



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING



GOD WEIGHS THE HEART

GENESIS 6:5

GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

1. God hates sin.

God punishes it without prejudice.

2. Our evil is our enemy.

God teaches us to hate and put-off our sin.

3. Evil is pervasively corrosive.

Sin is an active force; it never rests.

4. God judges the heart.

The only hope for change is heart-change.

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel.” (Gen. 3:15)

This is God’s promise to use a woman to send His Savior to rescue mankind from the power of Satan and sin.

“And here is the valuable role of women that Satan hates: one of them would bear the One who would doom him.” (J. Sarfati)

“The promise and the threat are both clear and obscure. It left the serpent in the dark about which woman should give birth to the Seed of the woman, so that he had to think of every woman as (possibly) becoming the mother of the blessed Seed (Christ). On the other hand, it gave our first parents (Adam and Eve) great faith that from that very hour they expected a Savior.”

(Martin Luther, as quoted by J. Sarfati)

We need to understand God's aversion to perversion.

This points us to a satanically-inspired depravity which came to define society, so that it progressively dehumanized and enslaved society to their deceitful, degrading desires.

Moses writes to God's children of promise so they will know the origins of evil and its pervasively devastating effects on any people who turn their backs on God and go after the idols of their deceitful hearts.

Genesis 6:5 gives us the theological foundation for how God weighs and is able to rightly judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

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

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

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

Sagacity: a readiness of apprehension; discriminative intelligence; acute practical judgment

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

God is supremely sagacious; His view or assessment is always true.

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

The Bible says, “*then the Lord saw...*”

It is God’s seeing that gives us the idea of God’s perfect perception as He applies His wisdom to our hearts and lives.

He observed perfectly their motives and desires.

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

“The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.” (Psalm 19:9)

True = faithful, sure, firm, reliable

Righteous = to be just and right.

God’s decisions on right and wrong are always true, right, and just.

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

“Righteous art Thou, O Lord, and upright are Thy judgments.”
(Psalm 119:37)

Upright = straight, correct, fitting, proper.

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

Their outer wickedness: “*Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth...*”

This emphasizes their behavioral sins. The “*wickedness of man*” refers primarily to lifestyles.

God literally saw their evil in how they were living.

What you say and live before God is the measure of you.

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

“For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches all his paths.” (Prov. 5:21)

“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.” (Prov. 15:3)

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

God's assessment is that this wickedness is "great on the earth."

Great refers to God's assessment of widespread, epidemic behavioral iniquity as characterizing how people are pursuing life.

They are a people defined by their lewdness and cruelty (Gen. 6:11, 13).

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

This great wickedness is rooted in:

1. The wholesale abandonment of all godly constraints and values.
2. The prideful violation of God's boundaries for human existence.
3. The total disregard for God and His ways.

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

Add to this the second observation God made about mankind:

Their inner evil: *“...and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”*

This refers to the root of behavioral iniquity, or the cause of all of this wicked living.

God says that man's wicked lifestyle is produced by his evil heart. The wickedness we do issues from who we are.

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

What did Moses mean by heart in the context of Genesis 6:5?

In Hebrew thought, the *heart* was the core of personhood.

“...Hebrew thought maintains the unity of the person. It looks at a human being as a whole and expresses all of these and other inner human functions by use of the word [heart]. In the Old Testament heart is thus the conscious self—the inner person with every function that makes a person human.”

(Expositor’s Dictionary)

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

“Total depravity emphasizes the devastating impact of sin on the person and covers three related concepts:”

1. Sin “is total or pervasive in that all components of a person are polluted by sin.... No part of man escapes.”
2. Sin “is total in that man is incapable of pleasing God on his own.”
3. Sin “is universal in that all humans are sinners.”

(John MacArthur)

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

What does the Lord want us to know about the inner condition of human beings which prompted Him to render such cataclysmic judgment against them?

He says that “*...the intent of the thoughts of man’s heart was only evil continually.*”

And this led to grossly sinful lifestyles.

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

Intent = framework, purpose, or form, as in the forming of pottery.

It is akin to the word used in Genesis 2:7 where God is said to have "formed man from the dust of the ground..."

It's what you form in your heart to think, say, and do, either for evil or for good.

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

Thoughts = devices or inventions

Thoughts highlights the work of your mind as the most critical component of what you form in your heart.

In this context, and due to sin, the evil we do in God's sight is formed in our hearts.

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

Taken together, the "intent of the thoughts of a man's heart" refers to inner, natural dispositions.

It is the place where we form, produce, and frame our plans, purposes, and intentions.

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

“Who can discern his errors?”

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

“Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.”
(Ps. 19:12)

“...the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts throughout their lives.” (Eccles. 9:3)

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

“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9)

And that's why the Lord tells us: “*I, Yahweh, search the heart; I test the inmost being, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.*” (Jer. 17:10)

“For [God] knows the secrets of the heart.” (Ps. 44:21)

“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are uncovered and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we have to give an account.” (Heb. 4:13)

*“The unfolding of Your words gives light;
It gives understanding to the simple.”*

(Ps. 119:130)

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill under a starry night sky. The sky is filled with numerous stars of varying brightness, with a dense concentration of blue and white stars in the upper half. A horizontal band of orange and yellow light, possibly a city glow or a sunset, is visible at the bottom. The silhouette of the person is centered in the lower half of the image, looking up at the stars.

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