

**Bible Study for February 10, 2021**  
**[adapted from the Serendipity Study Bible]**

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**Read Genesis 6-7** [note: I've left off the footnotes for this reading due to its length. If you wish to read them, go to [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com), look up the text choosing the NET – New English Translation – to find them].

**6** When humankind<sup>[a]</sup> began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born<sup>[b]</sup> to them,<sup>[c]</sup> **2** the sons of God<sup>[d]</sup> saw that the daughters of humankind were beautiful. Thus they took wives for themselves from any they chose. **3** So the LORD said, “My Spirit will not remain in<sup>[e]</sup> humankind indefinitely,<sup>[f]</sup> since<sup>[g]</sup> they<sup>[h]</sup> are mortal.<sup>[i]</sup> They<sup>[j]</sup> will remain for 120 more years.”<sup>[k]</sup>

**4** The Nephilim<sup>[l]</sup> were on the earth in those days (and also after this)<sup>[m]</sup> when the sons of God would sleep with<sup>[n]</sup> the daughters of humankind, who gave birth to their children.<sup>[o]</sup> They were the mighty heroes<sup>[p]</sup> of old, the famous men.<sup>[q]</sup>

**5** But the LORD saw<sup>[r]</sup> that the wickedness of humankind had become great on the earth. Every inclination<sup>[s]</sup> of the thoughts<sup>[t]</sup> of their minds<sup>[u]</sup> was only evil<sup>[v]</sup> all the time.<sup>[w]</sup> **6** The LORD regretted<sup>[x]</sup> that he had made humankind on the earth, and he was highly offended.<sup>[y]</sup> **7** So the LORD said, “I will wipe humankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—everything from humankind to animals,<sup>[z]</sup> including creatures that move on the ground and birds of the air, for I regret that I have made them.”

**8** But<sup>[aa]</sup> Noah found favor<sup>[ab]</sup> in the sight of<sup>[ac]</sup> the LORD.

**9** This is the account of Noah.<sup>[ad]</sup>

Noah was a godly man; he was blameless<sup>[ae]</sup> among his contemporaries.<sup>[af]</sup> He<sup>[ag]</sup> walked with<sup>[ah]</sup> God. **10** Noah had<sup>[ai]</sup> three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

**11** The earth was ruined<sup>[aj]</sup> in the sight of<sup>[ak]</sup> God; the earth was filled with violence.<sup>[al]</sup> **12** God saw the earth, and indeed<sup>[am]</sup> it was ruined,<sup>[an]</sup> for all living creatures<sup>[ao]</sup> on the earth were sinful.<sup>[ap]</sup> **13** So God said<sup>[aq]</sup> to Noah, “I have decided that all living creatures must die,<sup>[ar]</sup> for the earth is filled with violence because of

them. Now I am about to destroy<sup>[as]</sup> them and the earth. <sup>14</sup> Make<sup>[at]</sup> for yourself an ark of cypress<sup>[au]</sup> wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover<sup>[av]</sup> it with pitch inside and out. <sup>15</sup> This is how you should make it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.<sup>[aw]</sup> <sup>16</sup> Make a roof for the ark and finish it, leaving 18 inches<sup>[ax]</sup> from the top.<sup>[ay]</sup> Put a door in the side of the ark, and make lower, middle, and upper decks. <sup>17</sup> I am about to bring<sup>[az]</sup> floodwaters<sup>[ba]</sup> on the earth to destroy<sup>[bb]</sup> from under the sky all the living creatures that have the breath of life in them.<sup>[bc]</sup> Everything that is on the earth will die, <sup>18</sup> but I will confirm<sup>[bd]</sup> my covenant with you. You will enter<sup>[be]</sup> the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. <sup>19</sup> You must bring into the ark two of every kind of living creature from all flesh,<sup>[bf]</sup> male and female, to keep them alive<sup>[bg]</sup> with you. <sup>20</sup> Of the birds after their kinds, and of the cattle after their kinds, and of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every kind will come to you so you can keep them alive.<sup>[bh]</sup> <sup>21</sup> And you must take<sup>[bi]</sup> for yourself every kind of food<sup>[bj]</sup> that is eaten,<sup>[bk]</sup> and gather it together.<sup>[bl]</sup> It will be food for you and for them."

<sup>22</sup> And Noah did all<sup>[bm]</sup> that God commanded him—he did indeed.<sup>[bn]</sup>

**7** The LORD said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, for I consider you godly among this generation.<sup>[bo]</sup> <sup>2</sup> You must take with you seven pairs<sup>[bp]</sup> of every kind of clean animal,<sup>[bq]</sup> the male and its mate,<sup>[br]</sup> two of every kind of unclean animal, the male and its mate, <sup>3</sup> and also seven pairs<sup>[bs]</sup> of every kind of bird in the sky, male and female,<sup>[bt]</sup> to preserve their offspring<sup>[bu]</sup> on the face of the entire earth. <sup>4</sup> For in seven days<sup>[bv]</sup> I will cause it to rain<sup>[bw]</sup> on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the ground every living thing that I have made."

<sup>5</sup> And Noah did all<sup>[bx]</sup> that the LORD commanded him.

<sup>6</sup> Noah<sup>[by]</sup> was 600 years old when the floodwaters engulfed<sup>[bz]</sup> the earth. <sup>7</sup> Noah entered the ark along with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives because of<sup>[ca]</sup> the floodwaters. <sup>8</sup> Pairs<sup>[cb]</sup> of clean animals, of unclean animals, of birds, and of everything that creeps along the ground, <sup>9</sup> male and female, came into the ark to Noah,<sup>[cc]</sup> just as God had commanded him.<sup>[cd]</sup> <sup>10</sup> And after seven days the floodwaters engulfed the earth.<sup>[ce]</sup>

<sup>11</sup> In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month—on that day all the fountains of the great deep<sup>[cf]</sup> burst open and the floodgates of the heavens<sup>[cg]</sup> were opened. <sup>12</sup> And the rain fell<sup>[ch]</sup> on the earth forty days and forty nights.

<sup>13</sup> On that very day Noah entered the ark, accompanied by his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, along with his wife and his sons' three wives.<sup>[ci]</sup> <sup>14</sup> They entered,<sup>[ci]</sup> along with every living creature after its kind, every animal after its kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, everything with wings.<sup>[ck]</sup> <sup>15</sup> Pairs<sup>[cl]</sup> of all creatures<sup>[cm]</sup> that have the breath of life came into the ark to Noah. <sup>16</sup> Those that entered were male and female,<sup>[cn]</sup> just as God commanded him. Then the LORD shut him in.

<sup>17</sup> The flood engulfed the earth for forty days. As the waters increased, they lifted the ark and raised it above the earth. <sup>18</sup> The waters completely overwhelmed<sup>[co]</sup> the earth, and the ark floated<sup>[cp]</sup> on the surface of the waters. <sup>19</sup> The waters completely inundated<sup>[cq]</sup> the earth so that even<sup>[cr]</sup> all the high mountains under the entire sky were covered. <sup>20</sup> The waters rose more than 20 feet<sup>[cs]</sup> above the mountains.<sup>[ct]</sup> <sup>21</sup> And all living things<sup>[cu]</sup> that moved on the earth died, including the birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all humankind. <sup>22</sup> Everything on dry land that had the breath<sup>[cv]</sup> of life in its nostrils died. <sup>23</sup> So the LORD<sup>[cw]</sup> destroyed<sup>[cx]</sup> every living thing that was on the surface of the ground, including people, animals, creatures that creep along the ground, and birds of the sky.<sup>[cy]</sup> They were wiped off the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark survived.<sup>[cz]</sup> <sup>24</sup> The waters prevailed over<sup>[da]</sup> the earth for 150 days.

**Note on 6.2 – a rather strange and obscure passage:** The Hebrew phrase translated “sons of God” (בְּנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים, *ne ha'elohim*) occurs only here (Genesis 6:2, 4) and in Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7. In the Book of Job, the phrase clearly refers to angelic beings. In Genesis 6 the “sons of God” are distinct from “humankind,” suggesting they were not human. This is consistent with the use of the phrase in Job. Since the passage speaks of these beings cohabiting with women, they must have taken physical form or possessed the bodies of men. An early Jewish tradition preserved in *1 Enoch 6-7* elaborates on this angelic revolt and even names the ringleaders. For a more in-depth explanation of 6.2 and the Nephilim in 6.4, see Dr. Michael Heiser's book, *The Unseen Realm*, Lexham Press, 2015.

## Questions to Consider

1. What do you find most disturbing about this description of human corruption? Why?
2. Do you think God's decision, in v.7, is justified? Why or why not?
3. From vs. 8-9, what do you learn about Noah's character?
4. Given the unmitigated violence and pervasive corruption surrounding Noah, what might Noah have been thinking when God tells him to build the ark?
5. If "Actions speak louder than words," what do Noah's actions tell you about his character and his relationship with God?
6. What is something difficult God is asking you to do? What obstacles stand in your way?
7. How does God's promise in Noah's situation help in overcoming the obstacles you are facing?
8. Take 5 minutes of silence to listen as you ask God this question: "Where is one place you want me to step out in faith, Lord?"
- 9.