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Sermon Notes

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Judgment Day Approaches: Noah Prepares the Ark Genesis 6

I. Noah's Ark: A Children's Story? A "myth"? or a warning?

- Around the turn of this century, some Russian soldiers sent on an expedition by the Czar, found what they claimed to be the remains of Noah's Ark on Mt. Agri Dag in the Ararat region of eastern Turkey... grainy black and white photos of this expedition have been shown recently on TV, but failed to prove conclusively the finding of Noah's Ark
- In 1955, French industrialist Navarra, led a high-priced expedition to this same region, and he discovered the dark form of a ship under a thick layer of ice 13,500 feet up the mountain. He extracted a piece of wood from this dark form and brought it back with him... this wood was subjected to a variety of tests (lignite formation, fossilization, Carbon 14)... it was determined to have been oak, hand tooled and 5000 years old; but C14 dating showed its age at 8th century A.D.
- Following a report of Turkish airmen, Life magazine (September 5, 1960) published an article on the ark and a photo which created a sensation... it turned out to have been merely a freak of nature, clay push-up in a lava flow
- On February 21, 1974, Senator Frank Moss of Utah announced that a satellite photo of Mt. Ararat possibly showed the ark... the report was later completely discounted
- In 1974, a group from Palestine, Texas claimed to have seen the ark from a distance of 2000 feet, but the photo they produced as evidence the CIA demonstrated had been retouched and was a fraud
- Recently numerous other expeditions have started from scratch, searching this region but their task is daunting since this is one of the largest mountains in the world, the base of which covers approximately 5000 square miles, and the ice-covered top is 20 square miles.

II. The Tyrant Kings Multiply (vs. 1-4)

A. Overview: Sons of God, daughters of men, God's anger, Nephilim

B. Who were the "Sons of God," and what was their sin?

1. Standard answer: fallen angels

a. Data from Job

Job 1:6 "One day, the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them."

Job 2:1 "On another day, the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him."

b. Idea: angels and human women produced children

i) somehow had relations

ii) produced a super race of warriors

vs. 4 "The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown."

c. Data from Jude

Jude 6 "And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day."

[Jude 7] "In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah... gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion."

2. Concept also found in mythology

a. Greek gods

Illus. Hercules

b. Therefore, some see this passage as pure myth

C. Problems with the Standard View

1. Angels have no bodies... how can they have marital relations & produce children?
2. Why does God punish the men in vs. 3, calling them “flesh”?

D. Another possibility: The Sons of God are tyrant kings

1. Flow from Gen. 4 to Gen. 6
 - a. Lamech, Cain’s descendent, a tyrant king
 - b. Lamech’s sins: bigamy, violence... ultimately pride
 - c. Cain’s pride: naming the city after his son
2. “Sons of God”... could they be human kings?

Luke 3:37 “... Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.”

Psalm 82:6-7 “I said ‘You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High. But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler.’”

John 10:35 “...he called them ‘gods’ to whom the word of God came...”

3. What was their sin? Marrying any woman they wanted

vs. 2 “The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful and they married any of them they chose.”

- a. Lamech had merely two wives... already a perversion of God’s original plan
- b. these kings had harems... scores of women, whomever they wanted
- c. they saw, they lusted, they took
4. Even worse, they were violent empire-builders
 - a. Nephilim-Gibborim... powerful warriors

KJV: translates this word “giants”

- b. meet them again during the time of Moses & Joshua

Numbers 13:33 [The Anakites were descended from the Nephilim]

The 10 spies were terrified of them... they were powerful warriors and very tall

Deuteronomy 9:2 “The people are strong and tall—Anakites! You know about them and have heard it said, ‘Who can stand up against the Anakites?’”

Related to the Rephaites & to the Philistines

Og, king of Bashan: his bed was made of iron & was 13 feet long and 6 feet wide

Goliath may have been related to them as well: he was over 9 feet tall

5. Building a name

vs. 4 “They were warriors of old, men of the name...”

- a. just like Cain, building city & naming it after his son
- b. even more like later builders of Babel

11:4 “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

Total perversion of God’s original purpose... these empire-builders sought their own glory, to make a name for themselves... so it was also in Genesis 4 with Cain & Lamech, and in Genesis 6 with these “sons of God,” these mighty warriors

PRIDE... the root of all our sins

E. God’s Response: Timetable for Judgment

vs. 3 “My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal. His days will be a hundred and twenty years.”

1. God strives with us... wrestling against our sinful tendencies
2. Giving time for repentance

[to Abraham] Genesis 15:16 “In the fourth generation your descendent will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

2 Peter 3:9 *“the Lord is not slow in keeping his promise as some understand slowness; he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*

Romans 2:4 *“Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s patience leads you towards repentance?”*

3. Time limit is set... 120 years

- a. Nineveh had just 40 days to repent... they made the most of it
- b. King Nebuchadnezzar got one year to repent... he wasted it

III. God’s Resolution (vs. 5-7)

A. Man’s constant wickedness (vs. 5)

1. Wicked in actions

vs. 5 *“The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become...”*

- a. acting out evil on the beautiful stage which got had set for good
- b. does not say what... perhaps murder, adultery, idolatry... especially violence

vs. 11 *“Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and full of violence.”*

- c. key: escalation... sin has a constant tendency to escalate

2. Wicked in heart

“... and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”

- a. lit. every imagination in his mind...
- b. creative powers, intellect, imagination... all corrupt
- c. present sins, future plans for more sin

B. God’s constant grief (vs. 6)

1. Our God an emotional being

Illus. Greeks ideal... passionless gods... our God is not passionless

- a. rejoices over repentance of one sinner
- b. is deeply grieved over sin

Ephesians 4:30 “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

- 2. Grieved over human evil... pained by it

vs. 6 “It repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth...”

- a. not in any way a question of God changing His mind
 - i) new information ??
 - ii) new character ??
- b. God knew all this would happen... yet, it grieved Him
- c. the “repentance” of God is language for our benefit... understanding the depth of God’s pain

- 3. Pain over sin would eventually become physical: AT THE CROSS

C. God’s Holy Resolution (vs. 7)

- 1. A settled decree of God... nothing can change His mind
- 2. God’s holiness will lash out
- 3. Mankind to be wiped out
 - a. like the wiping of a dish... careful, intentional, thorough

2 Kings 21:19 “I will wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.”

- b. no place to hide!

Revelation 6:15-16 “Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?’”

No place to hide!! Mankind to be wiped out entirely

4. Also all living creatures

“men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air...”

- a. Why? Created for man’s use & rule
- b. shared in His judgment
- c. total cleansing of the earth for a new start... a new creation

IV. God’s Righteous Instruments: Noah and the Ark (vs.9-22)

A. Noah alone righteous

1. Elijah complained that he alone was left... but Noah was truly alone!
2. Righteous standing before God

vs. 8 “Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.”

- a. Hebrew word = “grace”
 - b. everyone saved by grace... Noah was a sinner
 - c. YET God was gracious to him
3. God’s descriptions of him
- a. the “account” of Noah... one of the major division in Genesis
 - b. “righteous”
 - Unswervingly committed to holiness
 - c. “blameless” among the people of his time

“Blameless” = not literally perfect, but complete in all areas... no area untended

Illus.: Salmon swimming upstream... righteous despite constant provocation from surrounding culture

- d. “walked with God”

- Like great-grandfather Enoch
- Means constant dependence on God for everything... obedience to God's every command, praise for God's every gift
- Constant fellowship with God moment by moment
- Such a contrast with vs. 5!!! (Every inclination of their hearts only evil all day long")

4. Father of three sons: practical considerations (vs. 10)

- a. future spread of human race
- b. help for building the ark
- c. help for caring for the animals

B. The Progress of Sin: Time for Repentance Wasted (vs. 11-12)

1. The sin continues, deepens, and broadens
2. Violence, corruption

"Corruption" implies total ruin morally... useless, defiled, destroyed

3. Universal sin:

vs. 12 "All human beings had corrupted their ways"

4. God saw it all... nothing escapes His attention
 - a. God's pure, holy eyes filled with this filth day after day

Habakkuk 1:13 "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil, you cannot tolerate wrong."

- b. God's steady gaze as He waited patiently for time to run out

C. God opens His mind to His prophet

vs. 13 "So God said to Noah..."

1. God's regular pattern... speaking His mind to His chosen ones

Amos 3:7 "Surely the sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets."

Genesis 18:17 *“Then the Lord said, ‘Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?’”*

2. Noah will hear... Noah also will act & execute God’s plan of salvation

D. God’s Salvation Plan: An Ark of Cyprus Wood (vs. 14-21)

1. The wisdom of God is foolishness to man

2. Impending doom: total destruction of the earth

vs. 13 *“I am going to put an end to all people...”*

vs. 13 *“I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.”*

3. YET the grace of God... salvation is available for the righteous

vs. 14 *“So make for yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out...”*

[Size] *“450 feet long, 75 feet wide, 45 feet high...”*

[Design] *“roof, finished to within 18” of the top, three decks, door in the side”*

- a. incredible amount of labor... almost countless number of tree to be felled, cut into planks, bent to proper curvature...
- b. that labor would save his life and the human race
- c. God almost certainly instructed Noah along the way in the design
- d. side by side labor with His God and His sons

Noah’s burning question not “What’s an ark?” But “Why an ark??”

4. God fully reveals His plan

vs. 17 *“I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it...”*

- a. massive flood to cover the entire surface of the earth
- b. everything not on the ark will perish
- c. Noah’s family will survive

God to make a covenant... a solemn agreement with Noah and his sons, to protect them through this flood...

2 Peter 2:9 “The Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment...”

- d. animals will come on the ark two by two
- e. Noah also to store food for the voyage

E. Noah’s Obedience: Key to His Salvation and Ours

- 1. Labor motivated by faith and holy fear

Hebrews 11:7 “By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.”

- 2. Noah’s faith prompted immediate obedience
 - a. God does not lie
 - b. God’s words do not fall to the ground as light matters
 - c. Noah had walked with God... He knew God spoke truth
 - d. Noah’s obedience was urgent and total
- 3. Noah also a “preacher of righteousness”

2 Peter 2:5 “... a preacher of righteousness”

- a. the building project undoubtedly scorned and ridiculed
- b. Noah independent-minded, preach holiness to the disobedient
- c. they never listened, but he did it anyway

1 Peter 3:20 “[Christ] preached to the disobedient in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.”

V. Application: Are You Ready?

Matthew 24:36-39 “No one knows about that day or the hour, not even the angels in heaven nor the Son but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at

the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

- A. Jesus Will Return Someday
- B. Judgment is Coming Without Further Announcement
- C. Either You Are On the Ark or Off It
- D. If You Are saved, Are You a “Preacher of Righteousness?”
 - 1. Do you care any at all for your lost generation?
 - 2. Are you building the ark along with the other servants of God?
 - 3. Are you preaching while you build?

Henry Blackaby... judgment on America; but are the “prophets” saying so?

NOT NEEDED on this one... God has already said Judgment Day is coming unannounced...

On that day, the sun will come up in America like any other day... if it’s a Saturday, millions of people will get in their cars to go to the mall or to the golf course... some ladies will get their hair done... children will be playing in the playground; suddenly the sound of the end will come

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.. be ready!