

Sermon Outline and Questions

Pastor Dave – Sun 24th Sept

Back To the Beginning

This is a sobering passage of scripture –reflecting upon conversations we have had over the past few years – where we talk about how bad things have gotten around us – our culture – our society and our country – a moral decline that is growing exponentially – things that are wicked and sinful.

The account being read far surpasses where we are today.

It serves as a grave warning for us.

Message Title – Desperate Times.

Desperate times in Genesis Ch 6 – reflecting on how we live in desperate times.

We will be looking at sin here and sin now – so devastating – but it ends with a glimmer of hope.

[Genesis 6:1-8 Christian Standard Bible](#)

Sons of God and Daughters of Mankind

6 When mankind began to multiply on the earth and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of mankind were beautiful, and they took any they chose as wives for themselves. ³ And the LORD said, “My Spirit will not remain^[a] with^[b] mankind forever, because they are corrupt.^[c] Their days will be 120 years.” ⁴ The Nephilim^[d] were on the earth both in those days and afterward, when the sons of God came to the daughters of mankind, who bore children to them. They were the powerful men of old, the famous men.

Judgment Decreed

⁵ When the LORD saw that human wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time, ⁶ the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and he was deeply grieved. ⁷ Then the LORD said, “I will wipe mankind, whom I created, off the face of the earth, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky—for I regret that I made them.” ⁸ Noah, however, found favor with the LORD.

- The overarching message in this passage is that things are desperate.

Question – How did everything get to this point?

Prior to this we read that God had said – everything was good – my creation is very good.

- We know that sin enters the picture with Adam and Eve – they rebelled against God eating fruit from the tree of knowledge and good and evil – God having told them they were not to eat of it.

We read of situations of sin through the previous chapters – including with Cain and Abel.

The end of Ch 4 – we read of Enoch and people calling upon the Lord – sounding like people are turning around.

- Then we get to Ch 6, and it is desperate.

As we read these things, we should be asking ourselves – how did we get here – how did it go from bad to worse so quickly?

2 key questions that come out of this passage for those who have studied this out.

Question – Who are sons of God and who are the daughters of mankind – why is there a distinction at the beginning of this passage – about the sons of God, marrying the daughters of man, and the group called the Nephilim – what is all this about?

We may be asking why does this matter?

It matters in a couple of ways.

1. We need to understand as best we can Genesis 6:1-4

The sons of God, marrying the daughters of mankind.

- The rest bringing about a grievous wickedness among the people.

2 views.

When we come across difficult passages of scripture, we need to use scripture to better understand.

- By doing this we will also bring clarity to some New Testament passages that are tied in.

View #1 - The sons of God are the godly descendants of Seth – Sethites – one of Adams sons who wants to follow God. The daughters of man are the ungodly daughters of Cain. We can see this in the earlier chapters. There are those from Adam line that seek to follow God and then there are those who do not. – we saw this in Cain and Abel – Abel sought worship God in the correct manner and Abel did not.

And die to this the marriage unions seem to move towards a sinful lifestyle that dishonors God.

- This view being popular with some of the early church fathers. – Reformers like Calvin and Luther both held to this view.

What is drawn from this which is a biblical application and is consistent with scripture that we need to pay close attention to is that their clear and consistent instruction that God's people should not marry unbelievers.

- Causes significant strife in the life of a marriage – and has drawn through biblical history drawn godly people away from God.

God give this instruction here...

Deuteronomy 7:1-4 Christian Standard Bible

Israel to Destroy Idolatrous Nations

7 “When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess, and he drives out many nations before you—the Hethites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and powerful than you—² and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you and you defeat them, you must completely destroy them. Make no treaty with them and show them no mercy.³ You must not intermarry with them, and you must not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons,⁴ because they will turn your sons away from me to worship other gods. Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and he will swiftly destroy you.

Paul's instruction to the Corinthians.

This passage is not exclusive to marriage – speaking to different kinds of partnerships.

- The instruction is consistent here.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Christian Standard Bible

Separation to God

¹⁴ Do not be yoked together with those who do not believe. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What agreement does Christ have with Belial?^[a] Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we^[b] are the temple of the living God, as God said:

**I will dwell
and walk among them,
and I will be their God,**

and they will be my people.^[c]

¹⁷ Therefore, come out from among them

and be separate, says the Lord;

do not touch any unclean thing,

and I will welcome you.^[d]

¹⁸ And I will be a Father to you,

and you will be sons and daughters to me,

says the Lord Almighty.^[e]

Commentary writer made a point that this view may fall down a little bit.

- If descendants of Seth were truly Godly, they wouldn't have married ungodly people in the first place. – a valid point to bring out.

Another view held by bible believing pastors and scholars.

- More scripture to back up this view.

View #2 – The sons of God are actually angels – angelical like beings – fallen angels but angelic beings.

The daughters of mankind are human beings. This is held by Jewish exegetes' – the Jewish scholars that understood the Hebrews scriptures held to this view – it is the prevailing view now – lots of theologians and biblical scholars that hold this view as well.

Question – Where do they get this view from – impression – understanding.

Fallen angels did end up intermarrying with human women and having offspring.

Why would this even be significant – why would it happen in the first place?

- The phrase sons of God as it used in the Old Testament every time applies to angelic beings.
- The Hebrews phrase – translated in English sons of God is used on 3 other occasions in the OT and every single time it applies to angelic beings.

Job 1:6 Christian Standard Bible

Satan's First Test of Job

⁶ One day the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan^[a] also came with them.

The book of Job written the earliest of all Hebrew scriptures/books.

God calls together the sons of God and Satan is there with them in the heavenly realm.

- Angelic beings.

Job 2:1 Christian Standard Bible

Satan's Second Test of Job

2 One day the sons of God came again to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before the LORD.

This heavenly cord convenes again. – this in reference to God saying, “have you considered Job he is a righteous man”.

Job 38:4-7 Christian Standard Bible

4 Where were you when I established the earth?

Tell me, if you have^[a] understanding.

5 Who fixed its dimensions? Certainly you know!

Who stretched a measuring line across it?

6 What supports its foundations?

Or who laid its cornerstone

7 while the morning stars sang together

and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

These are the 3 other times in the OT when the phrase sons of God is used.

- Each time speaking of angelic beings.

It makes sense through interpreting scripture that the sons of God are angelic beings.

- There is a variation of this phrase – The sons of the mighty – which also only applies to angels used in Psalm 29:1 and Psalm 89:6.

The Old Testament being varied consistent on this point – that the sons of God have marriage relationships with human women.

There is New Testament support for this.

If we hold to this view, it helps us understand 2 NT passages.

2 Peter 2:4-8 Christian Standard Bible

4 For if God didn't spare the angels who sinned but cast them into hell^[a] and delivered them in chains^[b] of utter darkness to be kept for judgment; 5 and if he didn't spare the ancient world, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others,^[c] when he brought the flood on the

world of the ungodly; ⁶ and if he reduced the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes and condemned them to extinction,^[a] making them an example of what is coming to the ungodly; ⁷ and if he rescued righteous Lot, distressed by the depraved behavior of the immoral ⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day by day, his righteous soul was tormented by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—

- Parallel passage.

Jude 6-7 Christian Standard Bible

⁶ and the angels who did not keep their own position but abandoned their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains in deep darkness for the judgment on the great day. ⁷ Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns committed sexual immorality and perversions,^[a] and serve as an example by undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

- These passages talk about God having a very special judgement on angels – that lived during the time of Noah.
- Jude references that these angels did not keep their own position but abandoned their proper dwelling.
- Jude – they not only left heaven, but they were engaged in something that was not proper for their station – inconsistent with marrying human women. God having a very specific judgement on these angels.

2 Peter 2 – says very much the same thing about the specific judgement that these angels had at the time of Noah.

Scripture seems very clear that the best interpretation is this.

One thing raised as a possible rebuttal is ...

- When Jesus is talking to the Sadducees and they come up with this scheme to try and trip Jesus up and they say “ you know the OT law – there was a guy who was married and then he died – and he doesn’t have any offspring – and his brother takes his wife – and he doesn’t have any offspring – all seven brothers end up being married to this lady – and they don’t have any offspring – when they get to heaven – at the resurrection – whose wife is she going to be?

The Sadducees thought they had Jesus because they didn’t believe in the resurrection of the dead.

Jesus says...

Well at the resurrection they are going to be like the angels in heaven not marrying or given to marriage.

And so, people will say – see Jesus says that angels don’t marry.

If we look at the passage of scripture clearly Jesus is saying that the angels in heaven don’t marry – we are going to be like the angels in heaven – they don’t marry – they are not given to marriage.

But if we look at it in light of Jude's statement.

- These angels didn't keep their proper position.
- This is at least some argument in scripture for this.

Something else we may wish to consider is that every time angels are described in the scriptures they are always described in the masculine – never the feminine – never the neuter.

- When they present themselves to human beings in scripture, they always present themselves as a man.

We can assume that if they come in the appearance of man, then maybe they are going to be able to take on the physical attributes of a man.

- We do know when 2 of the angels came with God and should themselves in human form to Abraham, they actually sat down and ate with him.

This is a help to understand the significance of what is going on.

- The sons of God are fallen angels, and they take in a wrong and perverted way human women as their mates and have offspring.
- This angers God as it is a complete corruption of what God ever intended.

Question – why is this important – why is this understanding significant?

It is significant because if we go back to Genesis 3:15.

God is sharing with Adam and Eve – and the serpent the ramifications of sin – he curses the snake – then he says to Satan...

[Genesis 3:15 Christian Standard Bible](#)

[15 I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring.^{\[a\]}
He will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.](#)

It is the first mention of the gospel – proto evangelium – the coming of the deliverer – who is going to bring salvation to those who believe.

- He is going to strike a death blow to Satan – Satan knows this is God's plan because God shared it with him.
- It makes sense that Satan a few chapters over many generations later – says...

“You know what I am going to thwart Gods plan – the deliver can’t come if I corrupt all of mankind – maybe of these demons have offspring with women, the deliverer will never come, and I will win”.

Question that people have – Who are the Nephilim?

God declares that this is such a desperate situation that my spirit will not remain with humankind for ever because they are corrupt – now their days are 120 years.

God just like with Nineveh says – behold 40 days and I will destroy Nineveh.

- The idea being – if you don’t repent in this period of time you are going to be destroyed.

God is giving these people during this time an opportunity to repent.

- Because in the 1 Peter passage Noah is called a preacher of righteousness – the implication is that Noah during this time is imploring people – you need to repent – repent of your sin and turn to God – so that he will not bring this judgment on you.

Nephilim – one scholar who says that he believes that these were just men who were renowned / famous – that they were there before the angelic humans being had children with women – they were there after those children were born.

- Some will say that they are the unnatural offspring between the demons and women.

What we know from the passage – is to not make them more than what they are.

- Some saying they are demigods.
- This isn’t in the passage.

This word is only used one more time - Numbers 13.

- An evil report.
- Although they used the phrase – we are not able to trust them as they were lying.

Nephilim – means fallen ones – traditionally described meaning giants – but we don’t know truly who these characters were. What we do know is that they were powerful men of old and that they were famous – that they were men.

- They are not more than that.
- God has to judge the sin that is in the world – this is what we know.

Thinking about the judgement that is to come.

- God is going to explain that he is going to bring a flood on the earth and that he is going to destroy all human life and all birds and creeping things.

Thinking about the flood that was going to come and Gods judgement – to word the point from this artistic perspective.

- The black clouds are taking shape.

God says in chapter 6:5.

Judgment Decreed

⁵ When the LORD saw that human wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time,

- Showing us how desperate things were here.

It wouldn't be too hard to get a picture in our minds of what this would have looked like.

- As we think of the wickedness around us – even just to think about the evil child trafficking – child sex slaves – children being sold as slaves – enforced labour.
- We would look at this as Christians as followers of Jesus – as being wicked – its evil.

Now if we were to ramp this up – this is what is going on in this time.

Scripture goes on to say that the human heart is deceitful above all and desperately wicked, who can know?

- We are not able to plumb the depths of how wicked and evil the human heart is.

Paul in Romans 13 talks about this.

Romans 3:10-12 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁰ as it is written:

There is no one righteous, not even one.

¹¹ **There is no one who understands;**

there is no one who seeks God.

¹² **All have turned away;**

all alike have become worthless.

There is no one who does what is good,

not even one.^[a]

Jesus in Matthew 15

Matthew 15:10-20 Christian Standard Bible

Defilement Is from Within

¹⁰ Summoning the crowd, he told them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹ It's not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth—this defiles a person.”

¹² Then the disciples came up and told him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?”

¹³ He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father didn’t plant will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Leave them alone! They are blind guides.^[a] And if the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

¹⁵ Then Peter said, “Explain this parable to us.”

¹⁶ “Do you still lack understanding?” he^[b] asked. ¹⁷ “Don’t you realize^[c] that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is eliminated?^[d] ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For from the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false testimonies, slander. ²⁰ These are the things that defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile a person.”

- The heart is deceitful above all and desperately wicked.

We all may know people that don’t know Jesus who are not saved and say of them that they are pretty moral.

And we have met saved Christians who are immoral and compare them to our unsaved friends.

- Thinking about having a sense of right and wrong – sensing to do good.

The reality is that it comes from a corrupt heart.

- Sin taints even the good things that we try to do as God’s people.

Jesus says to his disciples – that the days are coming that in the days of Noah where Gods judgment is going to come on the people. He says – when people were eating and drinking and given to marriage and they didn’t realise the judgement was coming.

- Jesus saying that are eating and drinking wrong – no.
- Is getting married wrong – no.

But what Jesus is pointing out and if we look back to Noah’s day that in doing all these things, they were doing from the heart perspective that there is no God and that they don’t need to live for God, living the way they want to live.

- Even at that it is still Godless.

As we look at God destroying people in their wickedness – we look at this and say that is not good – reflecting on the fact that we sing “God you’re so good”.

Second thing to leave with.

- Not an oh by the way!

This will lead into our teaching on Noah and the ark and God's deliverance.

- An intro to next week.

Genesis 6:8

⁸ Noah, however, found favor with the LORD.

- Unmerited favour was on Noah – Noah experienced the grace of God.

Why – because he loved God and was a man of God – a man who wanted to worship and follow God.

- Described as a preacher of righteousness.
- A man of faith.

A man who had favour with God – who God was going to deliver from this judgement with his family.

What does John 1 say when Jesus comes?

The picture of Noah and the deliverance he provided for Noah and his family, deliverance from judgement is a picture of Jesus and the salvation that he provides for those who believe in him.

- The deliverer is going to come.
- The deliverer is going to die on the cross.
- He is going to shed his blood to save people from their sin.
- He is going to die, he is going to rise again.

He is the saviour – He is Jesus Christ – the one who is going to come for Noah and those in the OT he is the one who came – who we look back at and say...

“He is my saviour.”

John 1 Christian Standard Bible

⁴ In him was life,^[a] and that life was the light of men. ⁵ That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome^[b] it.

No matter how hard Satan tried he couldn't thwart God's plan of deliverance for salvation.

No how hard he tried in possessing Judas and betraying Jesus – all he did was move along God's plan.

Question – Have you experienced the grace of God – Have you come to grips with your sinfulness before God – and put your faith and trust in Jesus to save you?

Ephesians says that we are dead in our trespasses and sins – we really follow after the same the people did describe in Genesis 6 – a Godless life – following after our evil wicked passions – but yet God wants to save us from our sin.

Question - As Christians have, we taken some time this week to just be thankful for the grace of God in our life. Have we taken the time to think about what would I have been like – what would life be like but for Jesus.

Our lives would be full of a void that could not be filled by anything other than Jesus.

Let us be thankful for the grace of God.

As Christians do we treat sin the way that God treats sin – do we hate it like God hates it – do we even come close to where we want to root that out of our lives because it is so unpleasing to God?