**‘Noah, Perfect in His Generations?’**

***5Then 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. 6And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7So 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.” 8But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.***

***9This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.***Genesis 6:5-9

The wickedness of man was great in the earth and God was grieved. His beautiful creation which, He had declared to be ‘very good,’ was now a mess. God’s plan was to destroy ***“both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air…but Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”***

What was it about Noah that turned God’s eyes toward him? Why did Noah receive God’s grace? We are given the answers in verse 9. We are told, ***“Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.”*** Let’s look at these three aspects of Noah.

First, Noah was a ***“just man.”*** Another word which could have been used to translate the Hebrew is “righteous.” Noah was a “righteous” man. Whether we use the word “just” or “righteous” to translate the Hebrew, both words present a problem to most Christians. Most Christians believe that it is impossible for a man to be “just” or “righteous” in the eyes of God. If we are talking about the human condition and how man is utterly sin-filled, then we would be correct. But the Hebrews didn’t have our understanding of the word we are translating here. We must see what is being said about Noah from their perspective. For Noah to be a “just,” or “righteous man” in the eyes of the Lord meant that he lived rightly. Living “rightly” meant that he strove to treat everyone he knew or met in a fair, decent, or right way. When the earth was filled with violence and corruption, finding a man who lived to treat others the right way was a beautiful thing. It is no wonder that Noah ***“found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”***

We are also told that ***“Noah walked with God.”*** If that phrase sounds familiar, it is. We’ve already seen it in Genesis 5. There we read, ***24 “And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.”*** Enoch was Noah’s great-grandfather. Apparently Noah enjoyed being in fellowship with the Lord, communing with him, and living his life according to the Lord’s ways, just as Enoch had. This too would have gotten the Lord’s attention turned toward Noah.

But now we ask, ‘What does it mean when we are told that Noah was ***“perfect in his generations”***?’ We can only understand this in the context of what we’ve read in the first two verses of Genesis 6. There we read, ***1“Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.”*** These unions of the “sons of God” (fallen angels) and the “daughters of men” resulted in their children being hybrids. Their DNA was fifty percent fallen angel and fifty percent human, **AND IT DIDN’T HAVE GOD’S BLESSING!**

Having been reminded of the corruption which had come upon the earth through the angelic incursion into it, let’s look at the word ***“perfect.”*** The Hebrew word translated here as ***“perfect,”*** means “without blemish, complete, full, sound, without spot, undefiled.” *Noah’s DNA was undefiled! It had not become mixed with angelic DNA!’*

When we consider that God’s plan of salvation was to bring a Savior to the world through the Seed of the woman, then the human genome had to remain undefiled, or God’s plan would fail. At the time of Noah, with the incursion of the angels into earth’s realm, and their defiling human DNA with their own, God’s plan was seriously at risk. This is why God acted when He did. Had any more time elapsed, the DNA of all people on earth would have become corrupted! That would have been tragic for everyone because the serpent would have been victorious over God. Our God knew exactly what was going on, what needed to be done about it, and when.

Noah was God’s man to keep God’s plan moving forward.

*Kathleen*