times** in the Hebrew Bible, why this phrase that is only used in the book of Job to refer to angels?

*“It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.” (Pr 25:2 ESV)*

Back to our text, the “**sons of God**” and they took as their wives any they chose.

At first blush this language seems a **little sinister**, a **little aggressive**, for these “sons of God” “**took**” as wives “**any they chose.**” (\*\* This seems to support **INT#2** or **INT#3**)

First the word **took** is the Hebrew word **לָקַח (laqach)** and it means to take, to fetch, to lay hold of, to receive to take as a wife, to marry. (examples Gen 2:15, Gen 4:19, Gen 11:29, 12:5, 12:19, 19:14, 21:20-21).

The word can be used to **take something**, but when used of a woman, it is **generally referring to taking her as a wife**. This is a **very common use, thus at this point**, I do not **recommend reading anything additional into the fact** that the “sons of God” “**took**” wives that they chose. (\*\* This seems to support **INT#1** or **INT#2**)

The next Hebrew word **translated chose** is **בחר (bachar)** and it means to choose, to decide, or to select.

The Hebrew word really seems to mean to choose one thing over another or one or more people over another. There is nothing sinister in the use of this word either, examples of the use of this word include (Gen 13:11, Ex 17:9, Nu 17:5, I Sam 24:2, II Sam 6:1, and II Sam 24:12). (\*\* This seems to support **INT#1** or **INT#2**)

**Vs 3** - In the midst of whatever is going on, we see that it is grieving God’s soul. Then Yahweh says: this is anthropomorphic language and inserted her to help us understand how much all of this is grieving our Holy God and to let us know what God is thinking.

The word translated “abide” is the Hebrew word: **דין (diyn)** and it means to **judge, contend, plead with, or strife**. It seems the ASV, KJV, NKJV, Geneva, get the idea with “my spirit shall not always strive” with man forever.

This has been interpreted two possible ways:

- 1) God is going to end these very long lives that he is allowing men to live by bringing about circumstances that will cause them to live no more than 120 years.
- 2) God is going to bring a disaster upon all men in 120 years from him saying this to Noah (the global flood).
- 3) Possibly even both...

Although we cannot be sure it appears that one of these items is in view.

In context, it seems likely that it is the first option. It is clear that following the global deluge lives would be shortened to 120 years or less, although this would take time.

It seems God is saying: **My spirit shall not always strive with man for he has become completely and almost totally dominated by his fleshly nature, driven by his bodily appetites, no longer concerned about or interested in a relationship with God.** (\*\* This seems to support **INT#1** or **INT#2**)

This does match the character of God we are extremely familiar with, patient and longsuffering, but judgment does indeed fall (I Pet 3:18-20).

**Vs 4** - Here we are introduced to someone, or something called the “**Nephilim.**” This is simply a transliteration of the Hebrew word **נפיל (nephil)**. The word is used in one other verse in the Hebrew Bible. Let’s take a look at that verse and see if it provides any additional clarity.

*“31 Then the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.” 32 So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. 33 And there we saw the **Nephilim** (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.”” (Nu 13:31-33 ESV)*

So, the Nephilim were ancestors to the “**sons of Anak.**” That is helpful for that provides us with another linkage to consider who the Nephilim might have been. Anak is used a total of nine times in the Hebrew bible (two examples Judg 1:20, Deut 9:2).

So a straightforward rendering of might be to say **giants** of whom **Anak descended**. That is at a minimum true of those that the Israelites ran into as they attempted to possess the Promised Land. Also, that is how the **Septuagint** (Greek translation of the Old Testament) translates this word.

The Hebrew word comes from the Hebrew word נפל (**naphal**) which means to lie down or to cast down. (\*\* Some have used this to support **Int2** or **Int3**).

**So back to verse 4:** So at this point, the writer of Genesis tells the readers that while this was going on, the Nephilim (giants who descended from Anak) were on the earth in those days. Now at this point we are not told anything more than the fact that while the world was seemingly getting worse and worse, and while these sons of God started to go into the daughters of men, by the way, the Nephilim (the giants) **were in the land in those same days. Let that sink in for a moment.**

I suspect that many of us have been led to believe that the Nephilim, were the offspring of the sons of God when they went unto the daughters of men. **That is not what the text says.**

**QUESTION:** Now before we go on how can giants be in the land if it is not the offspring of angels and humans?  
*“And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.” (1Sa 17:4 ESV)*

**A span is said to be a ¼ cubit.** There are two Hebrew cubits, the short cubit and the long cubit. Scholars agree this is likely the shorter. So he was 6 ¼ cubits tall or **109.4** inches tall or **8.75 feet tall.**

**Vs 4b** - When the sons of God came into (sexual relationship) the daughters of men and that union bore children. We are now going to be told about the children.

**Vs 4c** - The children born of the sons of God coming into the daughters of men, grew up to become “mighty men” who were of old “men of renown.”

The grew up to become “**mighty men**”, the Hebrew word is גבור (**gibbowr**). The word means mighty, strong, valiant, chief, or champions.

This is a very common Hebrew word used almost **160 times** in the Hebrew Bible. Some examples include Gen 10:8, Jos 6:2, Jos 10:7, Jidg 11:1, I Sam 14:52). (\*\* This seems to support **INT#1** or **INT#2**)

The first thing that becomes apparent is this word is used in association with **human males** who are **strong, valiant, powerful**, or a person who is a **man of war**.

There were not only mighty men, but they were also: **Vs 4c** - These were also men known as men of renown, the Hebrew word for men or mortal אנוש (**enowsh**). This word is used **560 times** and as best I can tell always means **mortal man**.

They became **men of renown**, the Hebrew word is שם (**shem**). It means **mortal men of reputation, men of fame, men of glory**, or **men who were infamous!** This word is extremely common and its primary use is “name” and it is used over **860 times** in the Hebrew Bible, let’s look at a few uses (Gen 11:4, Gen 12:2, Zep 3:20, Mal 1:11).

The Hebrew word אנוש (**enowsh**) means men or mortal. This word is always used for human men and the word שם (**shem**), like גבור (**gibbowr**), is always used to describe human males, men of renown, men who were infamous, but all were men. (\*\* This seems to support **INT#1** or **INT#2**)

**Vs 5** - Continuing to advance the picture of widespread wickedness in both the line of Cain and the line of Seth. Although we have found a couple of bright lights in the line of Seth (in particular **Enoch and Moses**), overall it appears that both side (like Israel and Judah to come) are sliding away from God. They are going against God.

Yahweh saw that the evil of אדם (**adam**) (mankind) was great, it was large, it was abounding, it was overflowing. Yahweh saw the evil of mankind was abounding and that *every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

**This is a horrible indictment;** it is an indictment against mankind and mankind alone.

In Genesis 6:11, we are provided additional information about these times, namely:

*“Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence.” (Ge 6:11 ESV)*

Man has corrupted his way upon the earth and the whole earth is filled with violence. The whole earth being filled with violence and every thought of man’s heart only evil continually! (\*\* This seems to support INT#1 or INT#2)

**Vs 6** - Again we see anthropomorphic language, God always knew what was going to happen, but our Father wants us to understand man’s wickedness had spread so far and become so extensive that God regretted he had made man and placed him on the earth.

Fallen angels likely had some degree of involvement in the condition of the day, but **God is grieved** that he ever **MADE MAN!** Man had completely corrupted his way on the earth.

**Vs 7** - Again, anthropomorphic language, God is telling us what is in His heart, even though He always knew what fallen man was going to do! So, the Lord says: I will **blot out, wipe out, wipe away, destroy** אדם (**‘adam**). God says I will wipe out, **I will destroy MANKIND** from the face of the land, this will also result in the destruction of animals, creeping things, and birds. (\*\* This seems to support INT#1 or INT#2)

God has determined to intervene against MAN and wipe mankind off the face of planet earth!

Here we see God’s anger, disgust, and frustration are focused on man. God is angry with man, God regrets that He made man, God purposes in His heart to destroy, MANKIND!

**Vs 8** - If anyone will be saved it will be by grace through faith, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord because he responded to God, by faith.

But notice, this is at the worst time in human history (at least up to this point) and Noah found GRACE!

**APPLICATION: There is no time too evil to find God’s grace and sometimes the light is most visible in extreme darkness.**

Mankind is spinning in a downward spiral, but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord!

Noah, in spite of most, if not all of his contemporaries, operated by faith. We read this in Hebrew 11:

*“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.” (Heb 11:7 ESV)*

Faith is the conduit, faith is the powerline, faith is the vehicle by which grace travels. Unmerited favor travels the road of faith, or belief. Noah found grace because he believed what God said.

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***Vs 9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. 11 ¶ Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. 13 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.***

**Vs 9-13** - Here we find the third time the writer has used the Hebrew word **תולדה (towl'dah)**. It means generations, genealogy, or history.

But notice what Moses writes about Noah:

- 1) He was a righteous man.
- 2) He was blameless in his generation.
- 3) He walked with God.

On the face these words have a very (New Testament) feel to them. Noah was righteous (imputed righteousness by faith), Noah was blameless (he sought to obey God) and Noah walked with (much like his great grandfather Enoch!)

I bring this up because I have heard two different commentators interpret these words in a totally different way.

Two commentators flatly state that the word translated blameless **תמיים (tamiym)** is a “*technical word for bodily and physical perfection, and not moral.*” Both go on to teach that Gen 6:9 “*does not speak about Noah’s moral perfection (KJV word, ESV blameless) but tells us that he and his family alone had preserved the pedigree and kept it pure, in spite of the prevailing corruption brought about by the fallen angels.*”

The first way we see the word **תמיים (tamiym)** used is around animal sacrifices, that they need to be “**without blemish.**” Numerous examples, here are a few (Ex 12:5, 29:1, Lev 1:3, Lev 4:3, :

The **second way** we see the word **תמיים (tamiym)** used, is around human’s need to walk uprightly, to walk without blemish, to choose to obey God, to make the correct moral decisions. A few examples include Ps 15:1-2, Ps 84:11, Ps 119:1, Deut 18:9-19, Jos 24:14-15, Pro 28:18) (\*\* This seems to support **INT#1** or **INT#2**)

We could go on, but these are enough to make the point.

Notice, before we were told that Noah was “blameless” (KJV translated perfect), we were first told he was a “**righteous man.**”

**The Hebrew word translated “righteous” is the Hebrew word צדיק (tsaddiyq)**, it means just, lawful, or righteous. Noah attempted to obey God, Noah attempted to obey God’s laws

But Noah operated in faith, Noah believed God and responded to God, by faith, thus he enjoyed **imputed righteousness:**

*“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.” (Heb 11:7 ESV)*

So Noah was a righteous man, he possessed an imputed righteousness that was granted to him, through faith.

The Hebrew word **צדיק (tsaddiyq)**. I Sam 24:17, I Kin 2:32).

We could go on, in context we are being told that Noah was righteous (imputed righteousness through faith) and blameless (sought to make correct moral choices).

**Vs 10** - After being told that Noah was a man of faith and that Noah, like Enoch of old “walked with God” we are then told about his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japhet.

It is likely that Noah had other sons and daughters. It is also likely that whatever that number of additional children was, they all perished in the flood.

**Vs 11** - The earth was corrupt, ruined, or wrecked in God’s sight. God looked at what man was doing on earth and it was totally (with only a few exceptions) totally corrupted.

God had commanded man to fill the earth (Gen 1:28), man had not only filled the earth with humans, he had filled the earth with violence!

**Vs 12** – Anthropomorphic language.... God saw the earth, it was corrupted, all flesh had corrupted its way on the earth. All flesh **בשר (basar)**, had corrupted their way on the earth!

**Vs 13** – **The God, through what appears direct and divine revelation says to Noah:** I have determined to put an end to man and at the same everything that has the breath of life, all flesh. The earth is filled with man’s violence.

Behold I will **destroy** them (**mankind**) **with the earth**. The earth itself will be God’s instrument of judgment upon man. (\*\* This seems to support **INT#1** or **INT#2**)

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**14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. 15 This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. 16 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. 17 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.**

**Vs 14** – Here picking back up in verse 14, we see what else God commands. Noah is to make an ark. The Hebrew word is **תבה (tebah)**. It is used a total of 28 times in the Hebrew Bible.

It is used of the massive ship that Noah is about to build that will save those on it from the global deluge and it is used of the floating basket that Moses’s mom would place him in. It is not used to describe any other ark or box.

This ark is to be constructed of “**gopher**” wood. The exact type of wood has been lost to time.

Further, Noah is directed to cover the ark inside and outside in pitch. This seems to be some type of tree resin that Noah is directed to furth waterproof the ark with.

**Vs 15** – **Again, divine revelation God commands Noah on the exact dimensions of the ark.** This is how you are to make it, the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits.

The cubit varied in length by time and by nation:

The **Babylonians** had a royal cubit that was **19.8 inches**.

The **Royal Egyptian Cubit** at **20.6 inches**.

The **Egyptian short cubit** at **17.6 inches**.

The **Hebrews** had a common cubit about **17.5 inches**.

The **Hebrew long cubit** at **20.4 inches** (Eze 40:50)

The ark was a minimum (using the Hebrew short cubit): **437.5 feet long, 72.92 feet wide, and 43.75 feet tall**

If you use the Hebrew long cubit as described by Ezekiel: **510 feet long, 85 feet wide, 51 feet tall**.

We know very little about the technologies onboard that ark. **We can calculate the carrying capacity.**

With the shorter cubit (17.5”) 1,400,000 cubic feet. The capacity equal to 522 standard livestock cars. 240 sheep can be transported in a standard livestock car; thus the capacity would be equivalent to **125,000 sheep size animals**.

At the Ark Encounter they estimated that there were approximately **1,400** animal kinds.

**Vs 16** - Here we are provided additional details including that it will have a roof.

The word translated roof is the Hebrew word צֹהַר (**tsohar**) (tso'-har). The exact meaning of this word in this context is somewhat unclear: **Roof** (ESV, HCSB, NIV, NRSV); **Light** (ASV); **Window** (Geneva, KJV, NASB, NKJV)

The word generally means, **noon, midday, or day**. It seems to have a reference to light, thus window or roof.

The word is in the plural, and I would lean towards windows that allowed light into multiple compartments or multiple windows.

**Vs 16b** - Thus it seems this roof, window, or windows will finish above 1 cubit or 20.4 inches.

**Vs 16c** - You shall set a single door in the side of the ark.

**One and only one way in!** The ark was the vehicle and method that God would preserve life, and there was only one way into that ark.

**APPLCIATION:** This of course reminds us of the **Lord Jesus Christ** and the **gospel**.

*"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (Joh 14:6 ESV)*

*"7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." (Joh 10:7-9 ESV)*

Now, it is obvious you and I are being told the bare minimum about this ark, we can imagine that more would have been communicated to Noah, but we can also imagine that in some cases he would have deployed modern technologies in the construction.

**Vs 16d** - So the ark will have three decks, like the model in Kentucky.

**Vs 17** - God clearly articulates to Noah and to you and I, why an ark is needed and what He is about to do.

- 1) God says "I" will bring a **flood of waters** upon the earth.
- 2) This flood of waters is going to destroy "all" flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven.
  - a. (Int #3) Angels are ministering spirits, they are spiritual beings, we must imagine that their decision to take on the form of a man must have somehow been permanent.
  - b. (Int #3) We must also imagine that their half-breed offspring are both now flesh, and have the breath of life.
- 3) Everything that is "upon" the earth shall die.
  - a. This does not include bugs and insects.
  - b. This does not include animals that live in the oceans, although many will die, but not all.

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**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.*

**Vs 18** - God makes a covenant with Noah and all who will come into the ark.

Theologians refer to this as the Noahic covenant, and it is an unconditional covenant made by God to those who will come unto the ark. It is clearly made to Noah and his wife along with Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their wives.

This is the first use of the Hebrew word for **covenant** in the Old Testament.

This covenant will be elaborated on in **Gen 9:9-17**.

**Vs 19-20** - So of all of the birds, animals and things that creep on the ground that have the breath of life, of all these forms of living flesh, Noah is to bring two of every kind.

This will be expanded upon later, but for the moment just imagine two of every kind coming onto the ark.

All dinosaurs start out in an egg that is no bigger than a rugby football.

God would have brought the young one to Noah to load on the ark:

- 1) Smaller.
- 2) Longer viability leaving the ark.

The goal in bringing them onboard the ark is to “keep them alive.” We are told that twice in two verses. The point, unless they are in the ark they will perish from the face of the earth!

Equally, they are to be male and female.

Henry Morris says in his commentary that no more than **60% of the ark** would have been taken up by animals.

**This leaves a great deal of room for water, food, and humans!**

Humans, who would hear Noah’s preaching (II Pet 2:5) and need to respond by faith.

**Vs 21** - Noah is also commanded to take every sort of food.

Now at this point, if we understand this correctly, the food would be various grasses, seeds, fruit, vegetables and oats.

He is to “store them up.” What he brings onboard is to serve as food for the animals and food for the humans.

We can imagine that this would have been a fairly large undertaking and like the construction of this massive wooden ark, Noah and his sons would have been involved, but they would have also hired out a great deal of the labor.

**Vs 22** - Just a few Hebrew words but loaded with important truth for you and I to consider.

First, this is very easy to understand. Noah did, what God commanded him.

**APPLICATION:** Do we do (at least consistently try to do) what our sovereign Lord and King (Jesus tells us to do)? Do we know what he tells us to do? Do we read the Bible looking for guidance from King Jesus?

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