

**“THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN WAS GREAT IN THE EARTH”
(Genesis 6:1-8)**

Introduction:

1. This is one of the most tragic statements ever made about man!
 - a. Satan had achieved great success in the world before the Flood.
 - b. The descendants of Cain had thrown off all restraints.
 - c. Eventually, the descendants of Seth intermarried with Cain’s family and were thereby led into depravity.
 - d. The world had gone past the point of no return!

2. The patience of God was at an end.
 - a. His justice demanded that sin be punished.
 - b. He determined to destroy man whom He had made in His image.

3. God’s attitude toward man is determined by man’s attitude toward Him.
 - a. Man’s change of heart toward God brought His change of heart toward man.
 - b. God searches man’s heart:

“I, the Lord, search the heart; I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings” (Jer. 17:10).

4. How can God’s children keep their hearts pure in a sinful world?

Discussion:

- I. THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN CAME ABOUT GRADUALLY.
 - A. The first step away from God was made by Adam and Eve (Gen. 3).
 - B. The second step away from God was made by Cain (Gen. 4).
 - C. Further steps away from God were made by Cain’s descendants (Gen. 4:19-24).
 - D. The final step away from God was taken when Seth’s descendants intermarried with the descendants of Cain (Gen. 6:1,2).
 1. One step away from God always leads to another.
 2. Eventually one will reach the point of no return (Heb. 6:4-8).

II. CONDITIONS IN THE WORLD MADE THE JUDGMENT OF GOD INEVITABLE.

A. People were preoccupied with physical things:

“They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the Flood came and destroyed them all” (Luke 17:27).

- 1. They were warned by Noah, a preacher of righteousness, but his warnings fell on deaf ears (2 Pet. 2:5).**
- 2. The same attitude prevails today (Luke 17:26).**

B. People were addicted to sin: “Every intent of the thoughts of man’s heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5).

- 1. It is increasingly difficult for one to keep his heart pure.**
- 2. Sin originates in the heart (Matt. 5: 21,22; 27,28).**

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23).

C. Society had become very violent: “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence” (Gen. 6:11).

- 1. Our public schools have become war zones.**
- 2. Gangs rule the streets of large cities.**
- 3. Even the unborn are at risk of being killed by their own mothers.**
- 4. A just God will demand a reckoning (Gal. 6:7,8).**

D. God’s law of marriage was disrespected (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:3-9).

- 1. Cain’s son, Lamech, was the first polygamist (Gen. 4:19).**
- 2. Men chose wives based on physical attraction rather than godliness (Gen. 6:2).**

E. The same conditions of Noah’s day prevail in our world today!

- 1. God is the same holy God of justice that He was in Noah’s day.**
- 2. Have we passed the point of no return?**

III. THE RIGHTEOUS FOUND GRACE IN THE EYES OF GOD.

A. Noah lived in a wicked world, yet he lived for God, and “found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Gen. 6:8).

1. This is the first time the word "grace" is found in the Bible.
2. Grace is "favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that person deserves."
3. Grace is an attribute of God: "The Lord is merciful and gracious (His actions are in harmony with grace), long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth" (Ex. 34:6).

B. Noah received God's grace by his obedient faith.

"By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became the heir of the righteousness which is according to faith" (Heb. 11:7).

IV. NOAH'S FAITH SHOWS WE CAN LIVE GODLY IN AN UNGODLY WORLD.

A. Consider the wickedness of the world in Noah's day.

1. "All flesh had corrupted their way on the earth" (Gen. 6:12).
2. Imagine what it would be like if there were no honesty, no morality, little or no restraint on behavior, no regard for the laws of God or man!

B. Noah lived in such a world, yet "found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

1. Noah loved God and wanted to please Him (Luke 10:27).
2. Noah hated sin (Psa. 119:104).
3. Noah made a decision to choose God instead of the world (Matt. 6:24; Josh. 24:15).

Conclusion:

1. Our world today is becoming more and more wicked.
2. Just as Noah and his family lived above sin and apart from the world, so we can also.
3. We must not love this world or live for it (1 John 2:15-17).
4. We must "set our minds on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:2).
5. The first step is to accept the grace of God (Eph. 2:8; Acts 2:36-41).

