**June 17, 2020 | A Study on Chapter 6 of the Book of Genesis**

The Flood

Chapter 6 contrasts the sin and debauchery of the world with the faith and obedience of Noah.  As mentioned last week, the world population was increasing rapidly due to the long life spans prevalent during this early period of human history.  Verse 2 provides a basis for the following theories regarding the “sons of God” and the “daughters of men”.

1.      The sons of God are the descendants of Seth while the daughters of men are the descendants of Cain.  Chapters 4 and 5 show that the offspring of these 2 sons of Adam and Eve took very different paths.  Last week we studied the line of faithful patriarchs and prophets descended from Seth.  Cain, however went out from God’s presence and likely raised his family with no instruction to call on the name of the Lord as did Seth.  Sin was present in the world and like Eve who saw the forbidden fruit was pleasant to look, men were tempted by what their eyes beheld; the beauty of the Cainite women.  The result was intermarriage between godly and ungodly which was against God’s wishes.  When God allowed the Israelites to go into the promised land, he specifically forbade them to marry the inhabitants of the land (Deut. 7:1-4).  In 2nd Corinthians, Paul warns about being yoked with a nonbeliever (6:14).

2.      The sons of God are angels who fell with Satan occupying the earth and marrying humans.  The phrase, “sons of God” is used 3 times in the book of Job and refers to angels including fallen angels since Satan is specifically mentioned.  Jude describes angels who left their home and pursued sexual immorality with humans, a sin so great that God imprisoned them (verses 6-7).   The Nephilim (giants, KJV) are thought to be the children of these unholy unions of fallen angels and humans.  David Guzik notes that the apocryphal book of 1 Enoch discusses giants born to women who married fallen angels.  (Giants are also mentioned in Numbers 13:33 as occupying Canaan.)  Vernon McGee discounted the theory of angels marrying humans and believed that these “giants” were simply abnormally tall men.

3.      The sons of God are demon possessed men whom Satan sent to pollute the genetic pool of the human race.

Regardless of the origin of these marriages, the result was a world where sin tried the patience of God.  Verse 3 says that God would not contend (strive, KJV) with man and his days would be 120 years.  While some believe this marked a dramatic change in life span, it seems to refer to the time left before the flood.  The world had become so wicked that verse 5 says that man’s thoughts were only evil all the time.  Because of this, God resolved to destroy all life on the earth except for Noah and his family.  The phrase “it repented the Lord” (v. 6, KJV) is problematic for some who believe this indicates that God can change His mind.  God expresses a similar sentiment in Exodus regarding the Israelites and in 1st Samuel about His selection of Saul as king.  I don’t think any of these verses indicate God changing His mind, instead it seems to be a regret of the actions taken by man (see Ez. 18:32).  There are similarities to what happened later in Sodom and Gomorrah.  In both instances, sin had become so rampant that God could only found one righteous family to preserve.  As He would later with Lot, God gave advance warning to Noah about the judgement to come.  Despite Lot’s reluctance to leave the region that God would soon destroy, 2nd Peter describes him as a righteous man (2:7) as was Noah.

God’s warning to Noah about the coming destruction came with what probably appeared to Noah to be strange instructions to build an ark that would survive a great flood that God would send.  Some believe that it had not yet rained on the earth and that a continual mist provided the moisture needed for vegetation.  This idea is based on Gen. 2:5 which says that God had not sent rain on the earth, however this preceded God’s creation of Adam.  While there is no mention of rain in the Bible before the flood, that does not preclude the possibility that there had been rain.  God’s instructions to Noah were very specific regarding the dimensions of the ark.  It was to be 450 feet long and 75 feet wide.  While that may not seem that large, it is half again longer than a football field and was about the size of the Titanic.  The ark would accommodate Noah, his family and a collection of animals more specifically described in chapter 7.  Verse 22 says Noah did everything that God commanded him.  That is a testament to the faithfulness and obedience to God that Noah possessed.  To devote the time, energy and resources to build the enormous ark would require great faith and trust that God would do exactly as He said.  It is possible that those who saw Noah building the ark thought him to be a fool.  God told Noah that He would establish His covenant with him, the first of many times that word is mentioned in the Bible.  In the case of Noah, God promised to maintain a remnant for humanity even as He destroyed all other life on earth.  As we see many times in the Old Testament, God always keeps His promises while man fails to fulfill his part of the covenant which ultimately required a new covenant established by Jesus.