

**Introduction to the Study of GENESIS Chapters 6:
Sin's Total Corruption *Brings* God's Universal Judgment**

Chapters 3 through 6 highlight this fundamental message, 'sin never remains simply stagnant or neutral'. Indeed, the progress of sin is unrelenting and always downward, becoming evermore violent and destructive (6:5,11,13). Adam's *singular* disobedience rapidly multiplied bringing unimaginable corruption and terrible consequences into the world. These early narratives of man's beginning reveal the birth of sin, its growth and its inevitable and wholly-evil end. The accounts further expose the murderous and vile character of the serpent (i.e., Satan), the deceptive perpetrator of sin in the world, both then and now (see John 8:42-45).

In verse 6 the first reference is made to the *heart* of God; while man's *heart* was filled with wickedness, God's *heart* was filled with bitter grief because of man's utter corruption (v.5). In response, God's judgment was to be catastrophic: "*I will blot out man*" says the LORD, "*whom I have created from the face of the land.*" (v.7). But one man - because of his righteousness - found favor (or grace) in the eyes of the LORD: the man Noah.

Spiritually speaking, Noah stands remarkable tall in Scripture. Not only do his spiritual qualities, as given in verse 9, represent the characteristics of Godliness throughout the OT, and even in the NT (i.e., he was "righteous, ... blameless, ... [and] ... walked with God"; see also, Ezekiel 14:14,20; Heb. 11:7; 2 Peter 2:5); but moreover, he heads the *only* household God's spares in the flood! By comparison, the prophet Elijah cried out to the LORD that in the prophet's day he only remained faithful to God; after which, however, God encouraged him that the remnant was actually 7000. But Noah in his day was truly the *only* one that Scripture records as "righteous"! (note: Noah's household may have been also, thus bringing the total to 8). Noah's example of Godly courage, faithfulness and devotion is still one for all saints to remember and imitate.

The chapter concludes with God's instruction to Noah for building the massive ark that would preserve animal life on the earth. The final verse (v.22) is powerful for its emphasis, especially in light of the failures of man in his earliest history; chapter 6 ends with this high commendation: "*Noah did all that God commanded him.*" Amen, and amen!

Totally Corrupt Humanity; Righteous Noah; Universal Judgment from God (6:1-22)

A. Adam's Race Becomes Totally Corrupted by Sin - 6:1-10

1. With Evil Intent the “Sons of God” ravage the “daughters of man” (vv.1-4)

* Three identifications most commonly held (concerning the co-habitation of mankind with angelic beings, see Jude 6,7; 2 Peter 2:4,5)

* Their Offspring (*Nephilim*) in those days, and *Rephaim* after the Flood (Numbers 13:33; Deut. 1:28; 2:10-11,20-21; 3:11,13; Joshua 11:21,22)

* These were “mighty men” who violently dominated the earth

2. God: Moved to Grief and Worldwide Judgment (vv.5-7)

* “*Every imagination of man’s heart was only evil continually.*” (v.6)

* God’s heart was deeply *grieved*; Universal judgment *determined* (v.7)

3. BUT God Extends Grace to Noah: a Righteous Remnant Preserved (v.8-10)

* Noah’s Threefold *Commendation* (v.9)
(*righteous, blameless, and he “walked with God”*)

* Noah’s Three Sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth (v.10)

B. God’s Coming Judgment and His Ark of Deliverance – 6:11-22

1. Violence fills the earth (vv.11-13)

2. God instructs Noah to build an Ark to preserve life (vv.14-21)

3. Noah obeys the Word of the LORD (v.22)