

## Genesis 6 -7 Bible Study

Genesis 6 sets the stage for the second major reboot of humanity. In it we begin to see why God “regretted” that he had made humanity. As you read through these passages, see how God’s Word is continually proved right, there is no one righteous, not even one. (Romans 3:10) Notice how the entirety of the Old Testament is the preparation for the coming of Christ and reveals to us our incredible need for a Savior.

Genesis 6:1–2: *“When humankind began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of humankind were beautiful. Thus, they took wives for themselves from any they chose.”*

In Verse 1 what do we see happening?

In verse 2, what distinguishes the sons from the daughters in this passage?

*What does the text tell us happened between the human daughters and the sons of God?*

What we see here is spirit beings having children with human women. We will see the result of this in verse 4.

Genesis 6:3 says, *“So the Lord said, “My spirit will not remain in humankind indefinitely, since they are mortal. They will remain for 120 more years.””*

*What does the ‘so’ which starts out this verse refer to?*

*What does God say about humankind?*

This is a hard passage to know with certainty, but many scholars believe that the word used for 'remain in' suggests God's protection and life giving. He will not protect humanity forever because He is going to send the flood, and we will not live forever because we are not immortal. We were not given eternal life until we were given the Holy Spirit.

Take a look at Romans 6:22, *"But now, freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your benefit leading to sanctification, and the end is eternal life."*

*Who do we see has eternal life in the above passage?*

*In Genesis 6:3, what then becomes the limit, as far as age, for humankind?*

Now let's read Genesis 6:4-7: *"The Nephilim were on the earth in those days (and also after this) when the sons of God were having sexual relations with the daughters of humankind, who gave birth to their children. They were the mighty heroes of old, the famous men. But the Lord saw that the wickedness of humankind had become great on the earth. Every inclination of the thoughts of their minds was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made humankind on the earth, and he was highly offended. So the Lord said, "I will wipe humankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth— everything from humankind to animals, including creatures that move on the ground and birds of the air, for I regret that I have made them."*

In verse 4 we see the Nephilim were ancient supermen who were perhaps giant in size and were the offspring of the sons of God and human women. *In verses 5-6 what is the relationship between these men and God's thoughts?*

Because of the wickedness of men, God looked to reboot humanity with the help of Noah.

*“But Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord. This is the account of Noah. Noah was a godly man; he was blameless among his contemporaries. He walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth was ruined in the sight of God; the earth was filled with violence. God saw the earth, and indeed it was ruined, for all living creatures on the earth were sinful. So God said to Noah, “I have decided that all living creatures must die, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. Now I am about to destroy them and the earth. Make for yourself an ark of cypress wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and out.” (Genesis 6:8–14, NET)*

Now let's jump to Genesis 7:

*“The Lord said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, for I consider you godly among this generation. You must take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, the male and its mate, two of every kind of unclean animal, the male and its mate, and also seven of every kind of bird in the sky, male and female, to preserve their offspring on the face of the earth. For in seven days I will cause it to rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the ground every living thing that I have made. And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.”” (Genesis 7:1–5, NET)*

Seven of every kind of clean animal, is better translated seven pairs. This is the first place we see the distinction between clean and unclean animals in scripture. To see what animals were considered unclean take a look at the list in Leviticus 11.

Leviticus 11:44 gives a brief explanation of why certain things were forbidden for God's people: *“for I am the Lord your God and you are to sanctify yourselves and be holy because I am holy. You must not*

*defile yourselves by any of the swarming things that creep on the ground,” (Leviticus 11:44, NET)*

Why are God’s people supposed to sanctify themselves?

Uncleanliness was associated with death and sin. Uncleanliness is the opposite of holiness. Animals that were used for sacrifice would have only been taken from the clean animals. So, we can see that this list of unclean animals were animals that were unacceptable for sacrifice to God and not okay to eat. Only clean animals were to be eaten, as you see in Leviticus 11. This division mirrors the division between the Israelites (clean) and the gentiles (unclean) and “served to remind Israel of her special status as God’s chosen people. The food laws not only reminded Israel of her distinctiveness, but they also served to enforce it.”<sup>1</sup> By making some animals unclean for eating, the people of God would keep themselves away from the gentiles so they wouldn’t be given any unclean animals to eat. For an example of this, take a look at Daniel 1:8-16.

Of course, none of us live under this clean/unclean way of eating any longer. Do you know why?

To answer that take a look at Mark 7:17-23:

*“Now when Jesus had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, “Are you so foolish? Don’t you understand that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him? For it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and then goes out into the sewer.” (This means all foods are*

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<sup>1</sup> G. J. Wenham, [“Clean and Unclean.”](#) ed. D. R. W. Wood et al., *New Bible Dictionary* (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996), 211.

*clean.) He said, "What comes out of a person defiles him. For from within, out of the human heart, come evil ideas, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, evil, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, and folly. All these evils come from within and defile a person."*

What change do you see here from the Old Testament law of clean vs unclean to New Testament living?

Before the arrival of Christ, humanity could only be saved by the offering of a sacrifice. According to 1 Corinthians 6:11, how are we now sanctified?

*"But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."*

Both Noah and the ark are considered archetypes of Jesus, that means that they are both a foreshadowing of Christ. As we read the Old Testament it's always good to look to the preparation for the New Testament. In what way do we see that Noah is a type of Christ in 2 Peter 2:5?

*"and if he did not spare the ancient world, but did protect Noah, a herald of righteousness, along with seven others, when God brought a flood on an ungodly world,"*

In what way was Noah less effective than Christ in this case?

Of Jesus we read, *"So he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."*  
(Hebrews 7:25)

Noah was able to save humanity through his family, but only temporarily. Christ came to save us eternally. Let's look at another parallel.

*“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” (Matthew 16:18, NET)*

In what way is Noah a foreshadowing of Christ in this instance?

Not only Noah points to the coming of Christ, but so does the ark itself. For example, there was only one door on the ark which God closed up after everyone entered. The ark was the only hope of salvation for mankind.

In John 10:9 we see Jesus say, *“I am the door. If anyone enters through me, he will be saved, and will come in and go out, and find pasture.”*

Just as Noah and his family entered the ark and were saved, so those of us to enter into the life of faith are saved. As you continue to read through Genesis, look for more signs of the gospel of grace and the coming of Christ.