



THE FLOOD, PART V SECOND GENERATION

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. And the Lord

was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 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." But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Genesis 6:5-8

It should be quite apparent that the LORD (YAHWEH) is the subject of this section. The LORD saw. . . the LORD was sorry . . . the (LORD) was grieved . . . so the LORD said . . . Here we move from the intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit to the personal in Yahweh. This is the name God made Himself known to us.

Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" And God said to Moses, "I AM" (YAHWEH) Exodus 3:13-14a

The object in this section is *man on the earth*. God is no longer abiding with man but looking down at man. In the first generation man was indifferent to God. Man was looking at man. But now there is open sin and rebellion. *The thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*. First indifference, then contemplation of sin, and last, as we shall see later, the actual practice of evil. We shall look at this in sections.

What the LORD saw: *the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*

He saw man's wickedness. Perhaps this is not the best word to use here. The Hebrew word, גרע is found in the following passages:

*Then behold, seven other cows came up after them, poor and **very ugly** and gaunt, such **ugliness** as I have never seen in all the land of Egypt.*

Genesis 41:19 NKJV

*One basket had very good figs, like the figs that are first ripe; and the other basket had **very bad** figs which could not be eaten, they were so **bad**.*

Jeremiah 24:2 NKJV

Using the last verse as an example, we might say that man had become "very rotten." He had reached a point where he had no redeeming value. Just as the "ugly" cows were of no use and the "bad" figs would be discarded, man, too, had to be disposed of.

It was not that man just did evil things. God saw that man did these things from the time he arose in the morning until he went to bed at night - "continually." You and I do bad things on occasion, not all the time. The source of these were the "thoughts of his heart." To really make sense of this statement, we need to know a little about Hebrew anatomy.

In English usage, we have only two organs that have anything to do with how we think and feel - the mind (or brain) and the heart. We reason things out with our brains; we feel strong emotions with our hearts. In Hebrew, many of the inner organs were deemed the source of different emotions and feelings (kidneys, bowels, liver, etc.). The לב refers to man's inner being which is his mind. So, what the passage is saying is that man's mind was filled with evil and corrupt ideas (sounds like today!). Men may have a "change of heart" more often than a "change of mind." It was not that man's feelings had gone sour, his entire being, his mind and soul were corrupted.

What the LORD was sorry about: *that He had made man on the earth*. Does this mean God made a mistake? No! In raising children we sometimes know they are making bad decisions and we are sorry they do it but we can not interfere with their maturing. God knew what was going to happen, but it still made Him sorry.

BUT! In contrast to what we have been reading, we find Noah. We shall see much more of him in the lessons to follow. In most of the occurrences of the Hebrew word translated "found" it is an active verse. Noah did not just happen upon God's grace, he actively sought for it and found it.

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6

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