

God's Attribute Of Constancy (Genesis 6:1-22)

I. Introduction

A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. God was Sorry that He had Created Man (Genesis 6:1-22)
2. God Never Changes (Hebrews 13:8)
3. God Changed His Mind about Nineveh (Jonah 3:10)

Question: In Genesis 6:6, why was God sorry that He had created humanity?

B. God is constant. He never changes.

1. Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."
2. Genesis 6:6, "And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart."
 - a. Repented (nacham) - to be sorry, be moved to pity, or to have compassion
 - b. Grieved (atsab) - to be in pain, be pained, be grieved, or to be vexed
3. Jonah 3:10 says, "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not."
4. In both instances, God was angry with His creation.

C. God's attribute is sometimes difficult to explain.

1. Psalms 7:11 says, "God judgeth the righteous, and ***God is angry with the wicked every day.***"
2. Who are the wicked except those that have refused the Lord's goodness?
 - a. Psalms 9:17 says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."
 - b. Psalms 10:4 says, "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, ***will not seek after God:*** God is not in all his thoughts."
3. In Bible terminology, who are the righteous?
 - a. Romans 3:10 says, "As it is written, ***There is none righteous, no, not one:***"
 - b. Romans 5:19 says, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so ***by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.***"
4. No one born of Adam's seed is righteous.
5. Not one of us came into this life seeking the Lord.
6. ***We become righteous when we come to the Lord in faith and receive Him into our hearts as Savior.***

D. The Lord was angry in Genesis 6:6 because none of His creation sought after Him.

1. The godly line of Seth had turned away.
2. The ungodly line of Cain had always been turned away.
3. Genesis 6:8 says, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."

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- a. Grace (***chen***) – God's unmerited favor
- b. Hebrews 11:7 says, "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.***"
- c. Noah became the new godly line.

Question: Who were the sons of God and the daughters of men in Genesis 6:2 and Genesis 6:4? Who were the giants in Genesis 6:4? Who were the Nephilim? If they were destroyed by the Great Flood, then why do they show up again in Numbers 13:33 and Deuteronomy 2:11?

II. The people of Noah's time had made the Lord very angry.

A. What were they doing?

1. Genesis 6:2 says, "That the ***sons of God saw the daughters of men*** that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose."
2. Genesis 6:4 says, "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)
3. The "sons of God" and the "daughters of men" were marrying and giving in marriage and having children.
4. Matthew 24:38 says, "For as in the days that were before the flood ***they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage***, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,"

B. Some people believe that the sons of God are angels and that they were cohabiting with the women of earth.

1. If that is true, then the angels were marrying human women.
2. Matthew 22:30 says, "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, ***but are as the angels of God in heaven.***"
3. But according to Jesus, angels do not marry anyone.

C. Some people believe the less dramatic, and I fall into that camp.

1. I believe that the sons of God in this passage were those men from the godly line of Seth.
2. I believe that the daughters of men in this passage were those daughters from the ungodly line of Cain.
3. In my opinion, there was not any hocus pocus in this passage. It was simply that the godly were getting involved in the wrong way with the ungodly.
4. II Corinthians 6:17 says, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and ***touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,***"

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5. *The godly line of Seth had become corrupt, which is why the Lord destroyed everyone except Noah and his family.*
- D. Were giants in the land in those days? ***I do not think so.***
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 2. Genesis 6:4 says, "The Nephilim 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." (NIV)
 3. Giants or Nephilim?
 - a. Giants (***n@phiyL***) - giants, the Nephilim
 - b. Were they physically large? ***I do not think so.***
 - 1) Numbers 13:23 says, "And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and ***they bare it between two upon a staff***; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs."
 - 2) ***Where did the giants get the seeds to grow giant grapes?***
 4. Numbers 13:33 says, "***And there we saw the giants***, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and ***we were in our own sight as grasshoppers***, and so we were in their sight."
- E. What was with the giants or Nephilim?
1. By breaking Genesis 6:4 into two sentences, the NIV offers a better explanation for the Nephilim than the KJV.
 2. My opinion is that the "they" in verse 4 refers to the Nephilim, not to the children being produced by the sons of God and the daughters of men.
 3. The Nephilim were the men of renown.
 4. Renown (***shem***) – name, reputation, fame, or glory
 5. The Nephilim were not physical giants, but they were bigger than life in reputation and name than normal people. In our culture, we have many people ***that would make us feel like grasshoppers in our own sight.***
 - a. Tiger Woods
 - b. Brad Pitt
 - c. Albert Einstein
 - d. Many, many others
 6. **Question:** If the Nephilim were a specific people, giants as it were, and if they were killed in the Great Flood, then how could they show up in again Numbers 13:33?
 7. ***The only reasonable explanation is that Nephilim (giants) refers to a type of person rather than to a specific family of individuals.***

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Question: How long did God give the people on earth to repent? How do you know that?

- III. Genesis 6:3 says, "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."
- A. Some people believe that this verse refers to a new life expectancy for people since people after the flood would have much shorter life spans.
1. *I do not believe that this is the case.*
 2. II Peter 2:5 says, "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;"
 3. Genesis 5:27 says, "And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died."
 4. Genesis 5:32 says, "And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth."
 4. Methuselah's name meant that it would come to pass when he died.
- B. Genesis 7:6 says, "And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth."
1. Methuselah died in the same year as the flood but probably not by the flood.
 2. Noah was a preacher of righteousness for at least one hundred years while he was building the ark.
 3. My opinion is that God gave humanity 120 years to repent. When they failed to do so, He used Noah to build the ark.
- C. People did not listen to Noah.
1. The righteous continued to be involved with the unrighteous.
 2. They did not believe Noah when he warned of the flood.
 3. Genesis 2:5-6 says, "And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground."
 4. Possibly, the Great Flood was the first literal rainfall.

Question: What covenant did God make with Noah after the flood? How does that covenant relate to God's next time of wrath?

- IV. God and Noah made a covenant following the flood.
- A. The Noahic Covenant - There will be no more floods, and the rainbow symbolizes that promise.

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- B. Genesis 9:11 says, "And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; ***neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.***"
- C. Genesis 9:13-14 says, "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:"

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Next week's lesson: "Abraham is a Hero of the Faith" (Genesis 12:1-20)

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday:	Genesis 11:24-28 and Genesis 12:1-20
Tuesday:	Genesis 20:1-18
Wednesday:	Joshua 24:1-12
Thursday:	Luke 3:1-34
Friday:	Hebrews 11:8-10

Study questions:

1. When Abraham left Ur, did he do exactly what the Lord told him? Compare Genesis 11:31 and Genesis 12:5. How many times did God tell Abraham to go to the Promised Land?
2. Who went with Abraham when he left Ur? Were they supposed to go with him?
3. Who went with Abraham when he left Haran? Were they supposed to go with him?
4. What lie did Abraham tell King Abimelech in Genesis 20:1-18? Why did he tell that lie? Do we need to sometimes withhold some facts for our own protection?
5. Why did Abraham have a less than honest attitude when he was first starting out?
6. Can people living today be true heroes of the Faith in word and deed? How?