

Text: Gen 6.1-22

We now come to the story of the Flood, one of the key stories to understanding the world in which we now live.

Two profound events affected creation:

- The fall that brought sin and death into the world
- The flood that came upon all men because of the exceeding wickedness of men

The story of the Flood occupies four chapters of Genesis, so we will take some time on this.

I. The corruption of mankind (1-8)**A. The curious part of the story****1. The 'sons of God' — who are they?**

- a. In Job, the 'sons of God' are angels (Job 1.6, cf. 2.1, 38.7)

Job 1.6 ¶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

- b. In the NT, the 'sons of God' are Christian believers

- c. Some want to make 'sons of God' angels in Gen 6

2. Another curiosity, the 'Nephilim' — "mighty men of renown" (4)

Some want to make these men the product of angels and human women

Yet...

3. The whole emphasis of the story is the degradation of men

- a. God saw the wickedness of men (5)

- b. God was sorry he had made man (6)

- c. God determined to blot man out (7)

4. Conclusion:

- a. The sons of God are the line of Seth

- b. The daughters of men are from the line of Cain

- c. The context is the two lines in Gen 4-5
 - 1) The line of men produces the religion of death
 - 2) The line of faith produces the religion of life
- d. Now we see all men everywhere becoming corrupt
- e. The two lines were mixing, the distinctions were erasing, the wickedness was increasing

B. The Lord's determination: to start over

- 1. First, to destroy the wicked: all the wicked
- 2. Second, to give grace to Noah (8)
 - a. Methusaleh died in the year of the flood (probably not in the flood)
 - b. Noah's father had passed five years before the flood
 - c. It seems the line traced from Seth to Noah was a line of faithful men (see Enoch and Lamech)
- 3. Consequently, God determined to "do it over" starting with Noah and his sons

II. The *tôlēdôt* of Noah (9-12)

A. The middle part of the chapter has a "formal" ring to it

B. It uses the word *tôlēdôt* — "these are ... the **generations** of Noah"

- 1. The word is related to childbirth, but not specifically any individual
- 2. It stands as a header for describing "what happened next" — always indicates a new phase of revelation in Genesis
- 3. Noah found favor: These are the *tôlēdôt* of Noah

C. Contents of the *tôlēdôt*

- 1. Noah's sons
- 2. God's view of the earth
- 3. What God did about it

III. The instructions for the ark (13-22)

A. God told Noah to build an ark (13-16)

1. He announced his plans
2. He gave specific water-proofing instructions
3. He gave the dimensions

B. God told Noah he would have a load of passengers: animals of all kinds (17-20)

C. God told Noah to provide food for himself and the animals (21)

Gn 6.22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did.

Conclusion:

God doesn't tolerate sin forever, though he apparently allows sin to grow, develop, and come to maturity.

The wickedness on the earth was very great in those days, it came to the point where God judged the whole earth.

Considering the wickedness we see on the earth today, we wonder:

1. Was the wickedness then worse than the wickedness now?
2. When will God judge the present wickedness?
3. What should we do about the wickedness of our day?

We can't fully answer all these questions, but God does call us to live righteously and godly in this present world.

We need to make knowing God and following him the first priority of our lives.