

The Decay of Sin (Part 2)

Genesis 5-6

- A. [Part 1. Through Death.](#) Genesis 5
- B. Part 2. Through Disintegration of Society. Genesis 6
1. Gen. 6:1-4 describes a chief contributing factor to the degree to which the earth's population became completely corrupt.
 - a. Describe what was happening in Genesis 6:1-2. ¹
 - b. How many years would God wait before judging the earth? (6:3).
 - c. Who were the Nephilim? ² (6:4)
 2. What was God's view of society on earth? (6:5).

¹ Genesis 6:1-2 - Describe what was happening: The question revolves around the identity of "the sons of God" and "the daughters of men" (Gen. 6:2, 4). There are two main views that attempt to interpret what was happening here. **(1) The term "sons of God" refers to the male descendants of the godly line of Seth, while the term "daughters of men" refers to the female descendants of the ungodly line of Cain.** To me this is a forced interpretation which does not adequately explain either the text or the moral bankruptcy of society in Genesis 6 or the precipitous action that God took in Genesis 7. **(2) The term "sons of God" refers to fallen angels who inhabited the bodies of men, and the term "daughters of men" refers to human women.** The result was a demonically-inhabited and demonically-influenced society that became utterly perverse. In defense of this view, there are other times (outside of Gen. 6:2, 4) that the term "sons of God" is used where it doubtless refers to angels (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7). Furthermore, Peter identified a class of angels that sinned in such a manner that they were cast into Tartarus (2 Pet. 2:4). Additionally, Jude referred to a class of angels that did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode (Jude 1:6). These angels are kept in eternal bonds under darkness, awaiting the great day of judgment. There is a correlation between these angels and the perverted men of Sodom and Gomorrah. Both groups indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh (Gen. 19:1-11; Jude 1:7). Since the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities were incinerated, they serve as an example of "the punishment of eternal fire" that awaits not only these angels that did not keep their first estate (Jude 1:7), but also all of humanity whose names are not found written in the Book of Life (Rev. 20:14-15). Clearly in Genesis 6 something had happened that had so corrupted the human race that God had no recourse but to destroy virtually all of humanity and leave only a Godly remnant from which to repopulate the earth.

² Genesis 6:4 - Who were the Nephilim? Translations as varied as the [NASB](#), ESV, NIV, Holman Christian Standard Bible, and New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition do not translate the Hebrew text. They simply use the plural Hebrew noun, *Nephilim* ([5303](#)). Versions as varied as the KJV, Living Bible, and The Message translate the word as "giants." That is probably the best translation. (See, for example, the note on [Gen. 6:4 in the Net Bible.](#)) The noun appears only 3X in the OT, here in Genesis 6:4 and twice in Numbers 13:33. This latter reference clearly connotes the large stature of the Nephilim. Regardless, the Nephilim (giants) appeared both before and after the "sons of God" had conjugal relations with the "daughters of men." However, it is all but implied that the ungodly union between the "sons of God" and the "daughters of men" also adversely affected the Nephilim (giants). There were Nephilim among those who became "mighty men of old," "men of renown."

3. How did God feel? (6:6).
4. What did He resolve to do? (6:7).
5. What was God's view of Noah? (6:8-10).
6. God's view of society is described again (6:11-12). What can be said about human society at that time?
7. How does modern man compare?
8. What did God intend to do? (6:13).
9. How was He going to accomplish His plan? (6:17).
10. God had a plan to save Noah and his family (6:14-16).
 - a. What was he to build (6:14)? ³
 - b. How would it be made water tight?
 - c. How large was it (6:15)?
 - d. How many decks (6:16)?
11. How intent was God on saving Noah and his family (6:18)?
12. How was Noah to save representative animal species (6:19-20)?
13. What was Noah to provide for both the humans and the animals (6:21)?
14. What was Noah's response to God's instructions (6:22)?

³ 6:14 - ark: The term "ark," *tēbah* ([8392](#)) refers to a box or chest. However, this was to be an extraordinarily large box! It would be constructed of gopher wood, water-proofed with tar. In effect, it would be a gigantic floating barge with three stories. It was not designed to sail to any destination. It was designed for stability – to survive the most massive thunderstorm, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis in the history of the earth without capsizing. Moses, the author of Genesis, used this word 26X in Genesis 6:14-9:18. Later, Moses' mother placed him in a much smaller box made of papyrus reeds (Exod. 2:3, 5).

15. What lessons can we learn from chapters Genesis 6?
 - a. About the nature of sin?
 - b. About the consequences of sin?
 - c. About the character of man?
 - d. About the character of God?
 - e. About the extent of the promised flood?

The Decay of Sin, Part 2 – Genesis 6 (Study 7B)

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