

## **Beginning of Early Humankind (Creation to 2100 BCE)**

### ***Mankind's Degeneration into Wickedness***

### ***Noah and the Flood***

### ***Human Condition Remains Sinful***

**Readings: *Genesis 6:1-9:29***

#### ***Reflections:***

- The introductory notes are good and point out the key items. "The sons of God" are likely the descendents of Seth who are getting completely into pagan culture because of intermarriage. This will return as a theme. For example we will see this with Lot. There are three ancient books, Enoch, Jubilees, and Grigori that suggest a much wilder interpretation. These books suggest that the "sons of God" were fallen angels that had sex with female humans and created a hybrid. This hybrid (demon/human) was so evil God had to wipe them all out. After the flood, the spirits from these hybrids were held in a spiritual prison except for about ten percent who were allowed to roam the earth to torment people as they sought to re-inhabit human flesh. Other Jewish writings deny this myth (See "Conflict of Adam and Eve with Satan") and affirm the above interpretation that the "sons of God" are the descendents of Seth and the "daughters of men" are the descendents of Cain. Some commentators have also suggested that the Nephilim may have been a form of Cro-Magnon human still alive at the time before the flood. This is all speculation as it appears that any group that was a bit taller in those days was considered to be giants.
- Key statement: "The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain." This is a significant statement revealing a father's heart. He feels the depth of the pain of this kind of sin that is completely out of control.
- Yet Noah finds favor. So what happens to Noah because he finds favor? God asks him to do something that looks like complete insanity. Just try to imagine what could have gone through

Noah's mind? All it says is, "Noah did everything just as God commanded." Simple obedience based on faith.

- Interestingly in this text is already referring to clean and unclean birds and animals. This is way before the Law was given and so the writer is obviously deeply anchored in that mindset.
- The ark is a type of return to Eden with a family and all the animals. In a sense it is hitting the restart button.
- Genesis 8:20 - Noah builds an altar and worships through sacrifice. God makes a second covenant, one that acknowledges that humans are completely sinful but that God will not judge the earth again as he did in the flood. This moves us into the redemptive plan of God and his movement towards saving humanity. He blesses Noah's family as he did Adam and Eve to fill the earth and to be stewards of all creation.
- Interesting that in the garden they were not allowed to eat from the tree of "I'll decide for myself what is right and wrong". Now they are not allowed to eat meat with blood in it. This again begins to foreshadow the coming of the law, along with the warning against murder.
- The sign of the covenant is the rainbow, and it is set there to remind God. Again God and what he does is ultimately what's most important. God is reminding himself because he is the primary character in the redemptive story of humanity.
- The whole story of Noah getting drunk and cursing his one son shows again (as the notes indicate) a foreshadowing of what will unfold. It also shows the humanity of one of God's people. Nothing pretty here. God is the only "hero" and he works through average people who have real problems. Noah, after being used so powerfully, ends by looking pretty bad. God makes sure that people know right from the beginning that it is his grace, not our righteousness that matters.
- Here is an interesting site on flood accounts from around the world – <http://www.nwcreation.net/noahlegends.html>
- Summary: Noah was an average guy asked to live a completely crazy life, but it was ultimately used for redemptive purposes. His story also reminds us that we need to stay away from making our own wine and then drinking too much of it. 😊