

SIN CORRUPTS

CORE PASSAGE: GENESIS 6:9-22

CONTEXT

If Adam and Eve had hoped their firstborn son, Cain, would be the promised Seed to defeat the serpent, their hopes were crushed when Cain murdered his brother Abel out of jealousy. Grieving the loss of Abel, Adam and Eve had another son, Seth—a son in Adam’s likeness. Unlike Cain’s descendants, who lived however they pleased, Seth’s descendants walked with God and hoped for reprieve from the curse of sin. While sin and violence corrupted humankind, Noah, whose name means rest, was a righteous man who followed God. God would soon enact righteous judgment against sin on the whole earth, but God showed grace to Noah.

KEY CONCEPT

Sin corrupts and must be judged, but God saves those who fear and obey Him.

As you examine Genesis 6:9-22:

- Identify ways you can live blamelessly in a world that does not value what God values.
- Reflect on times when you have experienced the blessings of faithful obedience in your own life.



TIMELINE

The Fall of Humanity and Its Consequences (Genesis 3)

SESSION STUDY: God Judges Sinful Humanity with the Flood
(Genesis 5–9)

The Effects of Sin Spread to Adam and Eve's Children
(Genesis 4)

God Scatters Proudful Humanity at the Tower of Babylon (Genesis 10–11)

Daily Readings

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 1: Genesis 5:1-32 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 4: Genesis 9:1-17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2: Genesis 6:1–7:24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 5: Genesis 9:18-29 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 3: Genesis 8:1-22 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 6: Psalm 53 |



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

GENESIS 6:9-13

SIN CORRUPTS EVERY ASPECT OF GOD'S GOOD CREATION.

Circle words used to describe Noah.

Then underline words used to describe the rest of humankind.

9 These are the family records of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God. **10** And Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. **11** Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with wickedness. **12** God saw how corrupt the earth was, for every creature had corrupted its way on the earth. **13** Then God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to every creature, for the earth is filled with wickedness because of them; therefore I am going to destroy them along with the earth."

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

GOD: There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all-powerful and all-knowing, and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience.

Key Concept: Sin corrupts and must be judged, but God saves those who fear and obey Him.

God had given Adam and Eve, and their descendants, the command to multiply and fill the earth, and they did just that. But as people multiplied throughout the earth, so did sin. Sin, violence, and depravity became so pervasive that “every inclination of the human mind was nothing but evil all the time” (Genesis 6:5). As wicked as our modern world is, it cannot compare to the widespread evil in the generations after the fall. No pangs of conscience kept people in check. They did whatever they wanted to whomever they wanted without any repercussions, and it deeply grieved the Lord (v. 6).

VOICES FROM THE CHURCH

“God is no robot. . . . Our God is incomparably affected by, even pained by, the sinner’s rebellion. Rather, his feelings and actions toward men, such as judgment or forgiveness, are always inherently consistent with his essential person and just and gracious resolve.”¹

—Kenneth A. Mathews

God, whose eyes test the hearts of all humankind (Psalm 11:4-5), found only one person in all the earth who even attempted to walk with Him—Noah. Noah was not perfect, of course. No one except Jesus is perfectly sinless, but Noah was different

from his contemporaries in that he feared God and tried to live a righteous life (2 Peter 2:5).

How can you live blamelessly in a world that does not value what God values?

Since God saw that “every creature had corrupted its way on the earth” (Genesis 6:12), God’s judgment was inevitable. God is perfect in holiness, and all His decisions are just (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 89:14). We sometimes struggle with this balance, but God never does. How could a just and loving God allow such rampant wickedness to continue? He could not. To leave sin unpunished would be contrary to His nature. As a result of the rampant wickedness throughout the earth, He planned to destroy the wicked through a flood. Yet in His mercy, God would preserve Noah’s family and some of every kind of animal that lived on the earth.

In what ways can you still see the effects of humankind’s sin on the created order?

PERSONAL PREPARATION

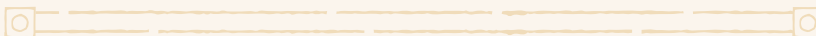
GENESIS 6:14-22

GOD JUDGES SIN BUT SAVES THOSE WHO FEAR AND OBEY HIM.

Highlight the commands that God gave Noah. Circle Noah's response.

14 “Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and outside. **15** This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. **16** You are to make a roof, finishing the sides of the ark to within eighteen inches of the roof. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks. **17** Understand that I am bringing a flood—floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature under heaven with the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. **18** But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark with your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives. **19** You are also to bring into the ark two of all the living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. **20** Two of everything—from the birds according to their kinds, from the livestock according to their kinds, and from the animals that crawl on the ground according to their kinds—will come to you so that you can keep them alive. **21** Take with you every kind of food that is eaten; gather it as food for you and for them.” **22** And Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him.

Key Concept: Sin corrupts and must be judged, but God saves those who fear and obey Him.



God warned Noah that He was going to destroy the earth and everything on it with a flood. Every creature under heaven with the breath of life would die—except those in the ark. God established a covenant with Noah that He would preserve Noah’s family and two of all the living creatures. Noah’s part of the covenant was to make the ark that would secure his survival. God was specific with His instructions, from the materials and specifications to the design itself. The book of Hebrews states that Noah was “motivated by godly fear” and built the ark in faith to deliver his family exactly as God instructed him (Hebrews 11:7).

How have you experienced the blessings of faithful obedience in your life?

Many modern movies that put their spin on this biblical account make Noah seem doubtful of God’s instructions or intentions, and they often depict Noah’s neighbors ridiculing his DIY project. Yet Peter described Noah as “a preacher of righteousness” by his faithful obedience (2 Peter 2:5). Jesus made it clear that despite Noah’s building of the ark and warnings of judgment, his contemporaries mistook God’s patient mercy for apathy and thus were swept away (Matthew 24:37-39). Today, people—even believers—are lax

about the coming judgment. Please hear the warning spoken first by Jesus and then by Peter: the day of the Lord—when Christ returns to bring final judgment on sinners—will be like a thief in the night (Matthew 24:42-44; 2 Peter 3:10). And just as the only way to survive the flood was to be in the ark, the only way to survive the coming judgment is to be in Christ by faith (John 3:16-18; 1 Peter 3:18-22).

While we wait for the Lord, how should we fight against apathy toward sin?

GOSPEL CONNECTION

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As with Noah and the flood, a final judgment for sin is coming when God will condemn unrepentant sinners to eternal death and hell, but all those who repent and believe in Jesus will be saved, being found in Him—their Savior from the judgment to come.



HUMANITY'S CORRUPTION, GOD'S HOLINESS

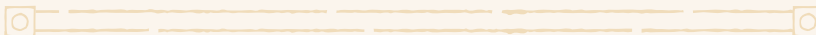
*Based on Genesis 6:9-22, write down words used to describe humanity at the time of Noah.
Then based on Psalm 29, write down words used to describe God.*

HUMANITY

GOD

If we believe Scripture that wickedness grieves God (see Genesis 6:6),
then how should we gauge sin in our own lives?

Key Concept: Sin corrupts and must be judged, but God saves those who fear and obey Him.



HEAD

What are some ways we can be preachers of righteousness in our fallen world?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE



Read Psalm 53, focusing on verses 1-3. Pray through the psalm, asking God to give you the wisdom to seek after Him in all circumstances.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HEART

How does it make you feel to know that apart from Christ, the human heart's every inclination is to sin?



HANDS

Whom can you encourage this week to walk with God in faithful obedience?

