

THE GLORY OF GOD

JROC - WHY Such a Catastrophic Flood??? Pt. 1

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Have you been asked, “Why would God do such a thing...wipe out the world with such a catastrophic flood?” We could respond with, “Why did God rescue eight people and many animals from that flood?” In our study of “the glory of God,” haven’t we seen WHO God is and haven’t we grasped God’s great love for His creation? Why do some rail against God instead of marveling at God and standing in awe of God? Our study of “the glory of God” is essential as a basic foundation in the Word of God in comprehending Who God is.

There are many, including Evangelical believers, who do not take the record of the global flood in Genesis seriously. They attribute the account to a moral lesson without regarding the narrative as actual fact/as truth! They are spiritualizing the text. They are giving their opinion. When we understand the Bible literally, we don’t need to come up with our ideas! Ask the Holy Spirit for His understanding. Support your explanation of the text with Scripture.

We NEED to read the “worldwide flood” account in Genesis 6 against the BACKDROP of unimaginable sin, a fallen world, the promise of the “Seed of the woman” Who will be born and destroy the adversary, and the two groups of people in the world– the wicked and the righteous – seen through Cain and Abel. We need to read and understand the BACKSTORY in Gen. 1 through Gen. 5.

When we read the genealogy of Adam in Genesis 5, we read the gospel message through the names from Adam (man) to Noah (rest/comfort). This is what the names in Adam’s lineage mean: “Man is appointed mortal sorrow. The blessed God shall come down teaching. His death shall bring the despairing rest.”

And in that message of the gospel, we do read that man is frail and mortal...but that God will provide rest/comfort. How? Through the Seed of the woman about which we read in Gen. 3:15. But not all will respond to that rest and comfort...that provision of redemption from God.

Do we realize that in Gen. 2 we read that on the 7th day following creation, God rested!

We see Satan in action in our reading of Genesis 6...

Gen. 6:1-4 - Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth and daughters were born to them, 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/some translations state: any of them they chose (And, in response to these actions by the sons of God, God said...) ³ ...’My Spirit (the Holy Spirit) shall not strive (not contend with; not plead with) with man forever, for he (man) is indeed flesh yet his days (man’s days) shall be one hundred and twenty years.

Gen. 6:3 is speaking of the Holy Spirit regenerating sinful man. God is NOT speaking here of man’s length of days equating to 120 years. Yet, I quite frequently hear that many believe this is the meaning of 120 days. This is not man’s lifespan; man lived longer. BUT – even if it

was man's lifespan following the flood – Abraham lived to 175 years; Isaac lived to 180 years. Noah's years were 950 (Gen. 9:29)!

More importantly, what is the CONTEXT of the passage where we read of the 120 years? We read of the Holy Spirit pleading with man to turn to God...to turn away from their wickedness.

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The 120 years appears to be the time that God is giving man, from this announcement, in Gen. 6:3, to respond to His Spirit and to turn from wickedness.

To better grasp that the 120 years don't equate to man's lifespan...

Gen. 5:32 - *And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.* At that time – Noah is recorded at being 380 years more than 120 years.

Gen. 6:14 – *make for yourself an ark.*

Gen. 7:1 – *Noah, Enter the ark....*

Gen. 7:6 - *Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.*

Gen. 6:3 - *My Spirit will not always strive with man forever* - God would not allow the human race to stay in this rebellious place forever. This means there is a point of no return in our rejection of God. God will not woo us forever; there is a point where He will say "no more."

As we come to Gen. 6:4, more information needs to be filled in.

Gen. 6:4- *⁴ There were giants (Nephilim; fallen; mighty ones) 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 (gibborim in the Hebrew) who were of old, men of renown (high exposure). In the Hebrew language, these "sons of God" were "bene elohim." This term is usually applied to angels (see Job 1:6; Job 2:1; Job 38:7). Genesis seems to be stating that, somehow, there was a physical union between angels and human women!*

Fallen angels, in order to procreate physically, possessed human male bodies. Consider the demonic activity in Jesus' day! Demons possessed human hosts! (Matt. 4:14; Matt. 8:16; Matt. 9:33)

The unnatural offspring of this union were the "Nephilim" (Gen. 6:4). The word Nephilim is directly transliterated from the Hebrew. The ancient root of the word implies a "fall." In some versions of the Bible it is translated as "giants." Scripture describes the Nephilim as "the heroes of old, men of renown."

Some theologians believe that God could simply not allow this corrupt offspring (between angels and humans) to exist on the earth, and that was part of the reason for the flood. But, these theologians do not go further with the explanation. And we need to do so. The “WHY” question needs to be asked and answered...to understand the “BIG PICTURE”!

Gen. 6:5-7 - *Then* (with that unnatural union) *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.* (NO aspect of man’s nature has NOT been corrupted by sin!)

⁶ *And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved (atsah – pained; hurt) in His heart.* God’s sorrow at man’s condition and the grief in His heart is striking! God’s sorrow and His grief are how the unfolding of God’s plan affects Him. God is not unfeeling in the face of human sin. Knowing God’s heart should spur us on to desire to please Him (II Cor. 5:9). ⁷ *So the LORD said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry (grieved) that I have made them.’* AND, so often we stop after v. 7 and wonder WHY God said these words, and don’t return to the Scripture that speaks of Who God is. AND – we don’t move forward in Genesis 6. What does v. 8 tell us....

Gen. 6:8 - *But Noah found* (acquired; was granted) *grace in the eyes of the Lord!!!* This might be the most amazing part of the flood account!

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Have you ever wondered why God flooded the entire earth...BUT RESCUED eight people and many animals? BECAUSE God’s plan is always Plan A – which cannot be thwarted. Plan A includes giving man dominion over the earth (Gen. 1:26, 28) – not yet occurred; Plan A includes the supernatural birth of the one Who will redeem, and the death of the Redeemer (heel bruised) at Jesus’ first coming; the restoration of the earth and the fulfillment of prophecies God promised to Abraham to be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom; to the new heavens and the new earth. God promised to save a remnant. “Just a remnant?”...some ask.

Do we understand that the level of sin and corruption among the human population was staggering? People thought about doing **only evil continually** (Gen. 6:5-7).

Do you think the adversary, Satan, was a bit miffed after being told by God of his, Satan’s, destruction – his doom? Bruised/CRUSHED head!! I hold the view that the intermarriage that caused the catastrophic global flood is between fallen angels and human women.

Have you read the NT passages that speak to the flood?

II Pet. 2:4-5 – speaks of fallen angels in Noah’s day – *For if 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: and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly.* These angels – the ones who are noted as having sinned - are connected to the flood. These angels are now in chains. We need to realize that there are fallen angels who are not in chains – they are demons.

Jude vv. 6-7 – *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain but left their own abode (taking on human flesh; going after human flesh), He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; ... having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh (the angels went after human women) are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

If Gen. 6:1-4 is not speaking about intermarriage between fallen angels and humans, how are we to understand II Pet. 2:4-5 and Jude vv. 6-7?

WHY is this important for us to understand? Satan attempted to POLLUTE the human bloodline. We are reading about Satan's effort to pollute the world to prevent the coming of the "Seed of the woman." The attempt on Satan's part was to cancel out the prophecy of Gen. 3:15.

If Satan was successful in tainting humanity – changing the DNA of humans, what of the birth of Jesus?

Gen. 6:4 – the Hebrew word for "giants" is *Nephilim*. (The Septuagint - the translation of the Hebrew OT into Greek) translates "giant" as "gigantes." "Gigantes," in the Latin, are known as Titans – half man/half god. The race was so polluted that God found it necessary to start again with Noah and his sons, and to imprison the demons that did this so they could never do this again.

How can we comprehend God's glory at this time?

While the flood was indeed intended for the destruction of "the world of the ungodly" (II Pet. 2:4), the ark was designed to save Noah and his family and to ensure the fulfillment of God's purpose for the creation, and God's promise of salvation – FOR HIS GLORY!