

TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN, PURPOSE, AND DESIGN

"All the Time" Genesis 6:1-8

June 22, 2025

INTRO: In January 2024 we began the sermon series, **Trusting God's Plan, Purpose, and Design**, from the book of Genesis. The Hebrew name for this book is *Bereishit*, which is derived from the first word in the Hebrew text of Genesis. *Bereishit* means "in the beginning," and it is now the modern Hebrew name for the book. The original name for the book was *Sepher Maaseh Bereishit*, meaning "The Book of the Act In the Beginning." This book, the first book in the Bible, has many foundational truths that clearly speak to many issues of our day. We would do well to remember the first words of Genesis, "In the beginning God...." Can you imagine if all the world understood the significance of that opening statement? When the beginning came around God was already in existence. Genesis 1 speaks of Him creating the earth, sun, moon, stars, plants, trees, animals, fish, birds, man and woman in six days, and by the seventh day God finished the work of creation and He rested from all His work. We read this phrase over and over again in the first chapter, "And God saw that it was good." On the sixth day we read of the capstone of God's creation.

Genesis 1:26–27 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

After creating man and woman God uses a different phrase, "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning – the sixth day." Genesis 1:31

Man was created by God without sin, but it didn't take long for sin to enter the world. Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, after Eve had been tempted by the serpent. This brought spiritual death immediately, separation from God, expulsion from the Garden, and eventually, physical death. Yet, God promised there would be a deliverer.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

In Genesis 4 we have the first murder described, with Cain killing his brother, Abel. This morning, we are in Genesis 6, some ten generations later: Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, and Noah. How was humanity doing now? Were things getting better? I've titled this message, *"All the Time,"* a quote from this passage, which answers those questions. Let's read together the first 8 verses of Genesis and see how we can answer these questions.

Genesis 6:1–8 When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, **2** the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. **3** Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years." **4** The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. **5** 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. **6** The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. **7** So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them." **8** But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

This is the beginning of the story of what cataclysmic event? This is the flood! What happened that led to God's judgment on the whole earth? Let's begin by looking at **THE BACKGROUND** in verses 1-4 and then we will look at the following three things in verses 5-8: **THE REVIEW**, **THE REGRET**, and **THE RESPONSE**.

THE BACKGROUND

What's going on in these verses?

Genesis 6:1–2 When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, **2** the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.

The first thing we notice is that the population is beginning to increase. Then, we read, "the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose." Who are "the sons of God," and who are "the daughters of men?" There have been three main suggestions brought forth by various commentators:

1) sons of God: godly line of Seth

daughters of men: ungodly line of Cain

The sin: godly people intermarrying with ungodly people (Israel was guilty of intermarrying with ungodly people throughout the Old Testament. Many times this led to worship of idols and false deities, bringing on the judgment of God)

2) sons of God: dynastic rulers, an early royal aristocracy

daughters of men: the harems of these rulers

The sin: polygamy (from the creation of the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, it was supposed to be one man and one woman in marriage).

3) sons of God: fallen angels who fell when Satan fell

daughters of men: human women

The sin: not according to God's plan for marriage.

Arnold Fruchtenbaum: Why would Satan do this? Go back to Genesis 3:15, he knew that a descendant of the woman he tempted would someday come and defeat him. Therefore, Gen 6:1-2 is Satan's response to Gen 3:15. This was a satanic attempt to corrupt the Seed of the Woman by having some of his angels take on human form and intermarry with human women to try to corrupt the seed so that Messiah could not come.

Other support for the third view: "sons of God," is a reference to angels several times in the Bible (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7). These unions also produced the Nephilim who were mighty in strength and their name literally means, "*fallen ones*" (Victor P. Hamilton).

Whatever one you choose it is obvious that it was very offensive to God and would bring about His judgment. Some of the commentators also point out the parallel between Genesis 3:6 and Genesis 6:2.

Genesis 3:6 (NASB95) — 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Genesis 6:2 (NASB95) — 2 that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.

How offensive was this to God?

Genesis 6:3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."

Who is the Spirit? This is the Holy Spirit. God says that the Holy Spirit will "not contend" (other translations have "will not strive") and carries the idea of restraining. God warns those of Noah's time that the Holy Spirit won't contend, strive, restrain with humans forever. In fact, He promises judgment is coming in 120 years. Noah spent that time building an ark and warning people. Who joined him? We are also told to warn people of the coming judgment.

Restraining evil is one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit today. Can you imagine what it will be like in the tribulation when the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit is removed?

This is all the background leading up to:

THE REVIEW

Genesis 6:5 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 saw*:" It wasn't like God had to be informed. God sees everything! There is absolutely nothing you and I can hide from God. What did God see?

The truth that God sees everything should cause fear for the unbeliever, for some day he will stand before God in judgment. There are some who say, "I'm not afraid of hell."

The truth that God sees everything should bring comfort as well as an encouragement to live godly lives. We are NEVER alone!

Psalms 139:1-12 O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. **2** You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. **3** You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. **4** Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. **5** You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. **6** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. **7** Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? **8** If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. **9** If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, **10** even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. **11** If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night

around me,” **12** even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

“how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become:” from the Garden of Eden until Noah things had continued to become worse. In ten generations, this was the conclusion of what God saw.

“every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time:” WOW, that is a mouthful! Sin was everywhere! This points out the deliberateness of their sin.

Max Anders: The conditions that resulted from such marriages were **wickedness** and violence that were universal and without precedent. Jesus Christ warned that the last days would exhibit the same disregard for God’s standards and concerns when he said:

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man (Matt. 24:37–39).

How did it get to be so awful? Where does sin begin?

James 1:13–15 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; **14** but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. **15** Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Sin is deceitful. Sin wants to control. It is enjoyable for a time. It wants to creep into our lives through small compromises that lead to large compromises.

Hebrews 11:24–25 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. **25** He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.

Hebrews 3:12–13 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. **13** But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

Sin is deceitful because it cannot deliver what it promises. We see this in the Garden of Eden when the serpent tells Eve “When you eat from it (the tree of the knowledge of good and evil) your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

The review: God saw; secondly:

THE REGRET

Genesis 6:6 The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

Other translations of this same verse:

Genesis 6:6 (NIV) The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.

Genesis 6:6 (NASB95) The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

This is one of several places in the Bible, where God is described using human terms. It appears that God changed His mind. In reference to King Saul and his disobedience we read these two things in the same chapter of 1 Samuel.

1 Samuel 15:11 (NASB95) — **11** “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands.” And Samuel was distressed and cried out to the LORD all night.

1 Samuel 15:29 (NASB95) — **29** “Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind.”

So, how do we put these two seemingly contradictory things together: God doesn’t change His mind (immutability: same yesterday, today, and forever) with God regretting that He had created mankind, the very beings He said were created in His image?

Arnold Fruchtenbaum: Because the Bible teaches that God does not repent, it is only from our own perspective that He seems to repent, meaning He seems to change His mind because man has changed his attitude toward Him. Therefore, God may seem to repent when man changes his mind, for God's attitude toward man is conditioned by man's attitude. So God responds to man in one way when he obeys; He responds another way when man disobeys. It appears from the human perspective that God repented; He changed His mind. Actually, no change has taken place, God simply responds one way to obedience, and He responds a different way to disobedience.

One of the key points of this verse is that sin grieves the heart of God. All sin grieves God! It is against His character and does not reflect His image in us. Sin grieves the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer.

Ephesians 4:29–30 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Sin is serious business. It separates us from God, puts us under His rightful judgment, and points to our need of a Savior. For those who know Christ as Savior and Lord it breaks our fellowship, our communication with God.

Psalm 66:18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

The review: God saw; The regret: The LORD was grieved (regretted, was sorry) that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. Finally, we see:

THE RESPONSE

Genesis 6:7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them."

God declares that there will be judgment for their sin, and it will be severe. There will be a complete removal of mankind from the face of the earth. The word, "*wipe*," means to totally erase (Fruchtenbaum). Further on in this chapter we read of how this judgment will come to pass. God repeats that he is "grieved" that He has made mankind.

Man was created to worship and serve God. As His image-bearers mankind was meant to point people to their Creator, Almighty God. Sin has consequences and the sin had become so grievous and pervasive that God declared impending judgment. As God is announcing His judgment we read this in the next verse.

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

Another word for favor could be grace. Notice that Noah did not earn God's favor; he found favor in the eyes of the Lord. This is the first time we see the word "favor" in the Bible, but we see that Adam and Eve found grace in the garden after their sin. What did they deserve after their disobedience? Death!! After the sin of Adam and Eve we see, not only God's judgment on the serpent and Adam and Eve but His grace in announcing the promised deliverer.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

The judgment and grace of God were found to be operating at the same time in Genesis 6. God's grace, mercy, justice, and judgment are found throughout the pages of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. What did Noah do when shown favor by God?

He obeyed God and built the ark, a boat measuring 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. You couldn't hide this boat. We also need to remember it hadn't rained yet. The earth was more like a canopy. How many years before the flood would come? God had given a 120 year span for people to repent. Not only was Noah building this huge boat...

2 Peter 2:5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;

Who responded?

In 1 Peter 3:20 we read that God waited patiently while the ark was being built, but only a few, eight in total, were saved.

It is only by the grace and mercy of God that any person can be saved from the just judgment of God upon sin. Have you responded to the grace of God? When God showed favor (grace) to Noah it made a difference in his life.

SO WHAT?

*Don't ignore God's patience; come to faith in Christ now

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Corinthians 6:2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

*God is the same throughout Scripture: a God of judgment and a God of grace

*I can't hide ANYTHING from God! My life is an open book when it comes to God

*Sin desires to capture and enslave me. All the time. How can I overcome sin?

-Necessity of God's Word

Psalms 119:9-11 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. **10** I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. **11** I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

-One another

Hebrews 3:12-13 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. **13** But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

*God's grace changes how I live

Noah's response to being shown favor by God was obedience to God

Genesis 6:9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.

Scripture quotations are from NIV unless otherwise noted.

NASB is New American Standard Bible