

# When Oceans Rise A Corrupt Race of People

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## TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture:

### Genesis 6:1-4 (NLT)

*1 Then the people began to multiply on the earth, and daughters were born to them. 2 The sons of God saw the beautiful women and took any they wanted as their wives. 3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not put up with humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years."*

*4 In those days, and for some time after, giant Nephilites lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God had intercourse with women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes and famous warriors of ancient times.*

### 2 Peter 2:4-10 (NLT)

*4 For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness, where they are being held until the day of judgment. 5 And God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God's righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood. 6 Later, God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes. He made them an example of what will happen to ungodly people. 7 But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him. 8 Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day. 9 So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment. 10 He is especially hard on those who follow their own twisted sexual desire, and who despise authority. These people are proud and arrogant, daring even to scoff at supernatural beings without so much as trembling.*

### Jude 1:6 (NLT)

### Genesis 6:6-9 (NLT)

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What do you think the world looked like in the days of Noah before God judged it with a flood?

Start **sharing**. These questions are to help get your group thinking and to create openness.

- Read **Genesis 6:1-4**, **2 Peter 2:4-10** and **Jude 1:6**. Pastor Troy taught that the "sons of God" were actually fallen angels (demons) who had sexual relations with the daughters of men. How does this interpretation help explain the passages from **2 Peter 2** and **Jude**?
- Compare what the demons did in **Genesis 6** with what the people were doing in Sodom and Gomorrah (**Genesis 19**). What was God's reaction in both cases?
- Read **Genesis 6:5**. What does this verse teach us about human nature? How does total depravity reveal the need for salvation through Christ?
- Read **Genesis 6:6-7**. If God has foreknowledge and he knew he was going to be sorry for making man, why did he do it? Was it worth the risk?
- Read **Genesis 6:8**. Discuss the phrase "found favor/ grace." How is finding favor different from earning favor? Why did Noah find favor?
- **Genesis 6:9** describes Noah as "a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time," how was Noah able to maintain his righteousness in such a depraved world? What can we learn from Noah's example in our own lives?
- Pastor Troy said "God delights in giving his creation freedom." However, sometimes men and angels cross the line and God says enough is enough. Can you share examples of when God has done that in your life?

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Choose a time each day to pray and ask God to show you one way you can be a beacon of His light and grace in your immediate environment.

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- Father, help us to see clearly the areas in our lives that may displease you. We seek your grace and strength to confront and overcome these challenges, and to be led on the path of everlasting life, amen.

**Question: "What was it like in the days of Noah?"**

**Answer:** The biblical account of Noah begins in Genesis 6. Approximately 1,600 years had passed since the creation of Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:26–27). As the earth's population exploded in number, it also exploded with evil. Long forgotten was the righteous sacrifice of Abel (Genesis 4:4) as "the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). Verses 11 and 12 say, "Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth." However, "Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord" (verse 8).

When Jesus described the events that will surround His second coming, He said, "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all" (Luke 17:26–27). Jesus was pointing out that, although the people of Noah's day were totally depraved, they were not the least bit concerned about it. They were carrying on the events of their lives without a single thought of the judgment of God. Noah is described as "a preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5), meaning he had spent years warning his friends and neighbors what the Holy God was about to do. No one listened.

The depravity and ungodly lifestyles of the entire world at that time were enough to cause the Lord to "regret that He had made man" (Genesis 6:6). Many scholars believe that part of the need to destroy every human being except Noah and his family was the sin mentioned in Genesis 6:1–4, when "the Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them." As evil reproduced and overtook the world, the most merciful act God could perform was to start over.

It is interesting that God allowed Noah nearly one hundred years to complete the building of the ark. Through all that time, God patiently waited (1 Peter 3:20). Scripture seems to imply that Noah preached to the people of that time about what was coming (Hebrews 11:7). They did not believe Noah and were content with their wickedness and idolatry. Their hearts were hard and their ears dull. No one repented, and no one cared to seek God.

Jesus said that the world will be much the same before He returns to set up His earthly kingdom (Matthew 25:31–33). He warned us to "be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." Second Timothy 3:1–4 gives us a clear picture of the state of the world before Jesus comes and most likely also describes the world in the days of Noah. That verse says, "But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." It is becoming increasingly obvious that, to understand what the world was like in the days of Noah, we only need to watch the evening news.