

God's Favor

Genesis 6:1-8

Problems: Three questions; who are the 'sons of God'; who are the 'daughters of men'; and who or what are the 'Nephilim' and the 'gibborim'?

First, who are the "sons of God"?

Angels - 1 Peter 3:19-20; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6, 14-15; Matthew 22:30

Human judges or rulers

Godly men of the line of Seth

Second, who are the "daughters of man"?

Third, who or what are the *Nephilim* and the *gibborim*? Numbers 13:32-33 This word took on the general sense of "hero" in Jewish life (1 Chronicles 11:10, 24)

Three things about God: His heart (6:5-6), His actions (6:7) and His favor (6:8).

God's Heart - Genesis 6:5-6

Concept: The pervasive waywardness of the human heart is limitless, it wanders, it is dissatisfied and it can be persistently rebellious. Yet God has mercy, and repentance is the way forward for such a heart.

God's Actions - Genesis 6:7 - (Numbers 32:23).

Concept: God knows the intentions of my heart and God is very concerned with how I act, because everyone of those things have consequences.

God's Favor - Genesis 6:8

Precept: The first favor of God was a delay of punishment for 120 years; the second favor of God was that one man and his family would be spared. (2 Peter 2:5).

Conclusion: We might outline these verses this way: Corrupt Practices (6:1-2); Divine Intervention (6:3-4); Corrupt Hearts (6:5); Divine Intervention (6:6-7). This outline reminds us that God defines holiness and he defines sin because in the end God judges all actions and all hearts and he always gets it right for every person.

Giants were real (1 Samuel 17) and points to an issue; a person's physical stature is not as important as their spiritual stature. We must pray for this kind of discernment.

Noah didn't earn God's favor [grace]. God's grace is his and he provides it willingly. This favor [grace] from God points to redeeming grace; God stepped in and rescued Noah and his family from certain destruction. I see in this verse the simple truth that God has grace in his eyes for his creatures and pours it on them at the most opportune times.

"People, unrestrained, will do as they please but God will eventually step in, because disobeying God's law has consequences.