

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Before the Flood

### Speaker:

Doug Plank

### Date:

July 9, 2023

### Scriptures:

Genesis 6:1-8

**Theme:** In the rising tides of evil hold fast to God's favor.

**Introduction:** In this life, we are constantly confronted with the realities of sin and death. They are all around, as Solomon expressed in Eccl 3:19. We cannot avoid them. Genesis shows us how sin and evil began, and in chapter 6 we find a significant uptick in the presence and influence of evil. Yet the darkness of sin and death also serve as a backdrop to magnify the mercy and grace of God to us.

We find 2 highwater marks of evil, before the great note of grace:

#### 1. There were giants (1-4)

Gen 6 looks outside of Seth's line of God's favor to the world outside of the grace of God. Mankind was multiplying, as was godlessness and desecration.

"The sons of God" in v. 2 can be understood either as: a) kings/rulers; or, b) some manner of demonic character. Their offspring are the Nephilim (v. 4), the giants.

It can be easy to get focused on obscure arguments; but the gist of the text is clear.

These developments are evil, and are part of the prevailing evil on the earth.

The Lord's response to these evil developments is to shorten the lifespan of mankind to 120 years (or fewer-Ps 90:10), in order to restrain evil (v. 3).

#### 2. There was widespread wickedness (5-7)

Verses 5-7 unveil human sin in its fulness: "The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

There is nothing good or redemptive in that assessment. Man's wickedness was full and damnable (cf. Rom 3:10-12). Mankind is total depraved—affecting the totality of our hearts (mind, will, and emotions).

Christians, however, are not totally depraved because we have been born again; and God restrains sin by his common grace in the world—so we are not in Noahic times.

In Gen 6, the Lord "regretted that he had made man," and pronounced judgment. He would "blot out man" in punishment.

#### 3. There is grace (8)

The most remarkable words then appear: "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord." Hebrews 11:7 tells us that it was "by faith" that Noah pleased the Lord.

Even in the midst of massive and well-deserved judgment against the wickedness of man, still he shows mercy to the undeserving. He preserves mankind through Noah as an expression of love and goodness. To receive God's favor is to receive life.

### Questions:

1. How is evil affecting you?
2. How is God working in and through you to resist and overcome evil?
3. How do you experience God's favor?