# Torah Series - Book of Genesis

## D. The Flood and God's Judgment (6:1–9:29)

Corruption of mankind, Noah's ark, the flood, covenant with Noah, and Noah's drunkenness.

**Genesis 6:1-4 – Increasing Corruption:**

- This section bridges the genealogy to the **increasing wickedness** that prompts the Flood, showing the failure of intermarriage between godly and ungodly lines and the spread of corruption.
- "**Sons of God**" (cf. Deut 32:8; Job: *Angels!* 1:6, 2:1, 38:7) **Demonic pagan ritual** (demon possessed king/god has sexual relations with a woman. Offspring: ⅔ divine {demon 'god' dad & human dad} & ⅓ human). Recent modern example: New emperors of Japan (divine) spending the night with the sun goddess!
- 6:3 "My Spirit shall not contend with man forever." God is holy. People are not. This sets the stage for the sin mitigation system/tabernacle/temple.
- God limits human days to 120 years - not the new human age limit! It was 120 years **until the flood comes** - a period of grace before judgment on wickedness.
- **Nephilim** ('*Nephilin*' Aramaic plural for "**giants**" {Greek: *gigantes* where we get our word Giant from} or mighty men/tyrants) result from these unions—bully, thug, "big man/strong man/dictator/tyrant" (anti-Saint) powerful, renowned figures contributing to pre-Flood wickedness. "Giant" = a "big/powerful figure." Tied to human rebellion and apostasy (human sacrifice & cannibalism!).
- Contrary "**Sethhite**" View: Interpreted in context as the line of Seth (those who called on the name of the Lord) intermarrying with the ungodly "daughters of men" (Cain's line), leading to moral corruption and violence.
- Scriptures contrary to this view: Jude 6-7, 14; 1 Peter 3:19-20; 2 Peter 2:4-9; Joshua 11:21-22; Genesis 36:22; 2 Sam 21:15-22; Eph 6:12; 1 Enoch 7:4-6
- 6:4 "In those days and **also afterward**" notes their presence **post-Flood** as well (ex: later **biblical giants** - *Anakim & Rephaim* Numbers 13:32-33; Deuteronomy 2:10-11, 20-21, 3:11). Seen as Demonic spirits: Dt 32:16-17. **Og**, King of Bashan (Num 21:31-35, Dt 3:1-11)

**Genesis 6:5 – Human Wickedness:**

- The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination/intent of the thoughts of his heart was **only evil continually**. This describes the pervasive corruption and violence that had filled the world.

**Genesis 6:6-7 – God's Grief and Judgment:**

- God was grieved/sorry that He had made man on the earth, and His heart was deeply troubled. He declares He will blot out/destroy man (and animals, creeping things, birds) from the face of the earth, as He is sorry He made them. Emphasis on divine sorrow rather than mere anger.

**Genesis 6:8-10 – Grace to Noah:**

- But Noah found grace/favor in the eyes of the Lord. Noah is described as a righteous man, blameless/perfect in his generations, who walked with God (echoing Enoch). Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

**Genesis 6:11-13 – Corruption and Violence:**

- The earth was corrupt in God's sight and filled with violence. All flesh had corrupted its way on the earth. God tells Noah He will bring an end to all flesh, as the earth is filled with violence because of them. The cosmos is filled with unrighteousness because of people.

**Genesis 6:14-17 – Instructions for the Ark and the Flood:**

- God commands Noah to make an ark of 'gopher' (cypress) wood, with rooms, pitched inside and out with pitch.
- Dimensions and structure are given (L: 450-510' W: 75-85' H: 45-51') ~1.5 football fields long. The biblical ratios (roughly 6:1 length-to-width) align with stable ship designs.
- God announces He will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh under heaven in which is the breath of life; everything on the earth shall die.
- Almost all ancient cultures have a similar flood story. AKA: Everybody knew this event happened. The reasons for the flood (human evil) are different from what the Bible records.

**Genesis 6:18-22 – Covenant and Final Preparations:**

- God establishes His **covenant** with Noah and his family.
- "**Treaty**" rather than contract. It identifies the sovereign, what the sovereign will do, what is expected of the vassal, and the blessings/consequences of keeping it.
- Noah is commanded to bring two of every kind of living creature (male and female) into the ark to keep them alive, plus seven pairs of animals and birds for sacrifice and repopulation. Noah is to store food for all. Noah does all that God commanded him (reversing the curse of Cain).

**Genesis 7:1-5 – Entry into the Ark:**

- The Lord tells Noah to enter the ark with his household, affirming Noah's righteousness. Emphasis on seven days until the rain begins, and the distinction between clean and unclean animals. **Clean/Unclean** hasn't even been explained or talked about yet!
- Microcosm of the creation is contained in the ark.
- Noah obeys completely.

**Genesis 7:6-16 – The Flood Begins:**

- Noah was 600 years old when the flood came. Detailed account of the entry of Noah, his family, and all animals into the ark. The Lord shuts them in.
- The fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of heaven open (Day 2 of creation). God is ***uncreating***, going backwards to the chaotic waters of the beginning
- Rain falls for **forty** days and nights. (42: Six Sevens - a preparatory period, used by God for a purpose).

**Genesis 7:17-24 – Waters Prevail and All Flesh Dies:**
- The waters increase and lift the ark; they prevail mightily, covering even the highest mountains by more than 15 cubits (22.5').
- Ark is moving/"hovering" over the water // Spirit at creation.
- All flesh that moved on the earth—birds, livestock, beasts, creeping things, and humans—dies; only Noah and those with him in the ark remain alive.
- The flood lasts 150 days (chaos like pre-creation state)

**Genesis 8:1-5 – God Remembers Noah; Waters Recede:**
- God remembers Noah and the animals, sending a wind to assuage the waters. The fountains of the deep and windows of heaven are stopped. The ark rests on the mountains of Ararat in the seventh month. The tops of the mountains become visible by the tenth month.

**Genesis 8:6-14 – Testing the Waters:**
- Noah sends out a **raven**, then a dove (three times) to check if the waters have subsided. (Ravens were considered smart {Ravens in the Epic of Gilgamesh}, doves considered dumb!)
- The dove returns with an olive leaf the second time; the third time it does not return.
- By the first day of the first month (New Years! {*Rosh Hashanah*} Noah's 601st year - later, David's coronation date → Messiah)
- The waters have dried from the earth; the covering is removed from the ark.

**Genesis 8:15-19 – Exit from the Ark:**
- God commands Noah to bring out all the living creatures so they can be **fruitful and multiply on the earth** (chaos is replaced with order, life can thrive once again)
- Noah, his family, and all animals exit the ark.

**Genesis 8:20-22 – Noah's Sacrifice and God's Promise:**
- Noah builds an altar and offers **burnt offerings** of every **clean animal and bird** (whole, burn offerings because people weren't eating meat at this point).
- The Lord smells the pleasing aroma and declares in His heart that He will never again curse the ground because of man, nor destroy every living thing as He has done, "for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth."

**Genesis 9:1-7 – Post-Flood Blessing and Mandate:**
- God blesses Noah and his sons, commanding them to "be fruitful and multiply" and fill the earth (echoing the original creation mandate but with changes post-Flood).
- Humanity is given **animals for food** (with restrictions - animals are now afraid of humanity as the predator)
- Do not **eat the blood** of animals (cf. Acts 15)
- The shedding of human blood is strictly forbidden because humans are made in God's image
- **Capital punishment** for murder is instituted.

**Genesis 9:8-17 – Noahic Covenant:**

- God establishes a **covenant (treaty)** with Noah, his descendants, and all creation, promising never again to destroy the earth with a flood.
- The **rainbow** (literally God's "bow" - a weapon of war in the ANE now it is set aside in the clouds "**peace**") serves as the sign of this universal covenant of preservation—God's promise of common grace and restraint from total judgment.

**Genesis 9:18-23 – Noah's Sons and the Incident in the Tent:**

- Introduces Shem, Ham (father of Canaan), and Japheth.
- Noah plants a vineyard, drinks wine, becomes drunk, and lies naked in his tent.
- **Ham** "sees the nakedness of his father" and tells his brothers outside
- Shem and Japheth respectfully cover their father backward without looking.
- "**Father's nakedness**" - cf. Lev 18:7 - "You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness."
- **What actually happened**: Ham went and impregnated his mother with Canaan.
- Ham is trying to become the Alpha Male/Usurp the top spot, making that child the heir. Metaphorically connected to what the serpent did in the garden as the core of rebellion.
- Shem & Japheth **respectfully restore** the violated family order, "walking backwards" so as to have no part in the iniquity/violation, mitigate the shame/dishonour Ham inflicted. This is an act of filial piety, modesty & loyalty to the family structure under Noah.

**Genesis 9:24-27 – Noah's Prophetic Blessings and Curse:**

- Upon waking, Noah knows what his youngest son (Ham) had done and pronounces: "Cursed be Canaan" (Ham's son, **not Ham himself**—possibly because God's direct blessing on the sons could not be directly overridden.
- The **curse falls then to Canaan** as the living evidence of the broken family boundary, embodying the sin. Sets up prophetic focus on the Canaanites being especially corrupt.
- Canaan will be a "servant of servants" to his brothers. **Blessings** follow on **Shem** (Yahweh as God of Shem, linked to the line of promise/Israel) and **Japheth** (dwelling in the tents of Shem).

**Genesis 9:28-29 – Conclusion:**

- Noah lives 350 years after the Flood and dies at 950 (Genesis 9:28-29).
- The chapter transitions toward the Table of Nations in Genesis 10.

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