

Intro. We’ve had quite the week in Orlando—a week ago Friday night, singer Christina Grimmie was shot & killed; then the early hours of Sunday around 2 am, the ISIS supporter killed 49 at the Pulse & wounded dozens more (one of my daughter’s best friend’s dad was the doctor interviewed & helped save several lives last week); then the alligator attack on a toddler at Disney World—our city is known for being the happiest place on earth, but this week it may have been the saddest place on earth. This week has reminded us of sin & that’s what we cover today in Genesis 6:1-10 as we continue our series on “Building the Foundation of Your Faith,” focusing on “The Utter Sinfulness of All Society.”

Theme: Sin & judgment

Background: The opening chapters of Genesis deal with foundational issues in life—is there a God? How did the world come into being? How did we come into being? What is life? What is the meaning of life? Who am I? How do I relate to others? What is wrong with this world? Is there any hope? And more.

- In light of the Fall of Genesis 3, the population explosion of Genesis 4-5 led to spiritual decay, shameless depravity, social dilemma & strong delusion (6:1)
- **Key questions of Genesis 6:1-4**
- 1. Who are the sons of God & daughters of men? (6:2)**
 - a. The godly line of Seth & the ungodly line of Cain (4:17-5:32)**—held by some Church Fathers & Reformers (Augustine, Calvin, Luther, etc.)
 - 4:17-5:32 traces 2 separate lines, one of the righteous & the other of the unrighteous (or so we assume)
 - There seems to be a major switch in the use of “man” in 6:1-2—from mankind in general to a specific group of men
 - If this view is correct, how does the union of the godly & ungodly produce a race of giants? And why doesn’t Paul reference it when he urges believers not to be unequally yoked in marriage with unbelievers in 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:2?
 - b. The royal kings/judges & their harem (cf. Psalm 82:1, 6-7)**—held by Jewish interpreters
 - While this interpretation occurs in one of the Psalms (82), it doesn’t appear to be the common usage of the phrase “sons of God” in the earliest biblical literature
 - c. Angels, taking the forms of humans & procreating with humans (cf. 1 Peter 3:19-20; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6-7, 14-15)**—held by early Christians and some Church Fathers
 - “sons of God”—refers to angels in the earliest biblical literature—cf. Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7
 - The LXX translates this phrase as “angels of God”—early Jewish scholars
 - The passages referenced above in the Petrine epistles & Jude appear to point to these being fallen angels—2 Peter 2:4-6 describe the judgments of the fallen angels, the Flood & Sodom as a series of judgments, probably based on the early chapters of Genesis; Jude 6-7 says the angels’ offense is they left their proper habitation
 - Although Jesus teaches in Matthew 22:29-30 that angels do not marry or are given in marriage, it doesn’t address whether they can materialize & take bodies like other angels do (cf. Genesis 18:1-8; 19:13)
 - If Genesis 6 refers to angels, it may refer to demon-possessed people (fallen angels using the bodies of mortal men to produce unusual offspring)
 - If this view is correct, why are humans punished for the sins of others (fallen angels)? They are not innocent & even the animals are punished in the Fall & in the Flood (cf. 6:7)
 - In the end, it is impossible to be dogmatic about which view is certain
- 2. What is the reference to 120 years? (6:3)**
 - a. A reference to the length of man’s life (cf. 11:24-25)**
 - Man’s life is drastically reduced after the Flood—from 900+ years to 400 years to 120+ years around the time of Abraham (though some would live a bit longer)
 - b. A reference to the coming judgment on the earth (cf. Jonah 4:5)**
 - A gracious delay—like Jonah 4:5—a warning when Nineveh would be overthrown, but the people repented
- 3. Who are the Nephilim? (6:4)**
 - a. Giants? Cf. Numbers 13:33**—giants in the land of Palestine
 - Men of renown, men of reputation—literally, “men of name”—it probably means famous men, but what produced such fame, we are not told

Illus: Quite possibly like the builders of the Tower of Babel, they wanted to make a name for themselves—they may have bragged rather than let others do the bragging—Charles Barkley likes to brag about being one of the greatest ever, but shouldn't be in the top 25, because he never led his team to victory whereas guys like Jordan, Bird, Magic, Bryant & Duncan led their teams to multiple championships

b. Fallen ones?

- The word Nephilim literally means “fallen ones” (cf. Deuteronomy 22:4; Psalm 145:14; Ezekiel 32:22-24)—those who fell down on their own accord/in a natural manner & died

➤ Whatever answers one takes on these key questions, it is clear sin has grown uglier with each successive generation

➤ **Key truths of Genesis 6:5-10**

1. Every aspect of our lives is marked by sin & is worthy of judgment by a holy God (6:5-7)

- After the first few verses of chapter 6, which is a whole other sermon in itself, we find just how great man's wickedness has become (6:5)—“The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart were only evil continually”—I wish God would really tell us what He thought about us! The external actions of sinful man were viewed internally by a holy God
- This view of man is contrary to what God said in 1:31 “very good,” because it was before the Fall
- Because of this great sin, God expressed sorrow for making man & decided to start over & destroy man & beast through a worldwide Flood (6:6-7)
- God repenting is the language of anthropopathism—highlighting God suffering emotional pain
- The Scriptures teach God's nature never changes (Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29), but His attitude & actions toward sin can change (1 Samuel 15:11, 35)
- “grieved”—a word of love, for we do not grieve those we do not love

Illus: God displays relational mutability (change) when man gets right with Him (cf. Exodus 34:12, 14; Jonah 3:10)—like trying to navigate the mighty Mississippi—you can fight it going upstream or use its power & go downstream (one way will fight you & the other will aid you)

Illus: But so I'm clear on man's sinfulness, anyone who thinks they aren't that bad or had something to do with their salvation needs to re-read Genesis 6:5 & God's assessment of us

- The Flood brought judgment & death to mankind & serves as a reminder of the severity of our sin & how it will be judged in the end—“it is appointed for man to die once, & after that comes judgment” (Hebrews 9:27)

2. God has shown favor/grace to some of us & thus, we are to live for the Lord (6:8-9)

- Just before we read of God destroying the world with the Flood, the Bible includes a wonderful little note in Genesis 6:8—“But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.”
- God's favor is another way to describe His grace—it's His kindness shown to sinners which we don't deserve
- Some people think Noah was blameless and righteous & therefore God showed him favor, but that isn't what the Bible says. The Bible says all of mankind is wicked but God showed Noah favor. Noah was a sinner when God showed him favor & he was still a sinner after the Flood, for he got drunk & naked (cf. 9:21)

Illus: Anyone who thinks they are too bad for God to save needs to re-read Genesis 6:8 for God may very well show him favor/grace

- After God showed Noah favor, He describes Noah as a righteous man, blameless in his generation & that he walked with God (6:9)—once God shows us grace that we accept by faith in Christ, we are called righteous (cf. Romans 4:3) & blameless & can walk with God

Conc. I mentioned a few moments ago how you grieve those you love. We can grieve the loss of those who died in Orlando this last week, even if we didn't know them, because they are close to home & because the Lord calls us to “weep with those who weep.” But there was another who died last week, but I couldn't mourn. It was my maternal grandfather who was nearly 92 years old. I got the news Friday morning that he had died Thursday night. I haven't shed a tear, because he was never a grandfather to me or my brothers. He habitually lied, talked about himself all the time, was involved in numerous cases of immorality, would not claim some of his own children or grandchildren, gave out outdated candy as “gifts” to me & my brothers & yet was a Baptist preacher. My mom & some of the family didn't believe he really knew the Lord (cf. Matthew 7:21-23). I mention that because you may be living a lie & putting on a face for the Sunday crowd that isn't really who you are. You need to repent & trust in Christ who gave His life for you, before it's too late.