

"Living for God in the Midst of Difficult Times"

Part 10

Genesis 6

Introduction: Today we are coming back to our study of "Living for God in the Midst of Difficult Times", and as we do, we are going into Genesis 6 today. We have spent 9 weeks looking at Daniel and his 3 friends in the first 6 chapters of Daniel. Today we are going to go back to the book of Genesis, and as we do, we are going to look at Genesis 6. It will be here that we shall find a man who can teach us much about living for God in the midst of difficult times. Today we are going to look at Noah in the midst of Genesis 6.

We are looking at this study because of the direction our nation is going and based upon the direction combined with the Word of God, we can see that life is not going to become easier, but it is going to become more difficult.

Romans 1:18-23

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

This is what has happened in our nation. The Truth of God has been suppressed, and so the judgment of God is being experienced here. God has lifted His moral restraints from our nation.

Romans 1:24-28

²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind,

This GIVING UP is progressive. It starts with God lifting His restraints on the depravity of man and then as a nation goes deeper into sin and further from God, the situation worsens as God continues to lift His moral restraints.

This is what we are seeing in our nation and so things are going to become far worse. Now we do not know how far we will have to go into this darkness before the Rapture happens, so we need to be prepared. That is what this series is about. Now let us get to Noah.

I. The Man

Genesis 6:8-9

Here are some amazing verses that describe Noah, but it is not fair to pull them out of context and examine them. We must look at the background against which these verses are placed in order to fully grasp the character of Noah.

So we will come back to these verses, but for now we need to look at what was happening in Noah's day.

II. The Conditions

To see the conditions, I want us to look at the testimony of several persons.

1. Enoch

Enoch was born 1,034 years after creation and he was born 622 years before the flood. He lived 365 years, and then he was raptured from the face of the earth.

Genesis 5:23-24

²³ *And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:*

²⁴ *And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.*

Jude 1:14-15

¹⁴ *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,*

¹⁵ *To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*

Now let me show you another testimony.

2. The Holy Spirit

Notice Genesis 6:1

Here the Holy Spirit takes us the entire way back to Genesis 3 right after the fall.

Notice Genesis 6:2

The "sons of God" here cannot be saved people as many teach for if that were the case, then they would have been destroyed in the flood. This would contradict what Peter had said.

2 Peter 2:5

⁵ *And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;*

These "sons of God" were most likely fallen angels. You see the Bible often refers to angels as "sons of God".

Job 1:6

⁶ *Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.*

This scene in Noah's day was one of demonic possession. The fallen angels desired the women of that day and so they seemed to possess the men in order to get to the women. But there was more here.

Notice Genesis 6:3a

This is a very interesting statement. God does not say His Spirit would not always strive with the angels, but He says His Spirit would not always strive with man. This tells us that man was responsible for the demonic possession. There are 2 possibilities here:

1. The demons were sought after.
2. Man was deep into idolatry.

This was surely a false form of religion. Man had turned his back upon God, and so this left a void within him and man by nature is religious, so he sought something to fill the void.

Now behind this entire practice, Satan was using this as an attempt to corrupt the entire human race so as to stop the practice of the coming Messiah. Let me show you how corrupt the society had become.

Notice Genesis 6:5, 11-13

Every imagination and thoughts of man's heart was evil continually, and violence filled the earth. This was the result of the demon possession.

Let me show you something else that was happening.

Notice Genesis 6:3-4

These giants were not necessarily giants in stature. They were not half man and half angel. These were powerful men. These were mighty rulers who ruled over the people. These were men who oppressed others. They were rulers who were fueled by Satan. Just as Nimrod, Nebuchadnezzar, and the Anti-Christ. These men were part of the ungodly evil corrupt society of Noah's day.

So here in Genesis 6 we have a society of 8-10 billion people who were living deep in sin. They were a group of depraved men and women who had no desire for God, and they were into the worship of idols and demons.

Now we are ready to look at Noah.

III. The Character of Noah

Notice Genesis 6:8

It is important to notice that Noah FOUND grace in the eyes of the Lord. He did not EARN grace, for grace cannot be earned.

Notice Genesis 6:9

This is a marvelous verse about Noah. Out of the world's population of his day there was none who were like Noah. But even in this verse we do not see how much Noah stood out. So let me show you what God said in Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 14:12-14

¹² *The word of the LORD came again to me, saying,*

¹³ *Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it:*

¹⁴ *Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.*

God said there was no one like Noah, Daniel and Job. This is an amazing statement. Let me show you why God said this about Noah.

Notice Genesis 6:9 again.

There are 2 points here I want you to see.

1. He was just and perfect in his generations.

This means that Noah was righteous, and he was sincere in his desire to do the will of God.

The verse even takes this thought further. We are told he was just and perfect IN HIS GENERATIONS.

I believe the thought which the Holy Spirit desires for us to see here is that Noah had determined early in his life that he would believe the promise of God which was passed down through Adam, Enoch and Methuselah. Let me just remind you that at this time Noah is about 480 years old. He would be 600 when the flood would come on the earth.

2. He walked with God.

Noah walked with God for all these years.

Now let show you some lessons from Noah.

✓ **Lesson #1**

Noah had to hear the Truth of God's Word to be saved.

Noah learned about God from his father Lamech and his grandfather Methuselah. I point this out because as parents and grandparents we need to be sure we tell our children and our grandchildren about Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Not only do our children need to hear the Truth from us, but they need to see us live out the very Truth we preach.

Noah was saved by what he saw and heard, and his boys were saved by what they saw and heard from Noah's life. The power of a life lived for God is tremendous.

✓ **Lesson #2**

Noah gave God the first place in his life.

I need to remind you that everyone is controlled by one of 2 things:

- a. **Inward conviction.**
- b. **Outward pressures.**

Noah was a man controlled by inward convictions. I can assure you that there were many distractions in Noah's day but he chose to place God as top Priority, and he would let nothing distract him for 950 years. Let me give you something very interesting about Noah: he lived in the days of Nimrod but he was not a follower of Nimrod.

Application:

In the days in which we live, God must have top Priority in our lives. It is said of Noah that he walked with God. This is something that should be said about us. We need to walk in fellowship with God every day of our lives. Let me show you why.

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Satan was trying to corrupt the line of the Messiah in Noah's day, and he is trying to corrupt the children of God today. So to avoid his traps we need to be walking with God.

Lesson #3

Noah was not ashamed to stand for His God.

Noah worked for 120 years on the ark before the flood came, and while he did this, he was a preacher. The only people who agreed with his message were his own family. But he stayed true for all those years. I am sure he was mocked for his faith, but he was not ashamed to stand for his God. No matter what was said about him, he continued on in the will of God. I am sure it probably cost Noah to stand for God, but what was a loss to him was a gain for God.

Application:

As we stand for God in the midst of our society, it is going to cost us. But let me encourage you that God will reward your stand.

Ephesians 6:8

⁸ Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.