

Housekeeping Matters

- Worship/Teaching start by 7:20 pm, finish by 8:30 pm.
- Listen to older classes and get notes at www.htchurch.com/genesis.
- Recordings are also a part of the church podcast.
- We meet: every week through December 16th, except Thanksgiving Week.

Recap of Genesis

- The first book in the Bible, written by Moses
- Written about 1400 years before Christ
- Story of the beginning of the human race and God’s dealings with humanity
- Genesis runs to the time of Joseph, between 1800 and 1700 B.C.
- Unforgettable stories and characters from whom we have much to learn

Five Main Stories

- The story of Creation;
- The story of the Fall of Man;
- The story of the Flood;
- The history of the Nations; and,
- The history of the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the 12 sons of Jacob, most notably Joseph).

Review

Chapters 1 and 2: how God originally made everything that exists. The six days' work of creation. God's creation of Man on the sixth day. The Man and the Woman in perfect fellowship with God.

Chapter 3: The Temptation. Our first parents fell into subjection to sin and death, and to the enemy. Humanity, creation, and the Devil all came under a curse. The effects of this curse. Fellowship with God and interpersonal relationships damaged.

Chapter 4: Cain and Abel, the first murder. Progression of Cain's family and deterioration of the human race.

Chapter 5: Record of the family of Adam all the way to Noah, ten generations down.

Chapter 6: Four sweeping trends of evil that destroyed human society.

- Violence, idolatry, sexual immorality, and the occult.
- Parallels with our times.

His Spirit Will Not Always Strive With Us (Genesis 6:3)

3 And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years...."

- God says Man's days will be 120 years. The common interpretation of this is that He was announcing that judgment would come in 120 years.
- God's Spirit will not always contend with us. There is still a limit to His wonderful patience.

- When sin is not checked, society deteriorates. People’s consciences become increasingly defiled, as they accept sin more and more.
- What about today’s “tolerance” of sin?
- Some say God was also reducing the human lifespan.

The Regret of God (Genesis 6:5-6)

5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

- These are some of the saddest phrases in the entire Bible. First, that everything in man’s heart was only evil continually.
- Imagine that God should be sorry He had done something! Is this an *anthropomorphism*? The Hebrew language means that God sighed, or lamented. or grieved because of His actions. He lamented the fact that He had made us.
- Ezekiel 33:11: *“As surely as I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live...”*

Noah Found Grace (Genesis 6:7-8)

7 So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

- Here, in the midst of one of the most terrifying stories of judgment, we see the grace of God.
- God will always have a remnant of people who will serve Him. Our goal is to be one of those people.

When Facing Troubles In The World Today

In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. (John 16:33b)

Things to remember as we approach the end of the age:

1. God is sovereign. If He chooses to judge our nation, He is within His rights to do so.

2. God is still good. Everything we experience is filtered through His loving fingers.

3. We are still called to shine for Him no matter what. History records how many times the Church's finest hours were times of pressure, even open persecution. God will always take care of His own people.

4. There will be a final generation that will culminate in Jesus' return. That generation will see both pain and glory as He prepares to return. Are we that generation?

- Let's be as spiritually ready as we can be.
- Let's be obedient and learn to know His Voice and receive and carry out His instructions.
- The preparations of "preppers" should be based in faith, not in fear.
- Don't pretend that frightening things aren't frightening. Instead, remember what David said: *"At what time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee."* (Psalms 56:3 KJV)

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