

## **The Judgment of God: Loving the Unaware and the Unprepared**

Genesis 6:1-8 KSBC July 25, 2010

**Introduction** For any person that believes the Bible and wants to live out its message, one particularly challenging theme is the judgment of God. The fact that God is so absolutely committed to his way, that he has and will destroy all those in opposition to him is often hard to accept and difficult to explain. The Bible speaks of God's judgment, wrath, severity and jealousy. Yet, it seems that these concepts are hardly considered as valuable whether inside the church or outside. The challenge is quite intimidating actually. Consider how God's judgment is often viewed . . .

- Mocked by our world system/culture. If the words from our mouths indicate the values of our hearts, then the cursing and profanity of people demonstrate a blasphemous rebellion against the authority and ownership of God (go to hell; damn you).
- Misunderstood as cruel and pointless. Worldwide floods, fire from heaven, hundreds of thousands of people wiped out, turning cities into ashes, blood as deep as the belly of horses, plagues, eternal torment in hell and the whole earth being reserved for fire are not easy topics to bridge your average conversation toward. What's the point? It appears to the average person as not only a bit over the top but quite unbelievable.
- Misrepresented by some on the home team. An inappropriate understanding of God's judgment has produced offensive, unloving and untruthful messages. God hates . . . insert a type of sinner here. The use of hell's realities to leverage people to make a decision for God. The stereotype of an angry person shouting damnation has often become the picture of God that people see.
- Miscalculated timetables and expectations. While most of us are not influenced by the future tellers and date setters, there is a real sense of wonder if final judgment will ever take place. Look how long it has been. Count the number of warnings issued. Observe how everything seems to just keep going the way it goes. We fear 'crying wolf,' raising false alarms or at least seeming like we live such bored lives that the best we have to do is aggravate others with some chance of distant doom.
- Missing from most gospel ministry. The perception that God is distant, disinterested and does not need to be taken seriously has infected much of our thinking and methods inside the church. It appears inside the church as God is primarily interested in our welfare, interests, agendas and happiness. The absolute authority of God to do as he pleases even with our lives and dreams often goes without mention.

These and more describe the backdrop against which we as God's people must announce and clarify this praiseworthy truth about our holy God. Our desire is to understand the judgment of God in such a way that we are encouraged and equipped to honor God in our announcing and living of the gospel of righteousness. Our mistake would be to narrow the beautiful sound of the gospel to one sour sounding note of judgment. However, as we will find in our study of Genesis 6:1-8, the message of the Bible unravels into nonsense if the truth of God's judgment is removed.

God is already on record as judging and sentencing Adam and Eve, the serpent, Cain and all the descendents listed in chapter 5 from Adam to Noah (exception Enoch). As the story of human history progresses, Genesis chapter 6 records that a new stage has been reached in the progress of evil. We now read the description of human corruption and God's necessary, loving response.

Read Genesis 6:1-8

Understanding the judgment of God is basic to sharing and obeying the gospel. Let's clear up our wrong thinking and sharpen our senses by considering two crucial truths about God's judgment from this passage.

### **1. God's judgment is a praiseworthy guarantee that He will get his way. Gen. 6:1-4**

Judgment demonstrates that God is a perfect moral being in that he is absolutely resolute in his hatred of evil.

What he determines as right will be established and rewarded. What he determines as wrong will be punished and destroyed. Judgment assures that evil will be disposed of authoritatively, decisively and finally. Note the basic elements that define and clarify the judgment of God from 6:1-4.

a. The corruption of man. 6:1-2, 4

God's boundaries overstepped. Man convinced that God does not need to be taken seriously.  
sons of God – prob demon influenced Cainites . . . issue is the unbridled passion of man; 'any they chose'  
note the progression of saw . . . beautiful . . . took in v.2; same as chapter 3 in the garden

b. The determination of God. 6:3

This cannot go on. Man is merely 'flesh' sustained by God.  
Abide or strive – ongoing sustaining of life . . . My Spirit will not let this continue in this direction.  
The breath of life remains God's to give and to recall.  
Man presumes to take God's place – 3:5 be as gods 3:22 and live forever 11:4 reach into heaven

c. The slowness of God. 6:3

120 years probably reference to time before the flood  
Allows people time to hear warnings and repent  
God's slowness is misunderstood and mocked – 2Peter 3:4-10, 15

God's judgment is praiseworthy . . . Psalm 75

## **2. God's judgment is a trustworthy demonstration of his kindness leading to repentance. Gen. 6:5-8**

God's judgment is perfect and trustworthy, unlike much of what we experience with human judgments. Consider these compelling realities about God's judgment from Genesis 6:5-8 that will build your confidence and trust in God.

a. God's judgment is not uninformed, he knows your heart. 6:5

God sees the behaviors and the intentions of the heart.  
Note piling up of terms for what God sees . . . every, only continually  
Relationship of works & judgment . . . Matt. 12:33-36ff . . . works/words show what you are inside  
Illus. He sees everything from every angle . . . no instant replay necessary . . . full awareness  
Koman Coulibaly Jim Joyce Gen. 18:25

b. God's judgment is not indifferent, he is passionate about your welfare. 6:6

2 responses reveal the passion of God for his glory/way – which is ultimately for our best

- God was sorry, repented, changed his mind . . . man longs for temporal relief, God wants things right. God is consistent in changing his plans for good if people persist in wrongdoing. Expression of displeasure. Jer. 18:10
- God was grieved to his heart . . . sorrow, pain cmp 3:16,17; God's indignant rage, wrath . . . God hates sin

God is not out of control with rage, cruelty or anger. He is passionate/jealous for those whom he created and loves.

c. God's judgment is not unqualified, he has all authority as your owner/maker. 6:7

Note the connection in God's mind between 'blotting' out man and the next phrase 'whom I have created.' God as maker, owner and giver of life has the right and is qualified to dispose of us, make

laws, give rewards . . . all as he pleases.

All judicial functions come together in God . . . makes laws, judges, sentences, executes the sentence

Cmp. Rev.4:11

d. God's judgment is not unproductive, he gives grace to deliver you. 6:8

Note the contrast between those who would be judged/destroyed and the man Noah

Key distinction found in 6:9; Hebrews 11:7 – righteousness by faith that resulted in obedience to God

Evidenced in 4:29 and 5:24 . . . there were a few people of faith and obedience

God favors/delivers righteous people . . . how does a person become righteous? Romans 4:22-25; 5:6-9

**Lord, I'm Listening . . .**

**1. God's judgment is a praiseworthy guarantee that He will get his way. Gen. 6:1-4**

**2. God's judgment is a trustworthy demonstration of his kindness leading to repentance. Gen. 6:5-8**

**Lord, I'm Listening . . .**

1. Express your confidence in God in increasingly corrupt times. His judgments are praiseworthy.
2. Repent of your attitude that God does not need to be taken seriously. God sees and knows your heart.
3. Lovingly clarify the wrong thinking in your world about God's judgment. God has appointed a day.

**Study Questions**

1. Read and review Genesis 5 – 6:8
2. Share your impressions or observations from the study of God's judgment. Describe your primary take aways, concerns or questions. Share what discourages or upsets you the most about the increasing corruption and sinfulness of our world/your life.
3. Explain how and why God's judgment is praiseworthy rather than something to be despised or avoided. What is the goal or objective of God's judgment? Read and interact with Psalm 75 as a group with these questions.
4. Why does the Bible connect works and judgment when it also teaches that salvation is not by works? Matthew 12:33-36ff What do you think of the statement: 'works in the final judgment serve as a spiritual character index.'
5. What has this study revealed in your heart about how seriously you take God, his authority and his judgment?
6. How does a clear understanding of God's judgment lead to repentance? What new thoughts or vocabulary do you need to learn to help those around you to take God far more seriously?