

Genesis 6:5-8 *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 [it made the LORD regret] 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 [it makes me sorry] that I have made them." But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*

I. Introduction

A. Noah

1. The world of Noah's day had millions of people in it, but only one man caught God's graceful eye in his day.
2. Noah's world & culture filled with violence & wickedness
3. Grace: Receiving gift not earned or merited, free gift. Often used as an acrostic; **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**

B. **Three** discernments of the divine eye of God

2 Chronicles 16:9 *For **the eyes of the LORD run to and fro** [see everywhere] **throughout the whole earth**, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect [mature, complete] toward him. Herein thou [King David] hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth [from this time forward] thou shalt have wars.*

II. **First** Discernment – Declared Decadence

A. God tells us of the horrible condition that man's heart has made for himself

B. Absence of sorrow by people for the evil they were doing

1. When God first created the earth it was "very good"
 - a. Genesis chapters 1 & 2 record events of the creation week
 - b. God makes man and woman in His image – Genesis 1.26
 - c. God made His creation without sickness, sorrow, or sin – Genesis 1:31
2. God created both Adam & Eve – Genesis 2:15, 18, 22

C. Ambush of Satan

1. Satan's trap

- a. Satan questions God's Word – Genesis 3:1. Satan's traps always challenge God's Word. This is the first time God's Word is challenged
 - b. Eve tells Satan her understanding of God's command – Genesis 3:2-3
 - c. Satan questions God's command again a second time – Genesis 3:4-5
 - d. Eve falls for the temptation & takes one bite of the forbidden fruit– Genesis 3:6
2. Satan always wants to ruin God's perfect creation
- a. When God makes something perfect it cannot be changed by anyone without making it worse than it was
 - b. Satan wants to steal God's work
- John 10:10 ***The thief cometh not, but for*** [The thief only appears when he wants] ***to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I*** [Jesus] ***am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.***

D. Acceleration of sin

- 1. Adam & Eve disobeyed to God's command
 - a. They did one little sin
 - b. But their sin came upon all people of all ages since that one act of disobedience
- 2. Problem with a little sin is it never stays small
 - a. Sin multiplies itself. **Sin will always** take you farther than you want to go

James 1:14-15 *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and **sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.***
 - b. Among sons of Adam & Eve, Cain murdered his brother Abel. **Sin will always** cost you more than you want to pay

Genesis 4:8 *And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.*
 - c. Example of David's sin with Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11, David's idleness with his wandering eyes, turned to lust, adultery, lies, deception, coverup, & finally murder. **Sin will always** keep you longer than you want to stay.
- 3. God saw the great wickedness upon the earth during Noah's time

III. **Second Discernment – Divine Disgust**

A. God tells us about His view of the results of man's heart

B. Provoked eye (God saw what was being done as a result of men's evil hearts)

1. God provoked by the great wickedness in actions & thoughts (imagination)

2. God sees who is righteous & who is proud

2 Samuel 22:28 *And the afflicted [troubled, persecuted] people thou wilt save: but **thine eyes are upon the haughty** [proud], that thou mayest bring them down.*

3. Lord sees everything that everyone does

Psalms 11:4-5 *The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: **his eyes behold**, his eyelids try, **the children of men**. The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.*

B. Permeating evil (God saw that man would not change his ways)

1. God saw "...that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually"

2. God looks first at the heart. People cannot fool God

1 Samuel 16:7 *But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance [facial attractiveness], or on the height of his stature [physical attractiveness]; because I have refused him [the future King David's older brother]: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for **man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart**.*

3. God is in the business of testing the heart

Jeremiah 17:10 *I the LORD **search the heart**, I try the reins [the way someone controls themselves], even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings [the way he behaves].*

C. Pronounced expression (God judged the world of Noah's day)

1. God makes his decision to destroy all life on the earth

2. God has plenty of mercy for everyone

a. God is slow to anger & full of mercy

Psalms 103:8 *The LORD is merciful and gracious, **slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy**.*

b. God gives Noah's generation 120 years to repent

Genesis 6:3 *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**.*

3. But God will not permit sin to continue out of control

a. God will not allow evil in His presence

Psalm 5:4 *For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: **neither shall evil dwell with thee.***

b. God judges the righteous & gets angry with the wicked

Psalm 7:11 *God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.*

c. Scoffers in the last days

2 Peter 3:3, 5-7 *Knowing this first, that **there shall come in the last days scoffers**, walking after their own lusts, ... For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water [God created heaven & earth by His word]: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished [the world as God originally created it was destroyed by a flood]: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition [destruction] of ungodly men.*

IV. **Third** Discernment – Delightful Discovery

A. God found one man who made a difference in his generation: Noah

B. Noah's stature (uprightness)

1. First time word "grace" used in Scriptures

2. God saw that one man whose heart longed for fellowship with Him; Noah found grace in the sight of the Lord

C. Noah's stand

1. God saw Noah as just & blameless in his generation

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

2. Warning about your friends & associates

2 Corinthians 6:14 *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

3. Live life that stands out to God – holy living

1 Peter 1:14-15 *As obedient children, not fashioning [behaving] yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation [living];*

D. Noah's submission (Noah's lifestyle before God gave him the job of building the ark)

1. Noah walked with God before his marriage & before his son's births
2. Christian steps to match Savior's steps

1 John 2:5-6 *But whoso keepeth his [Jesus'] word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby [in this way] know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth [lives] in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he [Jesus] walked.*

E. Noah's salvation

1. God instructs Noah

- a. To build wooden barge

Genesis 6:14 *Make thee [Noah] an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it [seal it against water] within and without with pitch [tar].*

- b. God tells Noah to come inside the ark of wood. God was with Noah's family when destruction came, not outside in the storm.

Genesis 7:1 *And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.*

2. Noah's ark of safety to keep his family alive

V. Conclusion

A. Noah's ark is a symbol of God's grace

1. Similar to Moses' Ark of the Covenant

- a. Wooden box with Mercy Seat on top where lamb's blood placed each year during Passover Feast, the blood a covering for the sin of the nation Israel
- b. The Ark stayed inside Tabernacle (Tent) at Shiloh until it was moved into Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem

2. Wooden cross where Jesus died, the place of God's grace

Galatians 3:13 *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

B. Jesus act of grace on the cross

1. Jesus died on the cross as the payment for our sin

Galatians 3:13 *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

2. God showed us His love for each of us while we were still sinners

*Romans 5:7-8 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure [perhaps] for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth [demonstrated, showed] his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us.*