

The Gospel in Genesis

Comfort in the midst of Evil

Genesis 6:5-12

We live in a broken land (6:5)

We are the cause of the evil (6:5)

Your brokenness pains the Lord (6:6)

The Lord always responds to your sinfulness (6:6-7)

The Lord alone is our Judge (6:7 // 11-12)

You can find grace in the midst of evil (6:8)

You can be a Noah (comfort) in the midst of evil (6:9)

The Comforter is not silent in the midst of evil (6:13)

Why does it Matter?

The Gospel in Genesis

[Comfort in the midst of Evil]

Introduction

²⁹ And he called his name Noah, saying, “This *one* will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed.”

- This morning we will reflect on the tension and the reality of **God’s response to Sin** and **God’s response to the Sinner**.

Read [Gen 6:5-12]

We live in a broken land (6:5)

- We live in a broken world where evil and wickedness reign.
- For evidence of this all you have to do is look at the news. From google news on Wednesday these are the top 5 stories... in order.... And not cherry picked
 - Trump’s first challenge is to unite fractured party
 - Wildfire destroys home in Canada
 - Prince died before meeting with Doc
 - After Navy Seal’s death, Pentagon says war with ISIS far from over
 - Data shows job growth cooled in April
- You cannot escape the reality of our broken land and the Lord will **not ignore or remain silent** concerning the wickedness on every side.
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Where is your comfort?

We are the cause of the evil (6:5)

- The Bible very clearly shows us the quick descent of sin. Wickedness is widespread and EVERY scheme of his time was EVIL all the time.
- By the 10th generation after adam human evil has reached the ultimate depths.
- Widespread -- How great → the use of the same Hebrew stem here and in verse 1 suggests that the measure of evil grows in proportion with the population (JPS)
- **Ever heard the phrase... you broke it you bought it?** We live in a broken land and we broke it. It’s not God’s fault, it’s not our neighbors or parents... its ours. We must own it!
- You cannot escape the reality of your sinful behaviors and the schemes of your mind and heart

and the Lord will **not ignore or remain silent** concerning the wickedness on every side.

Where is your comfort?

Your brokenness pains the Lord (6:6)

- Our God is not a King who sits upon His throne in a far off land ignoring the difficulties of His people.
 - God's Word shows us that He is not withdrawn but actively involved in the lives of His creatures, approachable by them, and responsive to their needs (JPS).
- **The same verbal root is reflected in Eve's pangs, Adam's pain, and the "pain of our hand's work"**
- Both God and man are pained by sin... Noah brings comfort to both (Waltke)
- **God's response to your evil heart is a "wounded heart."** How does it make you feel knowing you break the heart of the Lord when you sin?
- God does not ignore or remain silent concerning your brokenness and your sin.

In Pain where is your comfort?

The Lord always responds to your sinfulness (6:6-7)

- Saw → the phrase has juridical overtones, implying both investigation of the facts and readiness for action (JPS)
- Not only did God see and investigate the great wickedness that every intent was evil continually.. he spoke and acted upon it.
- **God does not work for the IRS. Most of us know one day we can be audited... but never really expect it to happen. God will ALWAYS respond to sin.**

Where is your comfort?

The Lord alone is our Judge (6:7 // 11-12)

- The right response to our sin is always judgment. God's judgment against the evilness in Noah's day was quick and swift.
- **But does not not seem harsh?**
 - Our sin is harsh (6:11)
 - The word "corrupt" occurs seven times in this passage.
 - Corrupt signifies to spoil or disfigure (Waltke)
 - Lawlessness, violence, wickedness = חַוְּלָה
 - **Your sin does not only result in violence against others, its ultimate result is violence against the Lord**

▪ **God's judgment is not something stuck in antiquity. It is not only reserved for Noah's day.**

- God's judgment upon the first cosmos, lasting from creation to flood, is a prophetic paradigm of the **coming second judgment** on the current second cosmos lasting from the flood to destruction by fire (Waltke)
 - ⁵ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, ⁶ by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷ But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (1 Pet 3:5)

When you are judged... where will you find comfort?

You can find grace in the midst of evil (6:8)

- Favor (hen) is also often translated grace. Here we see **God's intentions to save.**
 - **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Have you found favor and grace? Where is your comfort

You can be a Noah (comfort) in the midst of evil (6:9)

1. In the face of universal corruption, he maintained civilized standards of behavior (JPS) **Noah (comfort) is distinguished from the people of his time.**
 - Are you **bringing comfort** to your family? Mom's are you a Noah? I know that Mother's day can be joyous for some and difficult for others. May you be or find a comfort today.
2. In the face of evil Noah was completely committed to righteousness leaving his contemporaries no excuse.
 - a. Are you completely committed to righteousness no matter what?
 - i. Righteous = one whose conduct is found to be beyond reproach
 - ii. Blameless = describes a sacrificial animal without blemish
3. Noah Walked
 - a. Talk the talk or walk the walk?
 - i. Inverted in Hebrew = God, walked he, Noah showing the priority of the Lord (JPS)
 - ii. This phrase links **Noah with Enoch in the godly line of Seth (Gen 5:24). Enoch is saved from death and Noah from the Flood** (Waltke)

Are you willing to be the godly line in your family? Be a comfort (because you know where to find true comfort).

The Comforter is not silent in the midst of evil (6:13)

- For those who believe and trust in the Lord, we can still feel like God is silent in the midst of our storms. How do you think Noah felt?
- In the midst of the darkness and evil God still spoke/said to Noah
 - a. God speaks to Noah directly seven times. God speaks louder than the evil surrounding you (7 times and 7 times)
- In the mist of darkness and evil God protected Noah
 - a. God takes the patriarch into His confidence and warns him (NAC). Jesus too confides in his disciples as friends (John 15:23-15)
- In the midst of darkness and evil God asked Noah to Trust (6:14)
 - a. One thing is missing from the Ark: a steering wheel.
 - b. The narrator does not mention a rudder or navigational aids, suggesting that the fate of the ark depends solely on the will of God.
Are you trusting in His comfort? He is not silent

Conclusion

- Our Savior responds to wickedness, sin and brokenness in the world. He did not remain silent or inactive in Noah's day and He will not remain silent today.
 - One day everyone will be judged.... If that day were today would you have comfort?
 - One thing for us to consider is the Lord's instructions to Noah. The Lord specifies the construction of the ark, just as he specified the construction of the tabernacle. He does not entrust the means of salvation to human imagination.
 - But God provided a way for us to be saved... and His name is Jesus. The Bible says that whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. It further answers the question what must we do:
 - Repent (turn from) (turn to) Jesus and be baptized.
 - God responds to our sin and to the sinner. If we cling to our sin we will be judged and when the flood comes... sin will not float. But if you give it to Jesus... you will be saved.
- You can put your faith in Jesus right were you sit
 - Opportunity to respond publically
 - Come forward
 - Connection card.. we will follow up and encourage you

Why does it Matter?

- We have been justified (made right before the Lord) and accepted
- We receive forgiveness (redeemed)
- We escape God's wrath (reconciled)
- We are adopted in to a new family
- We gain a new identity (New Creation)
- **Believe, Confess, Faith, Baptism**

Notes

Gen. 6:5 When the LORD saw that man's wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time, ⁶ the LORD regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷ Then the LORD said, "I will wipe off from the face of the earth mankind, whom I created, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky—for I regret that I made them." ⁸ Noah, however, found favor in the sight of the LORD.

- Saw→ the phrase has juridical overtones, implying both investigation of the facts and readiness for action (JPS)
 - Contrast this to Genesis 1 where the Lord saw good, now creation is corrupt (Waltke)
- How great→ the use of the same Hebrew stem here and in verse 1 suggests that the measure of evil grows in proportion with the population (JPS)
- Every plan...
 - In biblical psychology mental phenomena falls within the sphere of the heart (JPS)
 - "every scheme of his heart's devising was only perpetually evil" (Alter)
- Lord regretted... (anthropomorphism)
 - The need for such verbal usage arises from the inherent tension between God's transcendence and His immanence. God's Word shows us that He is not withdrawn but actively involved in the lives of His creatures, approachable by them, and responsive to their needs (JPS).
 - **The same verbal root is reflected in Eve's pangs, Adam's pain, and the "pain of our hand's work"**
 - Both God and man are pained by sin... Noah brings comfort to both (Waltke)
 - **God's response to your evil heart is a "wounded heart"**
 - **The vast majority of uses of God "repenting" refer to the possibility of a future plan of action. God repents over the future man repents over the past (NICOT)**
- **Created**
 - **The making of "man" is no error, rather the error lies in what man has made for himself (NAC)**
- By the 10th generation after Adam, human evil has reached the ultimate depths (JPS)
- Wipe...
 - God's judgment upon the first cosmos, lasting from creation to flood, is a prophetic paradigm of the coming second judgment on the current second cosmos lasting from the flood to destruction by fire (Waltke)
 - ⁵ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, ⁶ by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷ But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (1 Pet 3:5)
- Favor
 - This statement appears climactically at the end of the account of Adam's descendants. Noah

represents a new beginning, an inversion that was anticipated in 5:29. Noah finds God's grace not in spite of sin but because of his righteousness (Waltke).

- **Favor (hen) is also often translated grace. Here we see God's intentions to save.**

Gen. 6:9 These are the family records of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God. **10** And Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

- Righteous... blameless→
 - These cardinal terms of biblical Hebrew are used here for the first time without definition, thus presupposing a clearly recognizable quality of virtue favored by God (JPS)
 - Righteous = one whose conduct is found to be beyond reproach
 - Blameless = describes a sacrificial animal without blemish
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 - Righteousness combines piety and ethics. Blameless literally means whole or complete (Waltke). Noah is completely committed to righteousness leaving his contemporaries no excuse to criticize his conduct.
- Among his contemporaries
 - In the face of universal corruption, he maintained civilized standards of behavior (JPS)
 - **Noah (comfort) is distinguished from the people of his time.**
- Walked
 - Inverted in Hebrew = God, walked he, Noah showing the priority of the Lord (JPS)
 - **This phrase links Noah with Enoch in the godly line of Seth (Gen 5:24). Enoch is saved from death and Noah from the Flood (Waltke)**

Gen. 6:11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with wickedness. **12** God saw how corrupt the earth was, for every creature had corrupted its way on the earth. **13** Then God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to every creature, for the earth is filled with wickedness because of them; therefore I am going to destroy them along with the earth.

- God's intentions are certain, and the destruction will be inclusive: all people, both them and the earth (NAC)

Gen. 6:14 "Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and outside. **15** This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. **16** You are to make a roof, finishing the sides of the ark to within 18 inches of the roof. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks.

- The word "corrupt" occurs seven times in this passage.
 - Corrupt signifies to spoil or disfigure (Waltke)
- Lawlessness, violence, wickedness = חָזָק
 - **Your sin does not only result in violence against others, its ultimate result is violence against the Lord**
- God saw
 - The statement implies investigation of the facts and readiness to action (Waltke)
- God said to Noah

- **God speaks to Noah directly seven times. God speaks louder than the evil surrounding you (7 times and 7 times)**
- **In other Mesopotamian tales, the decision of the gods was to have been kept secret from man (JPS)**
- **God takes the patriarch into His confidence and warns him (NAC). Jesus too confides in his disciples as friends (John 15:23-15)**
- **Make yourself**
 - The Lord specifies the construction of the ark, just as he specified the construction of the tabernacle. He does not entrust the means of salvation to human imagination.
- Because of them...
 - They brought it on themselves. The impending catastrophe is not the product of divine caprice or nature's blind fury (JPS).
- Destroy
 - **Same Hebrew root as corrupt.** The idea is that humankind cannot undermine the moral basis of society without endangering the very existence of its civilization. In fact, through its corruption, society sets in motion the process of inevitable self-destruction.
- **Ark**
 - The narrator does not mention a rudder or navigational aids, suggesting that the fate of the ark depends solely on the will of God.
- Dimensions
 - 450 ft x 75 x 45 ft high

Gen. 6:17 “Understand that I am bringing a flood—

- the flood (God's judgment) both punishes and purges the world.
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Illustrations

- Evil continually.. (What do we see in the news)
 1. Trump's first challenge is to unite fractured party
 2. Wildfire destroys home in Canada
 3. Prince died before meeting with Doc
 4. After Navy Seal's death, Pentagon says war with ISIS far from over
 5. Data shows job growth cooled in April

Application

- The only way to separate yourself from your sin is to trust in Jesus.
- **If you cling you your sin you will be judged with your sin. In the flood, your sin will not float to save you.**