**When God’s Patience Ran Out** August 30, 15

Genesis 6:1-8

Question: is it better to be decisive or patient and why?

Feedback:

Genesis 6:1-8 is the back story that explains why the flood happened.

But before we read these verses, I must restate for you **the back story to the back story.**

When God created personal beings, he created two kinds - angels and humans.

The corruption of some of the angels took place **BEFORE** humanity’s fall.

It happened after the sixth day of creation (Genesis 1:31: *God saw all that he had made and it was very good*) and before Genesis 3 when Adam and Eve encountered “the Serpent.”

The Serpent, who had been created a guardian cherub, initiated a war in heaven - Ezekiel 28:12-19 . The aspirations of the Serpent are clearly stated in Isaiah 14:13-14: ...*I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly...I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.*

Satan not only wanted to be like God. He wanted to be God. He wanted to take God’s place.

And according to Revelation 12:7-9 he persuaded approximately one third of the angels to join him in his fight against God.

Genesis 3 tells the story of humanity’s fall.

It tells how the first human couple made the choice to go against God and what happened when they did.

Because the Serpent influenced Adam and Eve to rebel against God, before they were judged, God pronounced judgment on Satan for what he had done - [*a descendant of the woman] will crush your head* - Genesis 3:15.

Adam and Eve were to rule the world on God’s behalf.

But when the corrupting influence of sin entered their nature, they no longer were able to do that. Their fall allowed Satan to seize control of the earth.

We know this happened because when Satan tempted Jesus, he *“showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world,”* and told Jesus, *“I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours.”* Luke 4:5-6.

The verb *“given”* in Luke 4:6, is in the perfect tense.

This is significant. Dr. Renald Showers writes: **“The rule of the world system had been given to Satan in the past by Adam. Satan and his forces...[from that moment forward] controlled the world system...”** (Those Invisible Spirits Called Angels, p.84)

Jesus himself called Satan *“the prince of this world.”* John 14:30

Paul in his second letter to the church of Corinth described Satan as *“the god of this age.”* 4:4

Throughout history there have been and still are human rulers who believe it is their destiny to build a kingdom and an empire that will rule the world. The list of those who tried, succeeded for a short time, and then failed... is long.

The Egyptians. The Babylonians. The Assyrians. The Persians. The Medes. The Romans.

The Mongols. The Chinese. The Dutch. The French. The English. The Japanese. The Germans. The Russians. The Americans.

The arrogance and pride of these past and present rulers all bear remarkable similarity to that of Satan...because it is he, the god of this age, who influences and motivates them.

Geoffrey Grogan writes: **“When Satan works his malign will through rulers of this world,**

**he reproduces his own wicked qualities in them, so that they become virtual shadows**

**of which he is the substance...”** (Those Invisible Spirits Called Angels, p.86)

The victory of the cross of Jesus and his resurrection from the dead, dealt a decisive blow to Satan and the fallen angels. 1 John 3:8: *“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”*

In this present time Jesus rules from heaven over earth, but he does so in the midst of his enemies. Psalm 110:2 is a prophetic psalm that foresaw the rule of Jesus after his resurrection and ascension: *The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, “Rule in the midst of your enemies.”*

The darkness has been defeated, but it has been allowed by Jesus to operate within the parameters defined by Jesus, until his visible return to earth.

This is why Satan is still able to act.

Ephesians 2:2: *...[Satan is] the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*

1 Peter 5:8: *...the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.*

The followers of Jesus are told in Ephesians 6:12 that in this present time we will be in conflict with and are to stand against the powers of this dark world.

But the Bible does identify a group of fallen angels who are not able to act and to influence.

2 Peter 2:4.

\* These angels are in “Tartarus.”

Other passages in Scripture refer to Tartarus by its descriptive name, “the Abyss.”

Luke 8:31.

\* These fallen angels are in chains of darkness.

\* They are being held for judgment.

If the offense of the fallen angels, who are held in Tartarus, was their act of rebellion against God, then wouldn’t all fallen angels be in Tartarus??

But we know that is not the case.

So what did **these** angels do?

What offense did they commit that prompted God to confine and restrain them as he did?

Jude 6-7.

\* These angels did not keep their positions of authority.

 They did not remain in the sphere of influence that God intended for angels.

\* They abandoned their proper dwelling.

 They left heaven to live in another place.

\* They committed sexual immorality.

How do we know that?

Because verse 6 and 7 are connected - these two verses together present a complete thought.

Those who lived in Sodom and Gomorrah sexually sinned like the angels referred to in verse 6.

Let me show you how we know that?

Go to the middle of verse 7 - *“They... serve as an example...”*

This word “they” is masculine.

The Greek word for “Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns” is feminine.

The Greek word for angels is masculine.

What that means is that the word “they” cannot refer to Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns. “They” refers to the angels.

The point being made by God’s Spirit is that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns sexually sinned like the angels of verse 6.

Both entered into forbidden sexual relations that God described as perversions - v.7.

Because of what they did, God has kept those angels *“in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.”*

And because they committed sin that was similar to the sin committed by these angels, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns were destroyed by fire.

Peter and Jude wrote about the same group of angels and the sin they committed.

So what was it that these angels did?

This now brings us to the back story of Genesis 6:1-8.

Let’s read the passage.

**Key points**

- *when human beings began to increase in number on the earth*

The fact that no start date is given of when these things happened is significant.

I believe it tells us that the aberration that went on in Genesis 6 happened for an extended period of time.

- *marriages took place between the sons of God and the daughters of humans.*

In addition to all the other distinctives that we’ve noted, regarding people in Cain’s genealogy who lived without God in their lives, this passage presents us with one more disturbing distinctive.

The fact that it was marriages which occurred implied there was some kind of asking and agreeing. I say “some kind of asking,” because the passage does say that “(the sons of God) married any (human woman) they chose.”

**Who were the sons of God?**

I believe they were the fallen angels which Peter and Jude spoke of.

We are not told how the angels managed to take on human form or how they were able to impregnate human women.

That is a detail that in God’s estimation we are not meant to know.

For that reason I am compelled to speak a word of caution – be careful in this instance of trying to procure knowledge that is not yours to possess.

**Why did the fallen angels marry human women?**

GotAnswers.Org says: *“…one speculation is that the demons were attempting to pollute the human bloodline in order to prevent the coming of the One who would crush the head of Satan. This is not a specifically biblical answer, but only an idea that is plausible.”*

Whatever the reason, this is the truth you and I need to understand – the truth we are to think deeply upon – the truth that is all important. Through Peter and Jude, God’s Spirit tells us that these fallen angels did not succeed; nor can they continue to corrupt as they once did.

God has been and always will be the Victor.

*- the children born as a result of the sexual union between fallen angels and the daughters of humans were known as the Nephilim and were heroes and men of renown.*

We tend to think of a hero or a person of renown as being a good person.

These verses inform us that in the time of the Nephilim there was a rapid acceleration in human corruption. I believe there is a correlation between the fallen angels marrying human women and having children and the rapid increase of corruption in that time.

How bad was it?

 *- every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time*

 - every inclination (not some)

 - only evil (not a mixture of good and evil)

 - all the time (not sometime)

Look at verses 11-12.

* *the earth was full of violence.*

What began with Cain in Genesis 4 had become the norm.

* *all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.*

The fact that the word “all” was used is significant.

“Their ways” describes lifestyle.

Three responses of God are recorded in Genesis 6:1-8.

**First response.** v.3 - God acted to limit human life to 120 years.

We need to ask why did God do that?

Verse 3 gives us God’s answer: *“My Spirit will not contend with man forever for he is mortal.”*

Since the time of Genesis 6 God has further reduced the length of human life.

Psalm 90:9: *The length of our days is seventy years – or eighty if we have the strength…*

Self-oriented humans will always find themselves and their way of living to be in opposition to God.

The progression of sin within the human nature always leads… downward.

Humanity is not evolving into some kind of better creature; nor are we capable of building our own utopia here on the earth. The presence of sin within our human nature prohibits that.

Physical death is God’s means of limiting the amount of evil which one person can commit; in addition to being the moment when he brings every person to account.

**Second response.** v.6 – God was grieved and his heart was filled with pain.

The practice of sin by humans grieves God and causes him pain.

God is not a Being who is unmoved by the things that happen on this earth.

Did God know the extent of the corruption that would happen in humans and on the earth when he created? Yes.

That is why he promised that One would come who would crush Satan.

That’s why Jesus was chosen before the creation of the world to be the Savior of humanity.

**Third response.** v.7- God resolved to wipe humanity from the face of the earth.

This passage reminds us of one thing that God is not.

He is not tolerant of sin.

Those who chose to ignore God and who lived without reference to him…reached a point where they had exhausted God’s mercy.

When that happened, they then encountered God’s anger and his holy wrath.

Many people do not like this characteristic of God.

A primary reason it troubles so many, is because it offends human pride – “who is God to tell us what we can and cannot do????”

This passage reminds us that God is humanity’s Creator...Judge... and Savior.

Our only hope for the cancer that has invaded each of our inner persons… is God’s cure.

But as the story of the flood reminds us so vividly, God will not force that cure on us.

He will not make any one come to him who doesn’t want to.

But apart from God’s solution, there is no other option; no hope; no rescue.

The flood was also the moment when God moved in judgment against the fallen angels who had married human woman and had children with them.

This is when those angels were confined in Tartarus.

I recognize this passage leaves us with many questions.

But what this passage does clearly reveal…is who God is.

It may seem like a fascinating study... to delve deeper into and understand the perverted union that took place between fallen angels and human women.

But instead of doing that, I would encourage you to study and delve deeper into the character of God.

It is the knowledge of God, not the knowledge of demons, that is the beginning of wisdom.

If you want to experience life… then think long and often upon the person of God.

Jesus said in John 17:3: *Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

Our closing song written by Chris Tomlin is entitled **Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies).**

There is a time for us to speak and sing of the tenderness of God.

And there is a time for us to celebrate the awesomeness of God’s holiness and his hatred of sin and all that is wrong.

Our God is the God of angel armies.

Remember Jude’s prophecy?

*The Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge and to convict…*

The God of angel armies walks with us in this present time.

We can fear this world and the people who live in it.

We can fear the powers of darkness.

Or we can rightly fear the Lord.

The God of angel armies is far greater than...and you fill in the blank.

It is the Lord Jesus who goes before us.

It is the Lord Jesus who stands behind us.

It is the Lord Jesus who is always by our side.

And through faith in Jesus we have become his friends.

Song: Whom Shall I Fear

These qualities of God are meant to persuade people to turn to him.

But they are also meant to inspire those of us who follow Jesus to follow him to the very end.

After speaking of these things, look at how Peter and Jude urged people to live:

2 Peter 3:14-15a; 17-18

Jude 20-23

