

# GENESIS 6:6-22

## “BUTS AND BOATS” or “A GREAT EVIL AND GREATER GRACE”

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Years ago I met the father of a very famous televangelist. I recognized this gentleman's last name and immediately saw a resemblance to the TV preacher. When I asked if they were related, the man hung his head and immediately begged me not to attach him to any of his son's actions. He was ashamed of what his son had become. While I felt that his son was somewhat of a charlatan, I didn't really expect such an adverse reaction. The old man went on to do all he could to distance himself from his son, assuring me that he hadn't raised him that way. I can remember thinking how sad it would be if the first words out of my father's mouth were the ones I had just heard. It was a sad conversation.

And that is where we find ourselves today. We find a Father almost despondent (anthropomorphism) about his children and what they had become.

Last week we talked about the fallen angels and the giants. There are still some that feel this judgment and sentiment from God was due to Godly men marrying wild women. However, reading the text we see that God was grieved to the point that He wised He hadn't even created mankind. Now, as bad as it is for good men to marry wild women, I don't think it would garner this sort of response from God, at least not to the point that He would destroy all life on the planet with the exception of eight souls. Therefore we see that the underlying sin behind all God's grief and judgment was due to something much worse. A line had been crossed; a supernatural line. Fallen angels had taken women as wives and a hybrid race of giants came to be. These fallen ones taught the people all sorts of dark arts, including abortion. They began to cross the lines whereby God had said that everything was to reproduce after it's kind. These fallen ones, being supernatural in nature, left their first estate, their spiritual bodies and took on the bodies of men. When they had children with mortal women, they crossed a line; the “kind” line. History says that along with the dark arts they began to crossbreed humans and animals, creating some of the “mythical” creatures of folklore.

Whether you believe it went this far or not is your own business, but I want to stress that whatever it was that was going on wasn't your everyday, run of the mill, sin.

Just read the text. The severity of the judgment, as well as God's grief, are responses to an evil so great that it merits the near extinction of the human race.

Look at this principle as we see it in the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah. Did God "nuke" Sodom and Gomorrah due to the sin of homosexuality? If so, why did He wait so long? Why hasn't He repeated this judgment at other times and other places? The Greco-Roman world was replete with homosexuality and pedophilia. Why not nuke them?

The answer is, God didn't nuke Sodom and Gomorrah because of homosexuality. Is it a sin? Yes it is. But it wasn't that the men of the city wanted to be with other men. They wanted to be with angels! That line could not be crossed again. So it warranted the severity of judgment of which we read.

As we pick up in verse 6, that is what we find today. Due to the way the chapter is written I will read all the way through verse 22 and then get to the details.

***6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.***

#### ***Noah Pleases God***

***9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.***

***11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.***

#### ***The Ark Prepared***

***13 And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy***

*them with the earth. 14 Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. 15 And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 16 You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks. 17 And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 19 And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. 20 Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. 21 And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.”*

*22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.*

So man's sin was so bad that God decided to clean house. But what did the animals do? Were they just collateral damage? I don't believe so. Personally, I believe that there were all kinds of weird things going on that involved animals and humans – hybrids. You have the freedom to disagree, but to me this is the only explanation whereby the punishment fits the crime. We are talking about so great an evil that God is going to wipe out virtually all life on earth. Just think about that. As God said in Isaiah 1:18, “Come let us reason together.”

How great an evil it must have been! In verses 11 and 12 we see that the very earth was corrupt and ALL FLESH had corrupted it's way. Everything was evil and the thoughts of people were ONLY EVIL ALL THE TIME! In the coming weeks we will read of how things were beginning to reach this fever pitch again so that God had to confuse the languages so as to slow down the evil they could accomplish had they been able to communicate with each other in a concentrated area.

How great an evil is this? I want you to take that home with you. I want this to stand out to you. REALLY look at the words. Don't just read over them. Think through them. Meditate on what they are saying. Meditate on what is happening.

THE EARTH AND ALL FLESH WAS CORRUPT! So much so that the planet as it was and ALL Flesh save eight people and some animals were destroyed! WOW! And you see this theme repeated verse after verse, throughout the chapter.

Then... you see tucked in among these verses, some “buts.”

I was once told that there weren't any “buts” in the Bible. Thank the Lord that person was wrong. Look at verse eight.

***8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.***

God is about to bring judgment on ALL FLESH, “But Noah found grace!”

It surprises some people that grace is found in the Old Testament. They think of God as some sort of ogre who orders genocide on a whim. That isn't true. If you look at the nations God ordered to be destroyed, you will find they all had one thing in common. They were all races of giants! Once again, there was a great evil that merited such a great judgment. All other cities and peoples in the Promised Land were afforded the opportunity to surrender and assimilate. The only ones that were to be exterminated were those that contained the hybrid seeds that were giants.

However, in the midst of all this GREAT EVIL, we see an even GREATER GRACE given.

***9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.***

*Chapter 7*

*1 Then the Lord said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are **righteous** before Me in this generation.*

This is the first time the word “righteousness” is used in the Bible. But Noah's righteousness is also mentioned in:

- Ezekiel 14:14, 20
- Heb. 11:7
- 2 Peter 2:5

Noah was seen as righteous in God's eyes.

***Heb. 11:6,7***

***6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.***

***7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.***

Noah's righteousness didn't come from his good works rather his good works came because of his righteousness. Just like Abraham, his righteousness was God's gift in response to his faith.

***Gen. 15:6***

***6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.***

The only righteousness God will accept is the righteousness of Jesus Christ, His Son.

***2 Cor. 5:21***

***21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

And the only way to receive that righteousness is to admit our sinful condition and trusting Jesus to save us.

***Gal. 2:16***

***16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.***

***(Romans 3:19-30 also)***

Noah was a "just" man, perfect in his generations. Notice that it doesn't say that Noah was a perfect man. He was a just man. The word 'just' means to

have integrity, whole, unblemished. It is the same word used to describe the animals that acceptable for sacrifice. Noah's conduct was blameless. His peers could find nothing for which to condemn him. Noah did nothing in his walk to stumble them. Nothing could be found to besmirch his testimony! Wow! We have to ask ourselves of the same can be said for us. Noah's very walk and talk was a ministry in and of itself. Most of us however would say his ministry wasn't successful. Think about it, the whole world was destroyed even though Noah preached vigorously of the coming judgment.

But was his ministry fruitless?

I don't think so. His family was saved! If no one else listened, his children did! And thereby they were saved from judgment. That makes for a great epitaph on a tombstone.

*"He ministered to his children, saving their souls from judgment and preserving the human race and thereby eventually ushering in the Savior of all mankind!"*

What greater testimony could we have than to have our children follow us in faith? It is certainly better than what the father of that famous televangelist said of his son.

Noah blessed his family even if no one else listened.

***Gen. 6:18***

***18 But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.***

This brought on a covenant that God established with Noah. This covenant had an effect on all mankind. The actions of one man played a role in the history of the world.

Jesus was one man. He affected the lives of all of us. He affected history.

We may not affect all of human history, but we can have an affect on those around us.

(Concentric circles and the lady wanting to do outreach.)

We will deal with the Noahic covenant at a later time.

I also want you to see Noah's obedience.

You are most likely familiar with the term, "Walk of faith." Our lives as Christians are known as a "walk" because the Christian life begins with one step: trusting Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

This step of faith leads to a daily walk: one step at a time. Most of us don't give the act of walking a second thought. It is almost involuntary to most of us. However, we are told a great deal, as Christians about how to walk.

***Eph. 5:2***

***2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet- smelling aroma.***

***Eph. 5:8***

***Walk in Light***

***8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.***

***Walk in Wisdom***

***Eph. 5:15,16***

***15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.***

***Gal. 5:16***

***Walking in the Spirit***

***16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.***

A major theme in the Bible is that we are not only to hear God's Word but we are to obey them.

***James 1:22-25***

***22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a***

*forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

Noah's obedience saved his entire "house."

***Mt. 7:24-27***

***24 " Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.***

***26 " But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."***

We hear a great deal to day concerning 'peer pressure' and its effects on our children. It is the excuse fro all sorts of illegal and immoral behavior. By this one mechanism, most anything can be justified, from sex before marriage to cheating on one's taxes. Peer pressure is seen by many as something, which came about in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

However, there is nothing new or modern about it.

Think about Noah. We are told that Noah was a preacher of righteousness. He was very outspoken about his faith. His family tree had a reputation for being people of faith. His grandfather, Enoch was a preacher of righteousness that just disappeared one day. He was rumored to have been taken up by God, Himself into Heaven! His father, Methuselah was a man of God and also happened to hold the Guinness world Record for being the oldest man in the whole world. And now Noah is running around telling people that God is going to destroy the entire world with a flood!

"What are you talking about Noah? How can it flood? What is rain?" they would jeer at him. "You have lost your mind! Your just another in a long line of religious fanatics. You take those scriptures of your way too seriously! And oh yeah! What's up with that big boat in your driveway? How are you gong to tow that to the lake with your truck. Not even a Ford Powerstroke Diesel could pull that thing!"



That is peer pressure! But Noah wasn't alone. Think of Abraham in Canaan! He was surrounded by pagans and giants! He was the only follower of God in the country!

Think of Moses in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon! They were under peer pressure but were still able to cling to their faith and minister to others.

They sought to please God and not man.

They walked one step and one day at a time.

And in that we should strive to emulate Noah. Regardless of what others say, regardless of what the world does, regardless of what our culture says or how it changes.