



THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 14, 2021

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

Today at 4 on Zoom

Weekly Bible Studies

All temporarily being conducted via Zoom. Check our “friends” page on Facebook for more information.

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM
(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

On hold

Address and Contact

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FOCUSING ON THE FLOOD

Genesis 6:5-6 is a sad statement of the condition of the world at the time. *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. And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.* Verses 11 and 12 continue the sorry description. *Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh has corrupted their way on the earth.* God’s response is found in verse 13. *And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

Several thoughts come to mind. First, I doubt that the people would have described themselves in this way. People rarely do. No doubt they would have exchanged the words “wickedness”, “corrupt”, and “violent” with far more palatable expressions. They were not *wicked*; they just knew what they wanted and how to get it. They were not *corrupt*; they just did what they had to do to get ahead. They were not *violent*; they just had too much ambition to let someone stand in their way. However they might have sought to justify themselves, the truth was horrifying. Through their (all of them but *one* man!) attitudes and behavior, what had once been “very good” was irreparably corrupted.

Second, it is noteworthy that the wrath of God is not mentioned at all in this narrative. The only emotions God tells us he experienced at the time were grief and regret. (6-7) God does not experience regret in the way man does. He is never sorry for his own sinful actions because he does not commit sin. He doesn’t change his mind because he did something foolish or made a mistake. (Numbers 23:19) However, he is deeply troubled over the sins of his creation and that he chose to reveal both regret and being sorry in this instance must not be glossed over or explained away. *This* is what sin does to him. Now try to imagine it unrestrained throughout the *entire* creation. How his heart must have broken!

Members Needing Our Prayers

Janet Brundige, Julie Patton, Pat Seabolt, Jackie Litmer, Alexa and Charlie Lake, Bennie Poynter, Joyce Bolton, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson, Whitney Crouch, Rhonda Boyd (and family)

Others Needing Prayers

Rachel White, Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Andy Seabolt, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Michael Hogan, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Jen Victoria Poynter, Terry Daniels, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Ginny Wren, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Cindi's niece, Dana, and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Mark (Carol's son), Ron Harmon

To Our Guests

Interested in a Bible study? Either let one of us know or mark it on your visitor card.

Visit us on Facebook, YouTube, or our website to watch or listen to sermons.

Third, this event is reversing creation. This is *de-creation*. The second verse of the Bible tells us that *the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters*. Verses 6-10 describe how God took the waters and created order out of chaos. Waters were separated, dry land appeared, and the table was set for the creation events that would follow. By Genesis 6 the world had descended into absolute spiritual chaos. *All* of them had. The end result of the path they chose was death and destruction. God sped up the process, bringing upon them in totality what they were already doing to one another. This was God essentially saying to them, "To chaos you have appealed; to chaos you shall go." God commanded the waters to cover everything as it had before creation was completed. After this, God would begin to work his ultimate plan through a single family, rather than mankind in general. (Genesis 9 and beyond)

The flood narrative is a reminder that man belongs to God and was created by him for a specific purpose. It teaches us that God's gracious gift of freewill permits us to choose the purposes we will pursue. We are shown that the values of the world are often not (almost never, in fact) the values of God. We see the enormous pain and sorrow sin brings God. May we learn each of these lessons. Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
John Thompson	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

