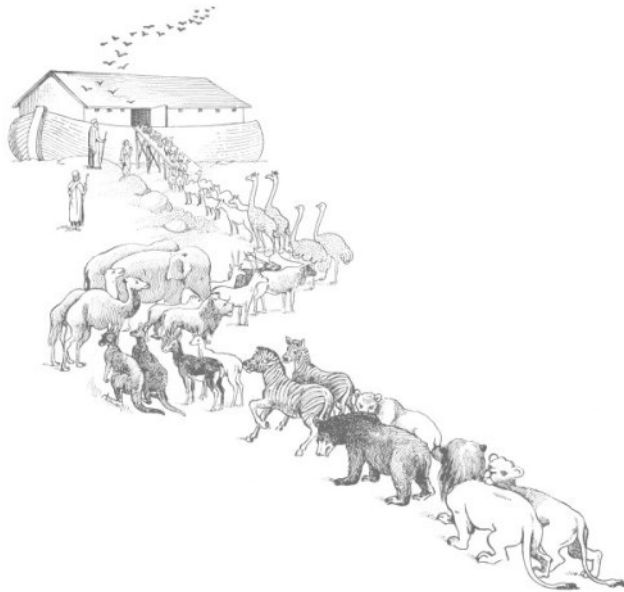


*Noah's ark: fable or fact?* By Violet Cummings (1973) is available from Amazon as a used book for under \$2.



This lesson available for printing at: <http://goo.gl/rlpzUY>

## GENESIS CHAPTER 6

by Charles Dailey. © 2014 Revision of 11/14. NIV used.

Tablet 3 ends in 6:9 - Signed by Noah?

Tablet 4 end in 10:1 - Signed by Noah's Sons

**In** the earlier chapters, God has created man and placed him in a remarkable park where he would care for some vegetation that needed care and could not grow wild. Adam and Eve sinned and were put out of this paradise to keep them away from the Tree of Life. As the race reproduced and expanded, sin grew rampant.

This chapter chronicles the extent of sin. Students of the Bible are divided over these first verses. Some believe that angels lived among men and mated. We are taking the view that the *sons of God* were men from the lineage of Seth. Because the writer believed that his statements would be understood by the readers, we think the definition is in what has already been written and not dependant on what later prophets revealed.

**(1) When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, (2) the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.**

- *Daughters of humans* is translated *daughters of men* in most translations including the Greek Septuagint (LXX).
- The men's entire choice based on beauty. While beauty is a gift from the Lord, it is not the sole reason to marry.



- Some see here an expansion of polygamy that had been introduced earlier. “. . . they married any of them they chose.”

(18) But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark - you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.

- God made a contract with Noah that included the saving of his immediate family.



(19) You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you.

- Noah was to bring two of all kind of creatures into the ark.

(20) Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive.

- The birds were specifically included.

(21) You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.”

- Noah was to provision the ark with food for man and animals.
- He needed to learn what each creature ate.
- Some creatures may have hibernated so they would require less food.

(22) Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

- Noah did not second guess what God may have meant. He followed the instructions implicitly.
- This is like a statement God made to Moses.

Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you. (Exodus 25:9 NIV)

humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

- Some believe the Nephilim were fallen angels who mated with women of this earth. There are many variations on this theme. Bodie Hodge, writing for the *Answers in Genesis* organization reviews all known positions. <http://goo.gl/iU6Bpg>
- We view them as ordinary, but wicked, humans. This view is strengthened in the next sentence (verse 5).

(5) The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

(6) The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.

- Everything these people thought of was added wickedness. This is as close to total depravity as scripture comes!
- Imagine God's heart being deeply troubled. He created man to honor and worship him and now people have turned away from him and his holiness and came to a place where they couldn't even think a good thought.

(7) So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created - and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground - for I regret that I have made them." (8) But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

- The KJV says Noah found *grace* where this New International translation says Noah found *favor*. God was focusing on each individual and he found a few in the general census.

(9) This is the account of Noah and his family.

- This statement marks the end of the document. A new document begins with the next sentence.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

- It does not say that all of the descendants of Seth were the godly people and all of the descendants of Cain were ungodly. It does say that godly men married women for their beauty rather than their godliness and godlessness won out.

- A principle runs through scripture that godly people are not to marry those who do not serve God. The principle appears in 2 Corinthians:

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14 NIV)

- A clear statement appears in 1 Corinthians 7 regarding remarriage.

A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord. (1 Corinthians 7:39 NIV)

- Marrying outside of the faith leaves the believer spiritually single and limits their ability to serve the Lord and raise godly children.



**(3) Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.”**

- The Holy Spirit had been contending with these sinners, but there was a limit.

- They are mortal and going to die. The exact time table for all of humanity will be put on God’s calendar.

- God’s patience drew the line at 120 more years. This would give time for His grace to work.

**(4) The Nephilim were on the earth in those days - and also afterward - when the sons of God went to the daughters of**

- This obedience is called faith.

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith. (Hebrews 11:7 NIV)

After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits - to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also - not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. (1 Peter 3:19-22 NIV)

- There is such a wealth of information about the search for Noah’s Ark. There have been many expeditions searching for it. There have also been hoax’s about having found it.
- An overview can be seen on Wikipedia: <http://goo.gl/b0WQtW>
- Three websites devoted to Noah’s Ark are:
  - A theme park is being developed with a full size replica of Noah’s ark as the centerpiece. Construction began in 2014. Check on current development at: <http://arkencounter.com/>
    - <http://www.arksearch.com/>
    - <http://www.noahsarksearch.com/>
- A Dutch millionaire has built a scale model of the ark. <http://goo.gl/mGzJvO>
- A Noah’s Ark playset is available at: <http://goo.gl/AJl4Vz> They also sell a 1/96 scale model. You can buy them for your grandchildren.
- Books on Noah’s Ark:

- Noah was skilled at saying “no” as well as setting a good example of godly living.

**(10) Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.**

- The writer does not say if these were the only sons, but the focus is on these who honored their father and the God he served.

**(11) Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. (12) God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.**

- While this is a repeat of earlier statements, remember they were on a different clay tablet and by a different writer.



**(13) So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.**

- While God developed the plan to end life as recorded in verse 3, now he lets Noah know the plan.

**(14) So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.**

- We do not know what cypress wood was or gopher wood was.
  - The pitch was a waterproofing material and was to be applied both inside and outside.
- Probably no one had ever seen an ark.
- It is reasonable to think that Noah hired men with the carpentering skills to build the ark. He built it in the same sense that Moses built the Tabernacle in his day. He was responsible for getting it done.

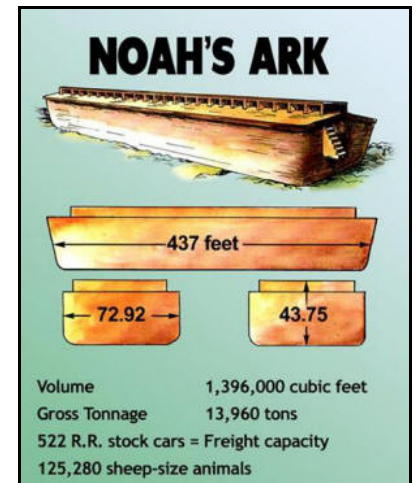
When Moses finished setting up the tabernacle, he anointed and consecrated it and all its furnishings. He also anointed and consecrated the altar and all its utensils. Numbers 7:1 NIV

**(15) This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high.**

- The cubit was a minimum of 18 inches. Using this smallest cubit, the ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. A football field is 100 yards long or 300 feet. This would have been like 1½ football fields.

**(16) Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks.**

- The artist in this drawing used a slightly shorter cubit.
- The ark was not a ship with a bow. It was a barge that could weather the storms.
- The square footage of one deck was 33,750 feet and three decks bring the area to 101,250 square feet.
- Not until modern times (1884) has a ship of this size been constructed.



**(17) I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.**

- The language does not allow for a local flood in Mesopotamia.
- All air-breathing creatures were on the list for destruction.