

LANDMARK 3 Genesis 6:13

Landmark 1: Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning god created the heaven and the earth." Creation of all things

Landmark 2: Genesis 3:4 "Thou shalt not surely die." Introduction of sin into innocence leading to the Fall and original sin.

Landmark 3: Genesis 6: 13 "The end of all flesh is come before me." The flood

"And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth."

The passage that we will attempt to open up is Genesis 6: 1-13

Gen 6:1-13

- 1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,
- 2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.
- 3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.
- 4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.
- 5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- 6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.
- 7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.
- 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.
- 9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.
- 10 And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- 11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

(KJV)

What would it be like to hear God speak such words. To know that he intended to destroy humanity because evil had overtaken the human race. But, before we contend with such an announcement, let us examine briefly what is referred to as the Anti-diluvian World .

Anti-Deluvian means Before the Deluge (or Flood) Deluvian coming from the same root word as "deluge")

Before we explore our passage of Scripture, let us consider how the world reached such a condition that God would decide to erase humanity from the face of the earth. What does Scripture tell us about the Anti-deluvians?

1) About sixteen centuries (1656 years to exact) had passed from the creation of Adam to the year of the flood. Some of the antideluvian people, Sethites, lived a long time. Adam: 930, Seth: 912, Enos: 905, Cainain: 910, Malhalaleel: 895, Jared 962, Enoch: 365 (who did not die, but was taken up), Methuselah: 969 (died in the tear of the flood), Lamech: 777 the father of Noah, (died 5 years before the flood) who prophesied that Noah would be benefit to mankind. The length of the lives of the Cainites is not reported in Scripture.

2) It was a divided world: Cainites & Sethites

The descendants of Cain being unspiritual and corrupted from the beginning, and the descendents of Seth being spiritual, calling upon the name of the Lord, yet corruptible as we all are being descendents of Adam.

3) Technological advancement: tents, tools, & musical instruments

Associated with Cain's descendents. Men of material, artificers, common grace.

4) The establishment of "corporate" worship

Associated with the birth of Seth and his generations. It was around the time of Seth's son Enos was born that men began to call upon the name of the Lord.

5) Godly men: The presence of God on earth, Enoch walked with God, and He spoke to Noah. But, there is no evidence that He spoke to the Cainites, except for admonishing Cain and finally cursing and marking him. It appears that the lineage of Cain was God-forsaken.

6) Growing evil. Beginning with...

Cain murdering Abel. Followed by Cain's G G G Grandson, Lamech, murdering a young man to his own hurt as well as corrupting the institution of marriage between one man and one woman established by God in the garden.

Gen 4:23-24

23 And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.

24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.

(KJV)

Clearly, Lamech considered himself worse than Cain and fears for his life because he invokes the old promise that God made to protect Cain from assassination. Only he claims it seventy fold to strike fear into his many enemies.

The polygamous Cainites were likely much more prolific in populating the earth than the monogamous Sethites. It is clear from the fact that Noah and his three sons each had only one wife that monogamy had been their practice from generation to generation. But even so, as we will see, in Noah's day the Sethites had succumbed to the stronger more "advanced" culture of the Cainites.

Now, that we have a sketch of the antedeluvian world of Noah, lets return to our text

Gen 6:1-4

1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

The key to understand the meaning of this passage is understanding who are the daughters of men and who are the sons of God. Some expositors think that this passage describes the union of human women with a race of fallen angels resulting in a hybrid race: the mighty men of renown mentioned in the subsequent verses. However, there is much in Scripture which militates against this interpretation. Suffice it to say that angels are spiritual beings and nowhere in Scripture do we find angels becoming men or men becoming angels (contrary to the theology presented in "Its a Wonderful Life.") In fact, when Jesus is explaining that there will be no marriage between resurrected saints, he says that we will be like the angels. This suggests that angels do not marry or have such desires.

The other prominent interpretation, the one which I ascribe to, is that the "daughters of men" are Cainite women and the "sons of God" are Sethite men. Apparently, the Cainite women were naturally very attractive and the Sethite men yielded to their beauty and intermarriage began between the Cainites and the Sethites. And, as cannot be avoided in such circumstances, the Cainite culture infected the Sethites and began a general deterioration and ultimate apostasy of the Sethites. This grieved the Lord.

3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

God had reached a point where, within himself, he set a deadline on humanity. This is not to be understood that from this point on that a human's life span cannot exceed 120 years. In fact we know that people in our day have lived to be 126 years old. No, this is God expressing his intention within himself to give mankind 120 more years to repent. That he will have the Spirit continue to convict mankind for 120 more years and then if there is no revival, to bring an end to humanity.

4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. (KJV)

Whether "the giants" referred to here are physical giants (very large men) or giants in regard to deeds matters not, because we know that they were not giants in the worship and fear of the Lord. While great in might, crushing their foes before them, their names were known across the known earth, striking fear into the hearts of hearers. They were renowned for their wickedness, viciousness, and abominable acts, not for their great acts for the Lord. Their names made hearts quake and knees buckle. But, the name of the Lord was a by word, there was no fear of the Lord. Some Bible translations called the mighty men the Nephilim, which means "the fallen." How appropriate it was.

Gen 6:5-7

5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

(KJV)

We believe that God is sovereign and that he has ordained all things that come to pass even sin in the world. Yet, in the ordination of all things, he neither motivates us to sin nor is He an accomplice in it because he is perfectly Holy and Righteous. He tells us that for those of us who are in Christ He causes all things, even our sin, even especially our sin, to work for our good. We confess that God knows all things and has always known all things because He has ordained them, not just because He has foreseen them. We confess that God cannot err. We also know that God is unchanging, immutable. So, he did not change his mind, or determine that he had erred, or set about to correct his mistake as some have tried to say. Whatever he has done, is doing, or will do has been immutably set from eternity. Were it not so, where would our comfort be that He is as He says,

Faithful and True, and He will resurrect us from the dead. Then, why does God express regret and grief that He has made man? Because, even though He knew that it would come to pass, He is still grieved and He regrets the race has degenerated to the point that it must be eradicated. He must communicate with us in ways that we can understand. "God takes no pleasure in the punishment of the wicked."

Can we possibly conceive of every thought being evil all of the time? Never a thought toward God, except to curse Him or to take His name in vain. Only giving consideration to our own greatness and how we have succeeded giving all credit to ourselves. Never a right motive for anything. We must praise God every day that He has been merciful to us beyond measure. Yet, we know that, just as for the anti-deluvians, a time is coming when His Spirit will not always strive with man. When Christ returns, the work of the Holy Spirit on this earth will be over, forever.

Gen 6:8-10

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

10 And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

(KJV)

Now, we come to Noah. At Noah's birth, Lamech prophesied about Noah.

Gen 5:29

29 And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.

(KJV)

Some commentators believe that Lamech's prophesy relates to Noah's agricultural abilities. But, of all of the Sethites in Gen 5, only of Noah was anything foretold, and it was that he was to bring comfort. In Noah's case, his comforting came in the form of preaching "righteousness."

2 Pet 2:5

5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;
(KJV)

Heb 11:7

7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.
(KJV)

It is tempting to view Noah as a man rewarded with life because he stood for God in his day. But, it is clear that Noah was graced by God before it is mentioned that He was "perfect in his generation." Grace must precede righteousness and the ability to walk with God. A man cannot grace himself with Godly grace. A wage is earned, grace is given. Here is the most important point to learn from this sermon. If you are in Christ today, God has done for you exactly what he did for Noah. God has graced you by regenerating your heart, enabling you to worship, and placing you in the ark.

Noah was already 500 years old when Shem, Ham and Japheth were born. He was 600 years old when the flood came. So, it is likely that Noah and his sons worked on the ark many years and that Noah preached repentance during much of God's 120 year probationary period.

Gen 6:11-13

11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

(KJV)

While we know that that Noah walked with God, we cannot assume that God and Noah carried on regular conversations. Certainly Noah was a praying man because one cannot walk with God, that is have a right relationship with God, without praying regularly. As Christians we talk to God all of the time, but I never had God visit me and tell me anything in the way described by Noah. Actually, the text doesn't say how the communication occurred. But, it appears to be directly spoken by God to Noah. No theophany is mentioned, such as happened with Abram. It is more akin to God's communication with Adam and Eve. But, the issue is that God informed Noah that all flesh had become corrupted. Here is another point where some commentators jump at the opportunity to inject demonic angelic activity even involving animals. Even when Jesus permitted the demons to enter the swine, they were still swine. The greater likelihood is that breeding methods practiced by the anti-deluvians had resulted in terribly fierce breeds, such that they would be a hazard to post-flood generations. But, this is speculative on my part. For whatever reason, God determined that, because the earth was filled with violence, the end of all flesh must come, only eight persons to be saved alive.

In a few hours time, deadly tsunami waves recently swept away 250,000 persons and that is almost incomprehensible to us. But, compared to the loss of life in flood, the toll from these waves in all likelihood small. There is no doubt in my mind that millions of lives were lost in the flood. Every person on planet earth died, except for Noah's family. Of course, we immediately wonder about the fate of their immortal souls, both those of the tsunamis and especially those of the anti-deluvians. For those who died in the tsunamis, if they were Christians, they are with the Lord. If they were not Christians, then they are in Hell.

As for the anti-diluvians, their circumstances were somewhat different. God had examined their hearts and found that they were evil continually. Sadly, it is possible that all of those persons who were not in the ark were lost and are in Hell. Many believe that the ark is a representation of Christ and, thus, only those in the ark could be saved. I for one am not ready to affirm that everyone outside the ark is in Hell. No doubt there were babies in utero, newborns, toddlers and young children, and mentally incapacitated that drowned with them who could have had a thought toward God but did not. Also, Scripture gives some encouraging words regarding the fate of infant

and infirmed. But, I am not able to address them today. We can always ask just as Abraham, "Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?"

Finally:

Gen 7:16

16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

(KJV)

Noah did not shut himself in the ark, it was the Lord that shut him in. What great comfort that must have been to Noah and his family. It was God's plan from the start and it was right that God should seal it. For all of the pitch (tar) that he spread over the gopher wood, that is not what sealed the ark and made it strong. It was the power of God and will of the Lord that floated the boat in the greatest tempest that has ever been. Next to the Titanic or the Exxon Valdez, the wooden ark would have appeared small and fragile. But, these great steel ships were sent to the bottom of the ocean by much less than what the ark withstood. And the ark rests to this day on Mount Ararat having survived the great storm and flood that no modern vessel could. The framing and pitching of the arc were done in obedience and faith given by the grace of God.

By way of application, there are many things that we could take home from the mistakes of the anti-diluvians, but those are rather obvious.

But, here is one to contemplate this week:

Model your home after the arc.

- 1) Build it according to the Word of God.
- 2) Make it a place of worship and source of God's truth.
- 3) Seal it so that the world doesn't leak in.