

# 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 being entirely, continually evil, and of living as a society in **constant** corruption?

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

I landed on the demonic view based on the **context** of the passage emphasizing the nature of the **unprecedented evil** infecting all of society.

The 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.
2. The **terrible destruction** God brings in response to this corruption.

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

God's **sagacity** led to God's **sorrow**.

The main idea of Genesis 6:6 is that just as God's judgements about us are true, **God's grief toward us is pure.**

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

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

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 to how God deals with man.



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

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

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.

1 Samuel 15

- The issue is that Saul **disobeyed** God and proved **unfaithful** to be king of Israel, so **in response** to Saul's rejection and unfaithfulness, the Lord **changed His behavior** toward Saul and rejected Him.

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

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

The issue for God is the **disobedience** and **rebellion** which prompted His displeasure and which led to God's **change in response to them**.

- Jeremiah 18:1-12

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 us the fact that **God is not indifferent to human sin**.



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

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

Mankind is seeking a life apart from a relationship with God so that the demonic possession and pervasive immorality are destroying the last hope for mankind **as they reject God and turn to themselves.**

Next we see God's second response to men and woman plunging themselves deeper and deeper into sin.



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

The **judgment** of God is **deserved**.

*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**: "***I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land...***" (Gen. 6:7)

This strong phrase conveys the **twin concepts** that:



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

The judgment of God is deserved.

### 1. God's **patience** has a **limit**.

- **Common grace**: For hundreds of years, God has been longsuffering with mankind. God's **common grace** is His favor shown to unbelievers as He sustains them in life. But God has now fixed a time limit for this grace to end.
- **Uncommon judgment**: Never before this time and never since this time in history has mankind's degree of wickedness brought such a **universal** act of judgment. God's degree of response gives evidence to mankind's degree of sinfulness.



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

The judgment of God is deserved.

### 2. God's **punishment** is **absolute**.

- In its **scope**: the **entire earth** will soon fall under the **just judgment** of God's wrath (global flood).
- In its **severity**: no one who is unrepentant will escape.



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

The grace of God is **undeserved** but **freely given**.

This is the **holy favor** of the Lord which produces the **high fear** of the Lord. God's judgment is coming on the rebellious unbelieving.

*"But Noah **found favor** in the eyes of the Lord."* (Gen. 6:8)

These words of evaluation from God bring hope, holiness, and healing.



*“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 silhouette of a person standing on a rock, looking up at a starry night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible. The person is centered at the bottom of the frame, looking towards the center of the image. The sky is filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy, which is visible as a bright, colorful band of light stretching across the sky. The text "GRACE CHURCH" and "WILLIAMSBURG" is overlaid on the sky in a white, serif font.

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