

## Introduction

Commenting on the Bible is nowhere more difficult than here in Genesis Chapter Six. The only thing Bible commentators agree on regarding these opening verses is that they are among the most difficult in all of the Word of God to comment on!

When you encounter texts like this it's helpful to remember this simple rule of Bible interpretation: *The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible itself!*

The Bible itself *does* comment on these verses in Genesis Chapter Six. The commentary is found in Peter's two New Testament letters and in the letter of Jude. Two passages in particular set the whole context for us:

1 Peter 3:20 "... the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared..."

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord... is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

**\*\*In His longsuffering, God waited to send the judgment of the flood because He was not willing that any should perish. His patient waiting gave men space to repent by responding to God the Holy Spirit, Who Genesis 6:3 says was "striving" with sinful men.**

The response to God the Holy Spirit was twofold:

- - men resisted and, according to verse 6, grieved the heart of God;
- - one man received and, according to verse 8, found grace in the eyes of God.

In commenting on Genesis, Peter is not only looking *back* to the flood; he is also looking *forward* to the fire:

2 Peter 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."

The longsuffering of God waited before the flood while Noah built the Ark. God the Holy Spirit was striving with men. Most resisted Him; one received.

**\*\*The longsuffering of God is waiting today before the fire while Jesus Christ builds His Church! God the Holy Spirit is striving with men. Most resist Him; some receive.**

#1 The Longsuffering Of God Waited Before  
The Flood While Noah Was Building The Ark

Here we embark upon four of the Scripture's most difficult verses:

Genesis 6:1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,

Genesis 6:2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

Genesis 6:3 And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

Genesis 6:4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

There are three views of who the "sons of God" are among Bible commentators. The first view sees them as the godly human offspring of Seth, the "daughters of men" as the ungodly offspring from the line of Cain, and their sin as that of mixed marriages between believers and unbelievers. The second view sees the sons of God as pagan kings and nobles, like Lamech in chapter four, who take multiple wives. The third view identifies the sons of God as wicked, fallen angels who had rebelled with Satan and who then sinned further by cohabiting with the daughters of men; these diabolical unions resulted in strange offspring called "giants."

Each of these views has strong Scriptural evidence to support it; each of them also has difficulties! For myself, I lean towards the supernatural view that the "sons of God" are fallen angels. The Bible, commenting on itself, seems to support this view.

Peter and Jude, in their New Testament letters, are God's *inspired* Bible commentators! Peter, in describing the days of Noah, says in 2 Peter 2:4 "... God did not spare *the angels who sinned*, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment..."; in 1 Peter 3:19 he mentions certain "...*spirits in prison*..." Jude then provides this commentary:

Jude 1:6 "...*the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode*, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day..."

In the next verse in Jude there is a clue as to what these wicked angels did. They did something similar to what the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah did. Those cities indulged themselves in gross sexual immorality, going after "strange flesh." Just so, Jude says, there were fallen angels who gave themselves to gross immorality by going after strange flesh. They abandoned their proper habitation and gave themselves over to a gross kind of sexual evil. For that, God has incarcerated them in a special dungeon in Hades.

Both Peter and Jude were commenting on Bible history that their readers were familiar with. In light of Genesis 6:1-4, we believe that they were commenting on the sin of the "sons of God" in the days just prior to the flood. Fallen angels, called "sons of God" because God created them and they were not born, lusted after human women and took them in marriage. Their offspring were extraordinary men called "giants", "mighty men of old, men of renown." Dr. Henry Morris and others suggest that these fallen angels, themselves spirits, took possession of the bodies of human men as a "habitation" in order to marry women and corrupt the human race. The angels could have

manipulated the genes in the bodies of their hosts, creating mutations and recombinations of characteristics to produce human offspring that were endowed with extraordinary features.

While you are considering all this, don't forget to note the phrase in verse 4, "*and also afterward.*" There were such giants *again*; you read of them in Numbers, Deuteronomy, and in Joshua. Since everyone except Noah and his family were destroyed in the global flood, these post-flood giants would have to be produced by fallen angels again cohabiting with the daughters of men after the judgment of the flood.

In the midst of these verses, God says "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." If the wickedness of mankind was due to an invasion of demons, how can God hold mankind responsible?

The answer seems to be that mankind was familiar with these fallen angels and was choosing to consort with them! The text is careful to indicate that these unions were marriages; "they took wives..." They weren't going about raping innocent women. The context seems to imply voluntary relationships with fallen angels. If this seems weird, it is no weirder than what is happening today. There is an explosion of interest in the occult and especially in contacting spirit beings - - *even with voluntary possession!* We may be on the verge of weirder things yet as men and women choose to consort with seducing spirits.

Genesis 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

When men do not retain God in their knowledge, they fall into progressively worse sin. You can read about it in Romans 1:18-32.

Genesis 6:6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

In the KJV it says that "it repented the Lord." It is an essential characteristic of God that He does not change or repent. *We* change and then God deals differently with us. In order to describe this, we say that God changed His mind when we really mean that God is consistent with His nature and changes His dealings with us based on our responses. God told Jonah He was going to destroy Nineveh. When they repented, He seems to have changed His mind by sparing them. But the supposed change was consistent with God's nature. Jonah, in fact, *knew* that God would change if Nineveh responded with repentance; that's the reason why he ran the other way. He wanted them to perish!

God is described as "grieved in His heart." Grief is a love-word; we only grieve for those we love. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, and even strives with them because He loves them and seeks their repentance.

Genesis 6:7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

Matthew Henry writes, "None lose the Spirit's strivings but those that have first forfeited them." God's love does not cancel out His holiness. If men resist, He must respond in judgment.

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Genesis 6:9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

Genesis 6:10 And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 6:11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

One man responded to the strivings of God the Holy Spirit and was saved by grace. He may not have impacted his neighbors, but he certainly touched the lives of his wife, his children, and their wives. Beginning in verse 9, the narrative may have been written by Noah's sons. The phrase, "these are the generations of," is repeated several times throughout Genesis and is believed by some scholars to indicate the signature of a previous section by its author. If so, this next section is written by his sons, for in 10:1 we have their signature.

Noah's sons were deeply touched by their father's commitment to his God. Your children can escape the "corruption" of this world! Your testimony and example are crucial. Noah undoubtedly got them involved in building the Ark. Get your kids involved in the Lord's work! They undoubtedly heard his preaching. Get your kids interested in the Word of God!

\*\*The longsuffering of God waited before the flood while Noah built the Ark. God the Holy Spirit was striving with men. Most resisted Him; one received.

## #2 The Longsuffering Of God Is Waiting Today Before The Fire While Jesus Christ Builds His Church

Peter, in the third chapter of his first letter, sees in the flood an illustration of your salvation in Jesus Christ. Since Peter sees Noah, the Ark, and the flood as pictures to encourage us today, we can as well.

- -Noah built an Ark, into which all those who were saved were called by God.
- -Jesus Christ is building His Church, into which all who are saved are being called.

In Noah's day, men either grieved God by their sin or they found grace in God's eyes. I want to apply that to *you* as a believer who is living in days very much like the days of Noah!

Here are some things that still grieve your Father's heart:

1 - In verse 2 we read of the sexual lust that characterized the sons of God. Our society is now dominated by sexual immorality of every imaginable kind. How tragic when it is also associated with God's born-again children! The New Testament is filled with warnings to *believers* to avoid sexual sin.

2 - Remember we said that some consider Genesis 6:1-4 to be describing mixed marriages between believers and unbelievers. Whether or not that is what is being taught in these particular verses, spiritually mixed marriages are grievous to your Father in heaven!

3 - If the "sons of God" were demons, as we believe they were, then the men and, especially, the women of Noah's day voluntarily consorted with demons. So do people today. So do some who call themselves Christians! Paul warns in 1 Timothy 4:1 not to give heed to seducing spirits and the doctrines of demons. He indicates that such things will indeed trouble the Church in the Last Days, leading many into apostasy. Yet the Church embraces occultism in many forms today. Most contemporary psychotherapy embraced by Christians is not just secular, but literally demonic. Some of the most popular Christian leaders and teachers say that you are a "god"; this is a key doctrine of demons!

4 - In verse 11 God judged the men of Noah's day as "corrupt." The word is used in Scripture of sexual immorality, of idolatry, and of deceitful conduct. We've already mentioned sexual immorality. All covetousness is said to be a form of "idolatry." In Hebrews 3:13 you are warned that deceiving yourself about sin will harden your heart.

5 - Verse 11 also mentions "violence." Violence dominates the entertainment media. You need to be careful of its influence, especially in your children.

\*\*The sins that grieved God then still do so today; His grace is still abundantly available today for you to walk with Him as Noah did. Don't grieve your Father's heart! Rather, find grace to walk with Him. Noah "found grace" and "walked with God." His walk is described in verse 9 as "just" and as "perfect in his generations." God's grace so affected him that both his character and his conduct gave evidence of it!

*You* found grace; *you* are enabled by grace to walk with God in this wicked and perverse generation. Grace affects *your* character and *your* conduct.

### Conclusion

I like the way Peter says, God's longsuffering waited." As if longsuffering by itself weren't enough of a marvel of God's love toward men, it is further described as "waiting." Longsuffering is God's patience towards sin, withholding inevitable judgment. What is it waiting for?

Not "what," but "who"; who is God's longsuffering waiting for?

There was a time that His longsuffering was waiting for you, and for me. I am so glad He waited!