

Bible Essentials

Scripture Passage: Genesis 6:5-22

Think about your past week. How has God answered prayer or worked in your life? What prayer requests do you have? Write them here. Then take time to pray about your requests and ask him to open your heart for today's study.

Read today's passage. Jot down your initial impressions of the passage.

Here is some context for Genesis 6:5-22.

In Genesis 4, we read about the first murder, but we ended with the hope that people began to call on the name of the Lord. Then we have a genealogy in Genesis 5. Other than Enoch, who it says walked faithfully with God, we don't get any other idea of the spiritual state of humans in that chapter. Then we get to Genesis 6, and all of a sudden, people are so evil that God regrets creating them and decides to wipe them off the face of the earth. Genesis 6:5 says:

The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

That doesn't paint a very good picture of humans. In such a seemingly short time, humans have gone from following God to having only evil thoughts all the time. Yet, in spite of the wickedness of humans, there is a bright spot: Noah. We'll look at the story of Noah over the next three lessons.

What are your thoughts about the context? Write some key points here.

Read the passage again. Use a different Bible version if you have one available. Then summarize the passage in your own words.

Look closely at the passage and answer the following questions.

What does the passage say about God?

What does the passage say about people?

What does the passage say about God's plan?

What else strikes you about this passage?

Understanding how a passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible is important.

This passage tells us a few things about God. First, he doesn't tolerate sin. When he saw that humans were only evil all the time, he had to put a stop to it. The entire Bible is filled with this idea. God requires punishment for sins, and throughout the Bible, he uses different mechanisms of punishment. Here, he wipes out everyone except Noah and his family and some animals. Throughout the timespan of the Israelites, God required regular sacrifice for sins. But then in the New Testament, God completes his plan to take care of the penalty for sin once and for all: Jesus.

Next, we learn that God doesn't make decisions lightly. Before he decided to wipe everyone off the face of the earth, he came up with a plan. He found one man and his family to save, and he gave Noah exactly the instructions he needed to survive the destruction God was about to bring. This was God's short-term plan to deal with sin, but God has a long-term plan too. His long-term plan was to send Jesus to die for our sins, and eventually, God will conquer all sin and death in the end days as we see in the book of Revelation.

Finally, we learn that God is faithful to keep his promises. God didn't just say he would save Noah. He established a covenant with Noah that he would save them. And when God establishes a covenant, he keeps it, no matter what. This idea of a covenant is seen throughout the Bible as well, first with Noah, and again with Abraham and the Israelites. Then in the New Testament, we get a new covenant after Jesus's death and resurrection. This covenant is a binding promise that God will remain faithful to his people and will save them from eternal destruction.

What are your thoughts on how this passage fits into the overarching story of the Bible? Write your thoughts here. If you have any questions, write those as well. You may find answers in future lessons, or you may want to find another Christian that you can ask.

Use the following questions to apply today's Scripture passage to your own life.

How does this passage affect how you view God?

How does this passage affect how you view yourself?

How does this passage affect how you will live your life?

Close in prayer, asking God to help you apply what you learned today.