

**First Southern Baptist Church - July 24, 2019**  
**Noah and the Flood I - Gen. 6:1-8**

**Introduction**

1. At the end of the genealogies you have “Noah”  
 At chapter 10 you have a continuation of the genealogies
2. The flood is an interlude
3. Verses 5-8 tell us why God sent the flood
4. Flood stories are found in various parts of the globe  
 -China, Mesopotamia, India, Indonesia, Ceylon, Burma, Australia, Polynesia,  
 with the Eskimos, Peru, Chile, Greece, Egypt and Central Africa
5. Kenneth Matthews (Old Testament professor at Beeson) calls this passage the most demanding passage in Genesis for the interpreter

**Verses 1-2**

1. Sons of God and daughters of men - what is that?  
 -remember that mating between gods and mankind is a repeated theme in ancient writings - example of “Hercules” (½ god and ½ man)  
 A. Three common explanations for this passage
  - 1) Angels intermarry with humans  
 -intermarry and produce Nephilim - super human beings (monstrosities)  
 -Jude says that angels left their own habitation - married women and produced semi-gods, possibly the heroes of Greek mythology?  
 -but the punishment is not on angels but people  
 -but procreation is not given to angels  
 -but Jesus said that they neither marry nor are given in marriage, implying they are not sexual - Mt. 22:30
  - 2) Rulers - the word “gods” is “elohim” a word used for “judges” in the Old Testament  
 -these warriors married (or raped) their harems and produced “heros of old”
  - 3) Cainites (ungodly) marrying Sethites (godly)
- B. Compromise and marry into corruption  
 -the godly sons of God - line of Seth  
 -the ungodly daughters of men - line of Cain  
 \*this idea sits well with the passages before - and the “reason” the world is being “washed”
2. “Saw” and “took”
3. “Chose”  
 -not necessarily polygamy, but selecting wives from any family they chose  
 -a wrong use of freewill -again
4. The issue of “mixed marriages”  
 -would explain the repeated prohibition on mixed marriages (believers and unbelievers) in the Old Testament

-“unequally yoked” at 2 Cor. 6:14

### Verse 3

1. I will not always strive
  - A. Limited patience? Of God?
  - B. For 10 generations men had committed themselves to sin
  - C. The justice of God demands that sin be punished
  - D. He announces/ resolves His judgment only after a long time “striving”
  - E. Have we decayed beyond repair here?
2. The word “strive” is “abide”
3. 120 years - theories:
  - A. Years until the flood would come?
    - a time of probation
    - the time of God’s forbearance -a lull before the storm?
  - B. Life span of 120 years?
    - life is promised but only a limited one
    - life spans drop off decidedly after the flood
    - compared to before the flood, the life span of 120 years is greatly diminished
4. God will destroy men who have already destroyed themselves

### Verse 4

1. Giants in the land
  - the word is “Nephilim” meaning “fallen ones”
  - fallen from the air, or fallen from the place of godliness
2. Mighty men of renown
3. Are the giants the offspring, or are they the contemporaries?
4. Note the word “also”
  - there were giants... and also, the sons of God married the daughters of men

### Verse 5

1. The wickedness of men
2. Every imagination only on evil
  - note that the state of man reached a certain state... “every,” “only,” and “continually”
  - word “imagination” comes from the basic Hebrew word for “form” - like forming on the potters wheel
  - a dim view of the “good-heartedness” of man
3. God destroys for moral reasons, versus the Babylonian myth - the noise of expanding human beings was so great that it angers Enlil
  - in the other stories of the flood (other cultures) there is no moral aspect, no moral outrage

### Verse 6

1. God was sorry He made man - “repented”
2. “Grieved”

- not angered but “grieved”
  - the evil heart of mankind, troubles the heart of God
  - a wounded heart
3. “Repented” in verse 7

### Verse 7

1. I will destroy
2. Man and beast - beasts were made for man, and man’s use, -God will begin again
3. The language is similar to that of creation in 1:26-7
4. God has a right to “un-create?”

### Verse 8

1. But Noah found grace
  - the bad times bring out the good in Noah - by contrast
  - grace is God’s response to His own wrath - so, God’s grace saves from God’s wrath
  - Heb. 11:7 - by faith Noah, being warned prepared an ark
  - verse 9 shows us his character - faithfulness was possible even in this troubled world
2. Noah’s faithfulness is well recorded:
  - did all that God commanded him (6:22)
  - did all that the Lord had commanded him (7:5)
  - as God had commanded Noah (7:9)
3. God’s eyes
  - sees the lone man committed to good, and not evil
  - did not see as an unconcerned spectator but as a loving father - our sin grieves Him