

GOD'S ANSWER TO THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

GENESIS 6:9-22



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

The impact of the flood on God's **entire** world reflects how **pervasively sinful** and **universally wicked** society had become and, therefore, why God acted with a **world-wide judgment** on society's sin.

How does God's view of the sin and evil in this passage help **us** be more spiritually sobered to hate and fight against our **own** sin?

How can we more fully **adopt a biblical approach** to dealing with the dangerous and death-producing depravity living in the hearts of humanity and driving people to express that depravity in such shockingly corrupt and violent ways?

What is God showing us is at work here? What do we need to perceive about evil as it works in the **human heart**?

How can my understanding of this passage help me better **guard my own heart** against the **hardness, self-deception**, and **self-justifying lies** fueling the corruption and violence that brought God to send the flood on humanity?

*“But if you have **bitter jealousy** and **selfish ambition** in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not coming down from above, but is **earthly, natural, demonic**. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is **disorder** and **every evil practice**.” (James 3:14-16)*

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Bitter (*pikron*) – resentful, harsh; coming from a place of **bitterness** in the heart

+

Jealousy (*zelon*, from *zelos*) – eager, envious, contentious rivalry

=

Bitter jealousy – a resentful, harsh, competitive, and contentious **opposition** issuing from an **embittered** heart.

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Selfish ambition (*eritheia*) – putting yourself forward **without** moral inhibitions

= **Selfish ambition** is the idea of personal gain at the cost of others; we justify a looking-out-for-number-one approach to life and relationships.

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It's bitterly jealous because we aren't getting **what** we want the **way** we want it and **when** we want it.

But we are **self-deceived** in pursuing this kind of wisdom.

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What do these heart issues produce in our relationships?

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Disorder (*akatastasia*) – instability, confusion, insurrection

Disorder refers to “a state of **violent** group disturbance and disorder, especially as in politics **or social conditions generally.**” (*Logos*)

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Every evil practice is from **pan** + **phaulon** + **pragma**:

Pan – all/every

+

Phaulon – worthless, wicked, base, bad, foul

+

Pragma – matter, thing, or deed/practice

=

Every single worthless, wicked practice

Violence (*hamas*)

- in Hebrew = **violence, cruelty, or injustice**
- in Arabic = **zeal**

The world in the time of Noah was defined by **hamas** – a violence driven by bitter jealousy and selfish ambition, fueled by a dominating zeal for self.

And while the flood was an unprecedented catastrophic disaster of God's judgment on the violence and corruption of a bygone age, in our time we have **ominous rehearsals** of the **same spirit** which birthed the corruption and violence mentioned in Genesis 6.

*For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is **disorder** and **every evil practice**.*” (James 3:16)

Remember the definition of **disorder** – “a state of **violent** group disturbance and disorder, especially as in politics **or social conditions generally**.” (*Logos*)

The ark tells us that the **cross** is what we need to be saved from our own bitter jealousy and selfish ambition.

Just as the wooden ark of God was the symbol of God's salvation through Noah, it pointed the way to the **wooden cross of Calvary** as God's symbol of salvation through Jesus Christ.

*“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us that, **denying** ungodliness and worldly desires, we should live **sensibly**, **righteously**, and **godly** in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us that **He might redeem us** from **all lawlessness**, and purify for Himself **a people for His own possession**, zealous for good works.” (Titus 2:11-14)*

A person is silhouetted against a night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The person is standing on a small rock or mound of earth, looking up at the stars. The Milky Way is visible as a bright, colorful band of stars stretching across the sky. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with a focus on the vastness of the universe.

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