

## *Beginnings: Study and Discussion Questions*

### *Lesson Seven: The Beginning of the End of the Ancient World – Genesis 6:1-22*

Overview: Read Genesis 6:1-22 carefully.

- 1) Define depravity. **Depravity is moral corruption, where man's apostasy from God is total and complete (Job 15:14-16; Gen. 6:5, 6).**
- 2) Read Genesis 6:5, together with Job 15:14-16, Jeremiah 17:9, Mark 7:21-23 and Romans 3:9-18. Has the condition of men and women's hearts changed through time? **No. All men and women are born with a sinful nature (it is an inherited part of our nature), and apart from God's grace, we are completely depraved.**
- 3) List the words and phrases that speak of Noah's character. From this information and your consideration of the first two questions, how will you pray for your country, community, church, and family? **Noah "found favor in the eyes of the Lord" (verse 8), "was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time" and "walked with God" (verse 9). Personal sharing**

From Genesis 6:1-8:

- 4) What do we learn about the circumstances of the world that set the stage for God's decree of judgment (Bible scholars have suggested a number of ideas about the identities of the "sons of God" and "daughters of men")? See also 6:11. **The human population was greatly increasing (6:1). God was very displeased with what He saw and decreed judgment (6:3, 7). Those whom the world applauded as "mighty," the Lord condemned as wicked (6:4-5). "Every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time" (6:5). The Lord regretted that He had made human beings and was deeply troubled (6:6). The earth was corrupt and full of violence (6:11).**
- 5) Compare God's attitude toward this generation (verse 3) with the reputation the Nephilim had among men (verse 4). **The Nephilim were applauded by men but condemned by God.**
- 6) Genesis 6:6 is surely one of the most amazing verses in Scripture.
  - a) What emotion is attributed to God? (See also 1 Samuel 15:11, 35; 2 Samuel 24:16; Isaiah 63:10; and Ephesians 4:30.) **Grief, pain in His heart**
  - b) Read Nehemiah 8:10 (end of the verse) with Galatians 5:22-23. What opposite emotion is also part of God's nature? **Joy**
  - c) How does the knowledge that God understands your deepest sorrows and your greatest joys comfort or encourage you? Does it help with a current circumstance? If so, explain. **Personal sharing**

From Genesis 6:8-18:

- 7) Genesis 6:8 says that Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.
  - a) List the three specific statements made about Noah's character in verse 9. **Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.**
  - b) Read Philippians 2:14-16a and record what the apostle Paul had to say about the importance of having a blameless reputation in one's generation. **Our blamelessness among our peers allows us to "shine like stars."**
  - c) According to Isaiah 64:6; Romans 1:17; Romans 5:17,19; and Romans 6:16, how does a person become "righteous"? **By faith alone (since our good works are as filthy rags). Obedience to God is proof that He has made us righteous.**
  - d) What does the phrase "walk with God" imply? If you can, share Scripture verses to support your answer. **"Walking with God" implies fellowship with and obedience to Him. It is what man was created to do. Genesis 6:9, 6:22, and 18:19-21; Psalm 1:1 and 119:1; and Micah 6:8**

- 8) The concept of a remnant of people preserved by God to attest to His faithfulness and to live in fellowship with Him is found throughout Scripture. Look up the following passages and list all the information given about the remnant of the Lord: 2 Kings 19:30-31, Ezra 9:15, Nehemiah 1:2-3, Matthew 7:13-14, Luke 13:22-25, Romans 11:5, and 1 Peter 3:20. **According to these passages, the remnant is a band of survivors who take root and bear fruit. They are preserved because of God's zeal. They are guilty people and they live with great hardship, yet their future is life, not destruction. Their place among the remnant is by their own choice (will) and also by God's choosing. The "remnant" (as the term implies) is small in number.**
- 9) Do you have assurance or concerns about your place among the "remnant of the Lord"? Explain. **By definition, a "remnant" implies that only the smaller part of the world's population is included. Believers have assurance that God has promised to include all who come to Him by faith in Jesus Christ. A desire to walk with Him is evidence of inclusion. Noah's "qualifications" indicate *effort* on his part in developing a godly character. Salvation by grace through faith precludes *earning*, but it does not preclude *effort*. It is our responsibility to "walk" with God in obedience and fellowship. If a desire (or any effort) to do so is absent, it is almost certain that one is not yet part of "the remnant." Personal sharing**

Reread Genesis 6:9-17.

- 10) Genesis 6:9-10 introduces "the account of Noah and his family" by describing Noah's character and naming his three sons. What was Noah's father's name (see 5:28)? Who shared Noah's father's name and, like Noah, also had three sons (compare Genesis 6:10 to Genesis 4:19-22)? Is this the same man? Give reasons. **Lamech. Again, Lamech. No, it was not the same man. One was an evil descendant of Cain, the other the righteous father of Noah from Seth's line.**
- 11) Look again at Genesis 6:15-22.
- Describe Noah's assignment. **Noah was told to build an ark of cypress wood that was coated with pitch inside and out. The ark was to be three hundred cubits long (450 feet or 135 meters), fifty cubits wide (75 feet or 23 meters), and thirty cubits high (45 feet or 14 meters). It was to have a roof with an opening below it, a door, and three decks with rooms. Secondly, Noah was to bring two of all living creatures (male and female) into the ark. Thirdly, Noah was to store every kind of food for his family and the animals.**
  - Which verse indicates one way in which God made Noah's assignment easier? **Verse 20 says the animals came to Noah; he didn't have to find them himself.**
- 12) Do you currently have an "assignment" from the Lord that seems overwhelming? What was Noah's response to his assignment (include verse number) and how does it encourage you? **Noah was completely obedient, despite the vast scope of the work. He obeyed in every detail (6:22). To disobey in any part would have resulted in a boat that was inadequate to save them! Personal sharing**

From Genesis 6:18-22:

- 13) Genesis 6:18 foretells the covenant God established with Noah in Genesis 9. Give a definition of the term "covenant" and a few modern day examples. **A covenant is a contract between two partners. Examples today could include a marriage license, a rental contract, oaths taken by public officials, and the Lord's Supper.**
- 14) Imagine Noah building the Ark.
- Keeping in mind what Genesis 6:9 and 2 Peter 2:5 tell us, what kind of a reputation do you think Noah had among his neighbors? **Noah's peers surely considered him a "do-gooder." However, since he was blameless, they would not have been able to come up with any legitimate complaints against him. Peter called Noah a "preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5), but since his contemporaries remained unrighteous, he must not have been a very popular one! They probably thought he was strange (or even crazy) and despised him for his righteousness.**
  - What do the following passages tell us about Christ's reputation among His contemporaries: Isaiah 53:3; Matthew 12:14, 27:28-31; and John 1:10-11? **Jesus was despised and rejected.**

15) Have you recently been mocked or despised, while resolving to remain blameless? If so, will you share about it with your group so they can pray for you? **Personal sharing**