

The Heart of God & The Heart of Man
Genesis 6:1-8
May 5, 2008

Intro: What is love? 1 Corinthians 13, the poems of the Ancients, song writers, the all speak to an intangible, indefinable feeling within us all that grows toward some and not toward others. When God created man, he did so to create a relationship of love and purpose. It did not go as planned. In the history of story from early mythology to Shakespeare, to C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia*, to *The Matrix*, betrayal has been a major subplot. A lets not forget Judas. One of the greatest lessons learned from literature is that the love someone, the more their betrayal hurts. God is no exception, regardless of His foreknowledge.

Interog: Have you been betrayed, hurt, abandoned by someone you love? God can relate to you pain, but can you relate to God's solution?

Read Scripture: Genesis 6:1-8

Background: Population explosion seen in the genealogy of chapter 5, sons and daughters born to all of the sons of Seth. Evidence of the curse from Genesis 3 and the fall of man, "and he died." Death truly won its prize in the lives of Adam and Eve and all who have followed. God's word proved itself to be true in Genesis 3:9.

Debates over the "Sons of God," giants and other interpretive problems will not be covered in this message. We are focusing on the relationships between God and man, and how that affects us today. At the time recorded for us here in Genesis 6, man was living in wrong relationship to God and to mankind.

1. The Heart of God is Grieved vs 3, 6

Isaiah 63:10 "But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit;"

Ephesians 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption"

2. The Heart of Man is Wicked vs 5

Genesis 6:12 "all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth."

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*,"

Psalms 44:21 "For He knows the secrets of the heart."

Tied to the coming narrative to the Tower of Babel – wrongful seeking God.

3. The Heart of God is Gracious vs 8

Matthew, James and others, "*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*"

Sin will change your relationship with God. He must punish sin, but he will not vacate his promises to man. He is faithful to all that he said in Gen 3.

Hebrew 11:7 "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."

Conclusion: Where are you in relation to God today? Are you grieving Him with your sin, exposed to His judgment and condemnation? Or, are you humbly in the arch of His grace safe from the storm that rages around you? He is indeed a righteous God who must punish sin, but he is also a loving God ready to cover you with His grace. Will you humbly accept His love today?