**God’s Judgement and Salvation**

Genesis 6:1-9:29 (Key verse 7:23)

*Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.*

Some people believe that corruption, sin and moral degeneration has increased over the years. That our generation is worse than in the past. I think we are simply seeing the spread and growth as our population is now greater than it was in the past. Therefore, we will feel that sin in our generation is more rampant than ever before. This passage is used by Jesus in Luke 17:26,27, that our times and Noah’s times are no different. People were drinking, eating, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day of the flood. This was God’s judgement on the face of the earth through ending all living things through the flood except those who entered the ark. God’s judgment was due to sin. However same time, God provided a salvation plan through the ark. And this is because our God is a God of justice as much as he is the God of grace, mercy and love. Through this passage may we learn about how sin spreads, the impact of one man of faith and about our God who is judge and saviour, Amen!

As we learned from shd Desmond messages. Genesis 4 records the line of Cain—wicked and ungodly—yet still receiving God’s common blessings: children, families, culture, music, economic growth, and use of the earth’s resources. But despite these advancements, every life ends in death. Genesis 5 turns to the line of Seth, born to Adam and Eve to replace Abel. Though all in Seth’s line were also sinners and died, some did not reject God. Enosh is mentioned, Enoch walked with God and was taken to heaven without dying, and Noah was the only righteous man left before the flood. From Genesis 3 to 5, the message is clear: sin brings universal death. Human society may advance, but every life ends with an obituary—except for Enoch, who points to the hope of those who will one day be taken by God without experiencing death.

Look at verse 6:1-2, “When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, 2the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.” Sons of God in other circles has been interpreted to mean fallen angels. Because we also told that Lucifer/Satan took a third of the angles where he left his place with God. Either way, what is clear is that there were special beings with divine presence, hence called sons of God. They left their place because they saw the daughters of humans. They saw they were beautiful and so they married them. They left their spiritual place and became carnal.

Marriage was created by God, for the glory of God. However, the corruption of marriage is made clear in these beginning verses. That the priority for marriage was based on what the eyes saw. These son’s of God, saw beauty and they married. As if to also imply that, they left their heavenly spiritual positions for beauty and romance. They were not led by the spirit but led by the flesh. The building block of society is marriage, family. So, it is no surprise that this passage begins with the corruption in marriage. Because it is fundamental to society and next generations. Though there is beauty, love, enjoyment in marriage it not what initiates or drives marriage. What initiated marriage was God, it is God who said, it not good for man to be alone. It was not Adam who saw that. God’s concern for mankind are deeper that what we can see because God made us and knows all things. Like Cain, these sons of God decided to do their own thing. Choose marriage partners based of what they saw with their eye. One thing is clear, corruption began when men of God began to leave God out of marriage. Instead of marrying women who pleased God, they chose to marry based on what they felt and pleased their eyes.

Physical appearance, sexual attraction, romantic love seem to have been their primary criteria in choosing marriage partners. The results of these marriages, from a human point of view, seemed to be good. According to verse 4, the children born of these marriages were strong and handsome and beautiful. The Nephilim (giants) 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 [4].

However, verse 3 says God was not pleased at all, verse 3 says, “Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal (flesh); their days will be a hundred and twenty years.” This was a gradual decline in the years mankind lived. And it is clear that it is related to sin. Though today we are used to death, however its origin or what caused death was sin. The lord was not happy that man was following his flesh desires rather than following God's Spirit. People were eating and drinking, and marrying, which are all joyful human activities, but if people only think about their flesh as first priority, then it displeases God greatly.

Verse 5 tells us the result of such a life. Look at verse, 5, “The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.” Sin grew to the point that, every inclination of man’s thoughts and heart were evil, not once a week or twice, all the time. Sin begins right at the heart and Jeremiah said that the heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure (17:9). Jesus also said, "What comes out of a man is what makes him unclean. For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man unclean [Mk 7:20-23].

The lord was so grieved that he made mankind [6], verse 11 says, the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. Sin is like this. It starts in the heart; it grows with a small act of disobedience, and continues to grow until a person becomes a slave of sin, and it destroys him like cancer. And so the lord took a hard decision, look at verse 7, “7So the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground for I regret that I have made them.” God does not tolerate sin, God’s judgement is certain and He does not compromise with sin. Even His son Jesus Christ faced death, God’s judgement due to our sin.

However, there was man who turned things around. Look at verse 8, “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.” The name Noah means comfort, so Noah brought comfort to the lord. To have found favour means, God extended His grace to Noah. And because of God’s grace upon Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time. He walked faithfully with God and he had three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth [9]. God’s plan will still be to bring end to life on earth due to sin, because all the people on the earth had corrupted their ways [12-13]. So the Lord commanded Noah to build an Ark made of cypress wood and the Lord provided Noah will all dimensions of the ark [14-16]. Look at verse 17-18, “17I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. 18But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you.” The lord would establish a new covenant with Noah in order to begin a new generation of men of faith. Noah was also directed what animals and how to bring them into the ark [19-21]. This chapter ends with an emphasis of Noah’s faith, verse 22 tells us that, Noah did everything just as God commanded him. No cutting of corners, just as God commanded, a man of absolute obedience.

Look at chap 7:6-8, “Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. 7And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.” This included all the pairs of living creatures and animals, etc [8-10]. Verses 10 to 12 describes how for 40 days and forty nights waters filled the earth till all that was living except those In the ark died. The bible even details the time, Noah’s age, that he was six hundredth year and it was on the seventeenth day of the second month when all the waters began to fill the earth. I believe this is to illustrated that God’s judgement is real and certain.

The waters rose and covered the mountains to a to a depth of more than fifteen cubits and the water flooded the earth for hundred and fifty days [13-24]. The waters lifted the ark to such heights. Let us all read verse 23, “Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out, people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.” It is God who gave life, it is God can take away life. God’s judgement is not a bluff, it is real and sure. That at His time it will surely happen. Same time we see God’s love through His salvation pan through the ark.

Most part of chapter is detaining how the waters receded and ultimate ended. However, I want to place special attention to two things, the heart and faith of Noah. Firstly, he fully relied on God for direction, absolute obedience. Look at verse 14-16, “14By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. 15Then God said to Noah, 16“Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives.” Verse 18 says, “18So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives.” Noah waited for God’s command to even step out of the Ark, he did not rely on his logic but waited for God’s leading. Absolute obedience. They brought animals and creatures out according to their kind so they can multiply, be fruitful and increase in number [17].

Secondly, Noah was grateful to God and had absolute reverence for God, a kind of worship. Look at verse 20, “Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.” This act showed his gratitude, worship, and acknowledgment that salvation from the Flood was entirely by God’s grace. His first act was for God and not about himself. After the flood there was so much to think about and do. However, Noah’s first act was about what the Lord had done. It was from this that the Lord’s heart was moved, when God smelled the burnt offering he was greatly pleased. He then made a promise, Look at verse 21-22, “The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though a every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. 22“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

Chap 9 begins with a blessing upon Noah and his sons, “1And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” The same command given to Adam, now that Noah had found favour in the lord, God blessed him. And the blessing was child bearing, to fill the earth. This is God’s command not what the man and the woman feel about it. The lord also set conditions on how man is to relate with each other and the animals and all living things [2-8]. Then the lord established a covenant with Noah and his descendants after him and every living creature, animals, birds that came through the ark. Look at verse 11, ”And I establish My covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.” The sign of this covenant is the rainbow in the clouds [12-17].

This story centres around what we famously know about, which is the flood. However, the flood is not some nice children’s story for entertainment. It’s a story about God’s judgement due to sin. Which stems from the heart and then grows like cancer infecting everything it touches. The first thing to be corrupted was marriage. Something that is fundamental to building a society. This was a satanic attack to what God has established, and this attack continues even till today. Look at South Africa, how many broken families, how many single moms are raising children with no father figure. And the cycle continues, the children then normalize what they are seeing. This means that marriages are under immense attack and the only protection is God. When we surrender our lives to Jesus, to obey his word absolutely, then we can experience his saving power like Noah.

Those who are still looking forward to marry, do not be like the sons of God. That is the best way to fall into Satan’s hands. Seek God’s leading for a marriage partner, do not only trust what you see and feel. Marriage belongs to God and one thing that is clear is that, it was God who said, it is not good for the man to be alone. Which means it is God’s desire for man to be happy and find suitable helper. Do not seek happiness of your own, seek your happiness in God. Also when it comes to sex outside marriage, many people like to say show me where in the bible it says should be after marriage. Well, from the book of the beginnings, we can see that, the blessing to fill the earth, to make children comes after God joins two people in marriage, and by the way two genders, Male and Female. It is lust, men’s eyes that causes sex to happen outside marriage. Which also actually means that, sex outside marriage is selfish and for self enjoyment. It has nothing to do with faith in God, or obedience towards God’s word. Only when God has joined the two does God unleash the blessing to fill the earth. God’s judgement is real, his salvation plan through Jesus is also real. Repent! Repent! So you too can enter with Noah in the ark. Jesus is our ark, through him we shall experience God’s salvation.

I still remember how I too struggled to make a marriage decision. It was like war, some of you know my story. My eyes and feelings were telling me one thing and God’s word was telling me another. There was a lady doing her master’s at the time. Proper! Beautiful, body proper. So being a believer, will try use any verse to justify this is the one. However, God had a different plan, I had to repent and die to my own human desires and say to the lord, father not my will but your will be done. I could pray this prayer not because am strong, but because of what Jesus did for me on the cross, he too said, father not my will but your will be done. The lord could then open my spiritual eyes to see clearly. I could develop a deeper feeling of comfort, peace and love to the person God led me to marry. However, soon in marriage am also realizing that we are constantly under attack. Each moment counts, what I say, how I say it matters. Because the devil is eager to use anything against God’s marriage. Many times my heart will become hard, where I tell myself, am not going to talk to her. However, I have been learning how the holy spirit has been helping me. By making the word of God stand authoritative in my heart. The lord would humble me to see things differently. Not that am perfect at it but I have been gaining a new appreciation of the power of the word of God through the holy spirit. This passage is a reminder to me that, even in this marriage and day to day life, the lord is judge. Because I am the bearer of his image, one day I have to account before Him, how I led my home, wife, children, how I led this ministry, served others, my secular job. Now being promoted as Professor, how will I be using this new recognition by the University to associate professor to fill the earth with his knowledge, to participate in the salvation work. I pray that I may be like Noah, and be obedient to God’s word. May I respond with absolute faith in God in the role he has called me into. Amen!

**In conclusion**, the Flood shows the seriousness of sin, sin corrupts creation, creation order and invites God’s wrath. Sin spreads like cancer. As the Lord warned Cain, if you do not master it, it will master you. It is not by mistake that the first corrupted activity in this passage is marriage. The heart is the most corrupt where all sin stems from. And because of sin God’s judgement comes, it is sure and uncompromising. Though the coming judgement will not be by water, but it is coming and it will be by fire. In 2 Peter 3:5-7 we read that, “5But they deliberately ignore the fact that long ago the heavens existed and the earth was formed by God’s word out of water and with water, 6by which the world at that time was deluged with water and destroyed. 7Now by that same word, the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire and are being kept for the day when ungodly people will be judged and destroyed.” However, the lord always provides a saving grace to those who live by faith. In our time we have Jesus, through whom God’s salvation plan is active. If the lord is calling you today, do not delay, repent from your sin and come follow Jesus. If you have been living a life ruled by sin, ruled by your own feelings and logic, and this passage is speaking to your heart. It’s a call from God for repentance. It is my prayer than, because of Jesus work on the cross, we may have faith in God like Noah. Faith that is not puffed up in feelings and illusions, but faith that has evidence of absolute obedience in God’s word. May the lord bless each one of us, to live by faith in Him, establish marriage by faith, be fruitful and fill this earth with his knowledge. Amen!