



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

# THE SORROW AND SOLEMNITY OF GOD

GENESIS 6:6-8

GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

*“And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.”  
(Gen. 1:31)*

*“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” (Gen. 6:5)*

*“...every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually... Now the earth was corrupt before God... for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. (Gen. 6:5, 11, 12)*

What is the basis for God's appraisal of man's heart being entirely, continually evil and of living as a society in constant corruption?

1. God's own holy character
2. God's own sovereignty as Creator
3. God's own purpose for mankind

The very nature of the demonic possession explanation helps account for two important elements of this unique time in human history:

1. The terrible depth of wickedness, corruption, and violence the passage describes—evil on a scale never seen before or since.
2. The terrible destruction God brings in response to this corruption —destruction on a scale never seen before or since.

- I. The Sinfulness of Society (Genesis 6:1-4)
- II. The Sagacity of God (Genesis 6:5)

## II. The Sagacity of God (Genesis 6:5)

Sagacity is the quality of being wise, discerning, and sound in judgment.

Applied to God, it means that God looks on mankind and makes an assessment that is perfect.



## II. The Sagacity of God (Genesis 6:5)

God looks on mankind with the deepest understanding and makes an error-free judgment of man's inner (heart) condition.

So, with verse 5, we have the main idea that God's assessment is tragic because it is true.

## II. The Sagacity of God (Genesis 6:5)

How is verse 6 related to the context?

It shows us how God's evaluation of mankind affects God Himself.

God's conclusions about mankind's condition brought grief to God's heart. In this case, God's sagacity led to God's sorrow.

The main idea of verse 6 is that just as God's judgments about us are true, God's grief toward us is pure.

I. The Sinfulness of Society (Genesis 6:1-4)

II. The Sagacity of God (Genesis 6:5)

III. The Sorrow of God (Genesis 6:6)

While the grief of God is pure, the guilt of mankind is grave.

### III. The Sorrow of God (Genesis 6:6)

This is what theologians refer to as an anthropopathism: applying human emotions or characteristics to God to convey a certain reality about the Lord's relationship to mankind, or about how God deals with man.

### III. The Sorrow of God (Genesis 6:6)

God's sorrow and grief refer to God's displeasure with mankind from which God will now change His behavior toward man.

God is responding to mankind's disobedience.

### III. The Sorrow of God (Genesis 6:6)

1 Samuel 15

Saul disobeyed God and proved unfaithful to be king of Israel. So in response to Saul's rejection and unfaithfulness of God, the Lord changed His behavior toward Saul and justly rejected him.

### III. The Sorrow of God (Genesis 6:6)

Jeremiah 18:1-12, 15

The word relent in verses 8 and 10 is the same word used in Genesis 6:6, translated as sorry (NASB) and regretted (LSB).

### III. The Sorrow of God (Genesis 6:6)

God's sorrow and grief are evidence of His holiness and sovereignty in His relationship to mankind.

God's sorrow and grief are real, but they are not human. They are put in human terms to convey to use the fact that God is not indifferent to human sin.



I. The Sinfulness of Society (Genesis 6:1-4)

II. The Sagacity of God (Genesis 6:5)

III. The Sorrow of God (Genesis 6:6)

IV. The Solemnity of God (Genesis 6:7)

The judgment of God is deserved.

#### IV. The Solemnity of God (Genesis 6:7)

Solemnity refers to God's serious attitude and actions toward man's sin. God takes sin very seriously and this verse expresses that.

Because God hates sin and must deal with it according to His holy nature, God's solemnity brings about God's sentence in verse 7: *"I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land...."*

## IV. The Solemnity of God (Genesis 6:7)

This strong phrase conveys the twin concepts that:

1. God's patience has a limit.

- **Common grace**
- **Uncommon judgment**

God's degree of response gives evidence to mankind's degree of sinfulness.

## IV. The Solemnity of God (Genesis 6:7)

This strong phrase conveys the twin concepts that:

1. God's patience has a limit
2. God's punishment is absolute.
  - In its scope
  - In its severity

2 Peter 3:3-9

## V. The Salvation of God (Genesis 6:8)

The grace of God is undeserved but freely given.

Noah's salvation shows the holy favor of the Lord which produces the high fear of the Lord.

God's judgment is coming on rebellious unbelievers.

## V. The Salvation of God (Genesis 6:8)

But the Lord mercifully gives us this promise of rebirth and blessing:

*“But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.”*

*“And the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end.*

*(Luke 1:30-33)*

A person is silhouetted against a night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The person is standing on a rock in the foreground. The text "GRACE CHURCH" and "WILLIAMSBURG" is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

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