

# **GENESIS 4-9**

## **THE FURTHER FALL OF MAN & UNIVERSAL JUDGEMENT (THE GREAT FLOOD)**

### **Message Notes**

**January 29, 2023**

Let's walk through Scripture. Before you continue, please read Genesis 4-6. Go ahead, I'll wait right here.

Ready? Let's go!

Previously, we examined the story of Creation and what it reveals about the attributes of God. We then looked at Adam and Eve as the caretakers of God's creation and His image on earth. We examined the conflict between the Kingdom of God and the false kingdom of Satan, the spiritual war that underscores redemptive history. We then looked at how Satan was able to tempt Eve and Adam into sin. The consequences of that original sin was to make man into the image of corruption. God punished mankind by expelling them from the Garden of Eden (that was, in part, to protect them from eating of the Tree of Life and being trapped in an eternal state of sinfulness with no hope of

redemption), but he also promised that the descendants of Eve would include a Redeemer who would save mankind from their sins. Check out the message notes and the January 22 blog for more details of the Adamic Covenant.

Anyone who has been blessed with children knows that there are times when children can try our patience...but can you image becoming so frustrated with your children's bad behavior that you actually regret their birth? I hope not! Unfortunately, that's exactly where we find God at the start of GENESIS 6: *"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. The Lord regretted that He had made human beings on the earth, and His heart was deeply troubled"* (Genesis 6:5-6).

Can you imagine how much pain and grief the Lord must have experienced at man's wickedness to come to the place where He regretted humanity's very existence? The first time I really examined this verse, I admit my heart broke for the Lord. I was down on my face on the floor just expressing my grief and regret, repenting on my behalf and on mankind's behalf because I know that we all still grieve the Lord today with our behavior. We live in a world of mores and cultures that openly challenge the teachings of God's Word, encourage

rebellion against His Ways, and openly attacks those who embrace and follow His teachings. We live in a world where Satan appeals to our fleshly appetites, ambitions, pride, inclinations towards independence of God and questions or flat out denies the Word of God so that he can persuade us into joining his rebellion against the Lord. Such is the spiritual warfare with which Christians must contend as we await the second advent, the return of Christ our King. Meanwhile, we must use the Word of God to discern right messages from wrong messages in the world today, and that includes messages of those who claim to speak on God's behalf. Scripture is the final authority.

As for GENESIS 6: God had created the beautiful paradise of Eden and put His own uncorrupted image—man and woman—into Eden as its guardians, caretakers, and authorities. How, in ten generations, had man deteriorated to the point where God could find nothing redeemable, save for Noah and his family?

The first warning signs are found in GENESIS 4. We can see how the influence of sin on men's hearts was already growing stronger when we meet Adam and Eve's firstborn son, Cain. Cain and his brothers, Abel, were clearly taught to worship the Lord. When we meet them, they are both taking offerings to God. The Lord was pleased with Abel's offering, but with Cain and his offering, God was not satisfied.

The Bible tells us not to come to the Lord to worship if we're being grudges or unforgiveness towards others or if others have a grievance with us: *"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift"* (Matthew 5:23-24). Matthew goes on to write in 6:14-15: *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins"*.

Cain quite clearly has jealousy and resentment towards Abel, therefore his heart was not right with God when he was coming to make offerings to the Lord. Cain's heart was full of anger, and that is likely why God was not satisfied with the man or his offering. We saw previously that God is omniscient (all knowing). He knew what was in Cain's heart, that there was danger of anger escalating into violence. God warns Cain that sin was taking root in the man and that it would devour Cain if he did not turn from his anger. God told Cain that if the man did what was right, he would be accepted.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:21-26 that anger is spiritually akin to murder. Hate and envy are two warning signs that we're being drawn

into the kingdom of Satan, that our walk with God is not right. Alas, Cain was apparently too far gone, too deep into the darkness of sin. His heart was hardened against God's warning. Cain murdered Abel, and just like his parents in Eden, when God confronted him with the sin ("What have you done?"), Cain lied and tried to hide the truth.

Brothers and sisters, we saw it with Adam and Eve and it remains true with Cain: We can't hide **ANYTHING** from a God who is omniscient and omnipresent. He is literally everywhere and literally knows everything. I know I said that in our previous lesson, but it bears repeating. At this point in human development, God had put the Law of Conscience onto men's hearts, which was the Holy Spirit acting as men's conscience. The Spirit convicts us when we sin because God wants us to do what is right. When we sin, God wants us to come to Him openly, to confess and repent and return to Him so that He can then offer us mercy and grace. God is holy and righteous and just. The wages of sin and rebellion is death. Scripture says as much. That will not change because it is the judgement of God, and God does not change. God desires that we repent because it is not His will that we should perish but rather that we give Him the chance to extend mercy to us (see 2 Peter 3:9). He promised the Redeemer so because He wanted to open the door to our redemption—but we have to walk through that door, and the first steps are to confess our sinful state, to turn from our

sinful behaviors (repent), and to admit our complete and utter need for God's grace.

Adam, Eve, and Cain made God come to find them where they were hiding. He had to ask them to confess their wrongdoing, even if they refused. Cain never repented. He confessed to the murder, but he didn't seek forgiveness. To the contrary, Cain was only concerned with other people killing him in retribution. God may have put a mark on Cain to prevent such retaliation, but this did not save Cain from his fate. He hadn't repented or asked forgiveness, so he did not open the door to God's grace.

Cain would experience the pain of eternal separation from God because of his sin and unrepentance. Imagine the remainder of Cain's life. Abel's blood had further cursed the earth (the sin of Adam and Eve had already made the earth resist cultivation). Cain had been a farmer, but that was no longer an option for him because of the blood he'd spilled on the ground. Cain would wander the earth in constant fear despite the mark God had given him. He had no hope for a future in fellowship with God; his future was only death.

Thank God that Jesus Christ overcame sin and death on the cross so that those who believe on Him will never have to suffer this kind of

separation from God. Christian believers are spared the hopelessness of an empty future apart from God. Thank you, Jesus.

On a personal note: It is unfathomable to me why anyone would deliberately forsake faith in the Lord and choose such a future for themselves through apostasy and atheism, much less that they revel in their choice as if it is a source of pride. These are the warning signs of hearts that have fallen to the deceptions of the enemies. We should be afraid for them as surely as for sheep about to be devoured by an unseen predator. Christians **MUST** share the Word of God with an urgent desire to save people the pain and despair of a future devoid of hope and, worse, a certain fate of eternal suffering as surely as we would race to rescue a sheep from the jaws of that predator.

Even worse than the murder of Abel was the fact that the corruption of Cain endangered the line of Eve's descendants, including the promised Messiah. Fortunately for us, God's purposes will not be thwarted by the schemes of man or the plots of Satan. God gave Adam and Eve a third son, Seth, to replace Abel and to preserve the Messianic line. God is faithful to keep His covenant promises. Amen.

You can read further in the Bible and in the message notes about the descendants of Cain and the descendants of Seth. Cain's descendants included Lamech, the first recorded bigamist in the Bible.

Lamech was also a murderer, for he bragged to his two wives about killing a man who had wounded him (hardly an "eye for an eye" as the Law of Moses would teach). Lamech also thought that the protection God had given Cain would extend to him as Cain's descendant.

Seth's descendants included men of faith. Enoch walked faithfully with God for 300 years. He's one of only two men in the Bible who were taken up to heaven without experiencing death. The other man was the Prophet Elijah.

This brings us to the days of Noah, where corruption and sin were rampant upon the earth. Some theologians dig deeper into the passages of Genesis 5-6 and what certain terms mean. There are some who theorize that the "Sons of God" are men, descendants of Seth, and others who say they are angels who intermarried with humans. Some theologians believe that the "daughters of men" were Cain's sinful descendants. In some translations, they are called the "daughters of humans", furthering the idea of supernatural beings having off-spring by human mothers. There is reference to the Nephilim being on the earth at the time, but no real clarification about the identity of the Nephilim, so (again) there is lots of theological speculation. The Nephilim also appear in the book of Joshua, many



centuries after the Great Flood and therefore implying that they were not human.

I'm not going to teach speculations as theological facts. I mention this section to make the point that Christians ALWAYS must evaluate theological teachings against the truth of the Scripture. We have been cautioned that adding to the Word of God is a sin (see Proverbs 30:6). Adding to God's Word leads to false theology and unsound doctrine. IT IS OKAY IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND SOMETHING LIKE THE NEPHILIM IN THE BIBLE. The Holy Spirit is our guide in learning the Scripture; He will illuminate the Bible so that we learn what God needs us to know. If you encounter something like this, pray on it and wait for the Spirit's guidance. Don't speculate, or make it worse by teaching speculation to others and cause them to stumble in their walk with God.

What we know is that in the span of ten generations, mankind had become corrupt to the point where the Lord determines that it is time for judgement on a universal scale. Ephesians 5 gives us a sort of "no-no" list of wicked behaviors: Sexual immorality, any kind of impurity, greed, obscenity, foolish talk, coarse joking, idolatry. Proverbs 6 adds to this list: Murder, pride, lying, false witness, feet that run towards evil, hearts that devise wickedness, and sowing discord among brothers (and we're all brothers and sisters in God's family).

Yes, clearly we all sin and fall short of the mark as Paul says in Romans 3:23. Thank God for giving us a Redeemer.

Noah found favor in the eyes of God. Let's be clear from the onset: Noah was not righteous because he was without sin. Only Jesus was able to live a life without sinning while He was on earth. Noah was considered righteous because of his walk with God. Noah was blameless in that he was known to be a man of integrity. He was obedient to God no matter the pressures and behaviors of the culture around him. Noah did everything that God asked of him with the right heart, and God responded to Noah's saving faith with grace and mercy by sparing him from the universal judgement to come.

This kind of faith includes a mind that is set on obeying God as our Creator, Sovereign Lord, and the Holy One who is deserving of our worship. It means that we respond to God with all our heart out of love and desire for relationship with Him. It means that His will is our will because we know that God is good. We trust that He will keep His promises, that His plans for us are good, and that He is faithful and righteous in all His ways. We respond to God's goodness, grace, mercy, and love without our obedient actions, and we act as He directs us. James 2:14-26 states that faith without works is dead. It is equally important to know that works apart from the will of God are just as

futile. God has the perspective and wisdom; He directs our steps. Obedience is walking and working according to His guidance to fulfill His purposes. How do we know His will? We pray. We learn His Word. We watch for the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We consult with the spiritually mature among our church family and have them pray alongside us.

Noah built the ark as God commanded. He trusted God's promise to preserve Him. He knew that God was fully able to deliver his family from the flood. Confident in God's power and faithfulness to do all that He had promised, Noah took his family into the ark.

Now, just a couple of points of clarification about the great flood. First: It was a universal judgement, not a localized event. Some people dismiss the flood as a localized event. You have only to look to the histories of the major cultures of the world to see that they all document the flood, though the fact that Scripture states the flood covered the whole earth should be enough. To believe the flood was not universal is to believe that the Word of God is in error. No.

There will be another universal judgement, as stated in the Book of Revelation. It will come after the Second Advent (coming) of Christ. This judgement will be fire, not water. Fire is repeatedly referenced as falling on earth in this book of the Bible. This judgement will culminate

with the destruction of the kingdom of Satan and all those who have entered his kingdom of darkness (Revelation 20:9-10).

Yikes.

Shifting back to the Great Flood: What does this event teach us about God?

First: That God is long-suffering indeed. Ten generations of progressive wickedness passed before the Lord's Spirit would no longer contend with man's corruption.

Second: That God is holy, just, and righteous. Though He is patient for the sake of giving men the chance to repent and return to Him, the Lord will not delay judgement forever. The wages of sin had to be paid.

God is omnipotent (all powerful). He is Sovereign over all creation, including man and nature. He alone has the power over life and death. The Lord caused the waters to come not only from above but from within the earth; He would cause the waters to recede. This is the same power that spoke creation into existence. It is the same power that we will see when the Lord sends the plagues upon Egypt and parts the Red Sea in the Book of Exodus. It is the power that will cause hailstones to fall only on the heads of Israel's enemies in Joshua 10:11.

God is faithful to His promises and covenants. He preserved Noah during the flood. In doing so, He preserved Eve's line of descendants and the future Messiah, just as He had covenanted.

Noah repeatedly demonstrates his obedience while on the ark. First, even after the ark comes to rest on Mount Ararat, Noah and his family remain inside until the Lord tells them it is time to exit the boat. Even though they had been shut inside the ark for over a year and must have longed for dry ground, Noah waited on God's perfect timing.

Second, Noah's first act after exiting the ark was to worship God with a burnt offering. We will delve deeper into the significance of sacrifices when we examine the Law of Moses. For now, suffice to say that a burnt offering means the entire animal is consumed by fire, nothing is held back (whereas in some sacrifices, a portion is held back for human consumption). Noah wasn't just offering the animal to God, he was symbolically offering himself and his family to the Lord for dedicated service. With a burnt offering, if the Lord is said to be pleased with the aroma, He is accepting the offering and the person who gives it. If He refuses the aroma, He is displeased with the offering and the person who gives it.

God's response was to make a covenant with Noah. The NOAHIC COVENANT encompassed man, nature, and the ground. God's first promise was that He would never again wipe all life from the planet by flood (though the judgement of fire will still come at the end of days). Obviously, there will still be natural disasters. Why? Let's look.

God's also promises that He will not further curse the earth (which already suffers because of the sin of Adam and Eve and the blood of Abel). Though the earth will still resist cultivation, forcing man to labor for survival, the cycle of days, weeks, years, day, night, and seasons will continue. We will still have an environment to sustain us until the time of Christ's return. NOW, we have to remember that we are still the STEWARDS OF GOD'S CREATION, meant to care for earth as the gift that it is. We also have to remember that THE ENVIRONMENT IS STILL DAMAGED BY SIN. Not only will there still be disasters (a few of them owing to the judgement of God as documented in the Bible). We can also make these disasters worse when we do not act as good stewards of God's earth.

The rainbow is given as the symbol of God's covenant with Noah (just as circumcision will be the symbol of God's covenant with Abraham). God does not need a rainbow to remind Him about the promises that He has given. God is unchanging; it is impossible for Him

to forget His promises. God is righteous and holy; it is impossible that He would fail to keep His promises. Rather, the rainbow is meant to be a reassurance to man of God's promise and a symbol of hope for the seasons of "storms" that we go through in our daily life. We can be confidently hopeful that God is with us through our every trial to carry us through them. The Rainbow is also a bridge between God and man: We look up and see the rainbow from below; God looks down and sees the same rainbow from above.

Man's relationship with nature is further changed in this covenant: Man will now hunt animals for food, and animals in turn will fear men. God's restriction on the consumption of meat is that we do not eat the blood of the animal. Blood represents life. As we saw with Cain in Abel, only God has sovereignty over life and death.

Now, we clearly see in Scripture that the Great Flood did not eliminate the kingdom of Satan and the influence of sin on mankind. It was not long after their emergence from the ark than mankind slipped back into sinful behaviors. Let's not focus on that note but rather end with the knowledge that God is still looking down on us as a father watching His children. He is faithful to sustain us, to forgive us, and to preserve us when we walk with Him daily in love, joyful obedience, integrity, and repentance.

Keep reading those Bibles, brothers and sisters! In our next session, we'll get a glimpse into the future of mankind as we study the Table of Nations in *Genesis 10*. Then we'll move into the study of a relationship between God and man that would change history when we look at the life of Abraham.