

The Days of Noah: A World Gone Wrong

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Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually... Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. (Genesis 6:5, 11)

The pre-flood world described in Genesis 6 was not merely sinful—it was in open revolt. Humanity had become thoroughly corrupt, both in behavior and intent. The world was filled with violence, injustice, and spiritual pollution. The promise of Genesis 3:15, that a deliverer would come through the seed of the woman to crush the head of the serpent, appeared to be about to fail.

The flood was not simply about punishing sin; it was about preserving the seedline, protecting the promise, and ensuring that God's redemptive plan would not be extinguished.

The War of Seeds Intensifies

Genesis 3:15 sets the stage for a cosmic conflict between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent. That battle begins to unfold almost immediately. Cain murders Abel (Genesis 4), and the righteous line is preserved through Seth (Genesis 5). But by the time we reach Genesis 6, the serpent's strategy has escalated.

Now it came about, when mankind began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw that the daughters of mankind were beautiful. And they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose... The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of mankind, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. (Genesis 6:1–2, 4)

Whether one takes the “sons of God” to be angelic beings, as the early Jewish tradition held, or human rulers, the implication is clear: this was not merely immoral behavior, but a coordinated effort to corrupt what God had made. The birth of the Nephilim represents a drastic escalation of the prophesied seed war.



The World was filled with violence

A World Filled with Violence

Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. (Genesis 6:11)

The Hebrew word for violence, *hāmās*, refers not only to physical aggression but to systemic bloodshed, lawlessness, and oppression. The world had become a place where evil ruled unchecked. Rather than reflecting God’s image, humanity had given itself over to brutality and domination. These “men of renown” may have set themselves up as god-kings, elevating their name while suppressing others.

The serpent’s goal was not just to tempt individuals into sin, but to flood the earth with a seedline of chaos that might prevent the coming of the true Redeemer.

The Corruption of All Flesh

And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for humanity had corrupted its way upon the earth. (Genesis 6:12)

The phrase “all flesh” implies something more than just individual wickedness. It suggests a broad perversion of the created order. Ancient Jewish writings such as *1 Enoch* elaborate on this, describing how the “Watchers”—a group of rebellious heavenly beings—descended to earth, took wives, fathered giants, and taught humanity sorcery, warfare, and forbidden knowledge. While *1 Enoch* is not Scripture, it reflects the worldview of many Second Temple Jews and early Christians.

The core biblical point remains: humanity had corrupted itself so thoroughly that the promise of redemption was in jeopardy. The serpent had nearly succeeded in wiping out the righteous line.

But Noah Found Favor

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. (Genesis 6:8)

Amid the chaos, one man stood out. Not because he was flawless, but because he walked with God.

These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. (Genesis 6:9)

Noah’s blamelessness may refer to both his moral integrity and his genealogical separation from the corruption described earlier. He had not joined the rebellion. He had not aligned

himself with the serpent's seed. He becomes, in this moment, the carrier of the promise—the vessel through which the Messiah's line would survive.

God did not allow the serpent to win. He preserved the seed through Noah and his family.

The Ark: Salvation Through Judgment

Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood... Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which there is the breath of life from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish. (Genesis 6:14, 17)

The flood was not an act of divine overreaction. It was a necessary judgment against a world that had sold itself to violence and corruption. But even in judgment, there was grace. God commanded Noah to build an ark—a wooden refuge that would carry the righteous through the waters of death and deliver them into a renewed world.

Later, the New Testament would draw on this imagery:

...in the days of Noah... a few people, that is, eight souls, were brought safely through the water. Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you... through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:20–21)

The ark became a symbol of preservation, not just from wrath, but for the sake of the promise. God would not abandon the world. He would carry His purposes forward through one faithful man.

As in the Days of Noah... But Not Identical

Jesus referenced the days of Noah as a warning about spiritual complacency:

For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark... (Matthew 24:37–38)

Some interpreters have used this passage to claim that everything present before the flood, angelic rebellion, giants, and genetic corruption, all must reappear at the end of the age. But that may go beyond what Jesus actually says. His point is not that those exact conditions will return, but that people will be oblivious to judgment. Life will seem normal. People will be planning weddings, attending feasts, building futures—unaware that God's reckoning is near.

Jesus is not drawing attention to the giants or the Watchers, but to human indifference.



Noah: Preserved Through Judgment

Conclusion

The world of Noah's day was a spiritual battlefield. Human wickedness had matured into something almost unredeemable. The serpent's efforts to thwart God's plan had reached new depths, corrupting both heaven and earth. But God acted, not just in judgment, but in preservation. The promise of Genesis 3:15 was not abandoned. It was safeguarded in a floating ark, and preserved through one faithful man and his family. The eventual incarnation, the coming of Jesus the Messiah to the earth came only through a cosmic seed conflict and a global judgment.