



11/21/25

*On this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished, I read a quote from the book, A Chance to Die, by Elizabeth Elliot. I thought I would share that quote here because it might be a little hard to understand... but its meaning is deep. The quote is from the subject of this biography, Amy Carmichael... "We are not asked to SEE," said Amy. "Why need we when we KNOW? We know--not the answer to the inevitable WHY, but the incontestable fact that it is for the best. It is an irreparable loss, but is it faith at all if it is 'hard to trust' when things are entirely bewildering?" If you'd like to hear the podcast, here's the link
~ <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>*

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Genesis 6:1-8

As I approach this passage, I already see that I'm not going to understand everything it says. That can be intimidating. But I consider Paul's words in Philippians 3:16, "Only let us hold true to what we have attained." Hold true to what I do understand and pray for the Lord to reveal to me what I don't understand... but don't let what I don't understand distract me from what I know to be true... God is my Creator who spoke the world into existence. He has all authority, all wisdom, all knowledge, and He IS love. With that in mind, I will focus on what I CAN understand and spend only a little time on what I can't.

Vs. 1-2 ~ "When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose."

In spite of the fact that death and sin had entered the world through man's disobedience, God continued to carry out His plan for man... to be fruitful and multiply. I imagine the gene pool during that time was pretty amazing... The people weren't too far removed from the two people made in perfection... Adam and Eve.

The people were having lots of babies with lots of daughters, and they were gorgeous. Okay...

here's what I don't know... I don't know exactly who these "sons of God" are, but what I do know is that they were NOT with the one true God. The Hebrew language of that time didn't have capital letters... so it's possible that this could be read more like, "sons of god" or even "gods." I know that they were not with God because they did not look on these women's beauty as God does... looking at "the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which in God's sight is very precious" (1 Peter 3:4). They just thought these women were hot. They TOOK them as their wives ANY they CHOSE. They forced them into marriage. Everybody say, "And this was not good!"

Vs. 3 ~ "Then the Lord said, 'My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.'"

I'm not sure why the ESV uses the word "abide." The Hebrew word means "strive or contend." I think God is saying, "Man is just flesh and bones, and it's not going well. My Spirit is not going to keep contending with these people to change. I'm giving them 120 years to repent, and then I'm sending a flood." I don't think He was saying He wouldn't let man live past 120 years, though after the flood the lifespan of man did shorten drastically. He was saying, "I'm giving you time to repent."

What a cool and amazing thing about God!!! He IS a God of justice. AND He IS a God of mercy. In Isaiah 55:6-7, God tells Isaiah to say, "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Right after that God says, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." If I'm being honest, I love that about God with me... He is compassionate and patient toward me, always calling me to repentance. But how often have I wanted Him to bring down the hammer on others! What if He treated me according to the immediate justice I want Him to bring down on others? O Lord, I praise You for Your patient compassion AND Your justice. The beauty of both is found at the cross. Please help me to trust Your patient mercy... and to praise You for Your patient mercy on others just as I celebrate it for myself.

The fact is, the Lord WILL bring justice, but He is always first calling me to repentance. I pray that I will "bear fruit in KEEPING with repentance" (Matthew 3:8).

Vs. 4 ~ "The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown."

More things I don't understand. Whoever these Nephilim were, they were on the earth at this time... and also after the flood. Some say that Goliath was a Nephilim... a giant of a man and very evil. These people were very powerful... and the kids they had with their forced brides were very powerful and famous. Some translations say they were heroes... and they probably

were... among the evil people who treated them as gods. But not heroes to those who walked with ALMIGHTY God, the true hero.

Vs. 5 ~ "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

Yikes! First... the LORD Yahweh SAW it. Hebrews 4:13 says, "And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we MUST give account." God sees all. He knows all. Let me never mistake His patience as weakness. He has all authority, and He WILL bring justice.

What did God see? He saw abounding wickedness of men... to the point that EVERY intention of their hearts' thoughts was ONLY evil CONTINUALLY. They were never remorseful for what they were doing. They celebrated evil ALL THE TIME. It's shocking to me that there are people like that... but the truth is, apart from God that is ALL people. We have no righteousness apart from God. The only true morality of any man, saved or unsaved, is because the image of God is still stamped on our souls, however distorted it may be because of our sin.

We are not born good. We are born helpless, but not good. Cute and cuddly, but not good. God restores the good in us one degree of glory to the next when we turn to Him and behold His glory (2 Corinthians 3:16-18).

Vs. 6 ~ "And the Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart."

Let me not be misled. God knew before the foundation of the world all that would take place. Isaiah 46 says that He declares and knows the end from the beginning. But it didn't change the fact that it grieved His heart. It was painful for Him to watch these people who He loved stomp on this beautiful gift of life He had blessed them with. They did what was abhorrent in His eyes and they didn't care. It broke His heart. Just because someone is in charge, it doesn't mean that they can't be hurt.

Vs. 7 ~ "So the Lord said, 'I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.'"

God had the right to blot them out because He IS in charge. The Creator has the right to handle His creation as He sees fit. When Adam sinned against God by eating the forbidden fruit, God not only disciplined Adam, but He cursed the ground. So even the animals and creeping things would be blotted out. God was going to make it all new.

Vs. 8 ~ "BUT Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD."

Noah was a descendant of Seth. He found favor in God's sight. Vs. 9 says he was righteous and

blameless and he walked with God... like his great grandfather, Enoch. Noah pleased God. Can there be any better legacy?

O Lord, I think of what my "legacy" will be. The only thing that matters... the only real difference I can make... is to point to Jesus. I pray that my life will point to You... that the intentions of my heart will be pleasing to You. I am so grateful that You never gave up on me. It seems like there are plenty of reasons You could have regretted and grieved making me. But You gave me Your Son and You redeemed my life. I pray that I will keep my eyes focused on You and my feet walking in step with the Spirit toward You. If I'm known for anything, let it be that I treasure You. Amen.