

THE CORRUPTION OF MANKIND – PART 2

THE CONTRAST OF NOAH’S RIGHTEOUSNESS – CONTINUED

Genesis 6:9 ~ These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.

- This is the third *toledot* in the book of Genesis and it continues through chapter 9 (the next *toledot* begins in chapter 10)

Section	Topic	Reference
I.	Book Preface: Creation Narrative	1:1–2:3
II.	The Genealogy of the Heavens and the Earth	2:4–4:26
III.	The Book of the Genealogy of Adam	5:1–6:8
IV.	The Genealogy of Noah And the Genealogy of Noah’s Sons	6:9–9:29 10:1–11:9
V.	The Genealogy of Shem And the Genealogy of Terah And the Genealogy of Ishmael And the Genealogy of Isaac And the Genealogy of Esau	11:10–26 11:27–25:11 25:12–18 25:19–35:29 36:1–8; 36:9–37:1
VI.	The Genealogy of Jacob	37:2–50:26

- “The *toledot* heading announces the historical development from the ancestor (or beginning point) and could be translated paraphrastically ‘this is what became of _____,’ or ‘‘this is where it started from’’ (with reference to the following subject.)”¹
- Each *toledot* contributes greatly to the theological message of Genesis...namely the narrowing process of God’s chosen line through which He would bring His Promised Deliverer

Adam → Noah → Noah’s sons → Shem → Terah/Abraham → (Ishmael) Isaac → (Esau) Jacob

- This structure is the very fabric around which the whole book of Genesis has been constructed
- “This section traces what became of Noah: it tells of his righteousness in a corrupt world; his obedience to the Lord’s commands in preparing the ark; his deliverance from the flood; his worship after the flood; his reception of the covenant promises, blessings, and commands; and his drunkenness and nakedness in the tent. The section ends on a note much lower than that with which it begins.”²
- The world was in turmoil...the earth was characterized by violence and outright rebellion against God
- But Noah lived a godly life in the midst of this terrible wicked violence
- He refused to be a part of the violence and wickedness that had overcome the world of his day
- He separated himself from the wickedness of his contemporaries and chose to wholeheartedly follow God
- He rejected the pressure to conform to his godless generation

¹ Allen Ross, *Creation and Blessing: A Guide to the Study and Exposition of Genesis*, 72-73.

² *Ibid.*, 189.

- Moses describes 3 qualities of Noah that made him stand out in the midst of a perverse and wicked world
- There is an increasing spiritual quality associated with these 3 characteristics
- He was:
 1. Righteous – he lived by God’s righteous standards
 2. Blameless in his time – this signifies perfection...not in the sense of flawlessness but in the sense of maturity and character (the same word is used in Leviticus to refer to the sacrificial animals who were perfect and without blemish)
 3. He walked with God – he lived in the same way as his godly ancestor Enoch

Genesis 5:22, 24 ~ Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had other sons and daughters...24 Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

- Noah was a spiritual giant in a world that was thoroughly corrupt
- As believers living in a similarly dark world, we must be those who also live above it, pursuing holiness and godliness in the midst of a godless society

Philippians 2:15 ~ so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

- Noah models for us how to live above the wicked ways of the world
- He shows us that it is possible to live “in the world but not of it”
- He illustrates what the godly of all ages have done no matter the opposition they might face...they refuse to be part of the world’s ways
- They refuse to allow the wicked world to press them into its mold

Romans 12:1-2 ~ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Philippians 3:17-20 ~ Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. 18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Colossians 3:1-3 ~ Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- In Scripture, “the world/ this age” refers to the way the world thinks...the mindset of the world
- Biblically, the “world” almost always has a negative connotation referring to the outlook of mankind as it ignores God and does not recognize Him as God
- It views life as independent of God, the outlook of those who have rebelled against God and turned their back on Him
- It is the system and the worldview that is adopted by those who do not know or love God
- It is a view that puts man at the center of things rather than God
- It is an ethical and philosophical edifice erected in opposition to God and His revelation

- John Jowett: “Worldliness is a spirit, a temperament, an attitude of the soul. It is a life without high callings, life devoid of lofty ideals. It is a gaze always horizontal and never vertical.”
- Iain Murray: “Worldliness is departing from God. It is a man-centered way of thinking; it proposes objectives which demand no radical breach with man’s fallen nature; it judges the importance of things by the present and material results; it weights success by numbers; it covets human esteem and wants no unpopularity; it knows no truth for which it is worth suffering; it declines to ‘be a fool for Christ’s sake.’ Worldliness is the mindset of the unregenerate. It adopts idols and is at war with God.”
- John MacArthur: “Worldliness is any preoccupation with or interest in the temporal system of life that places anything perishable before that which is eternal. It involves love for earthly things, esteem for earthly values, and preoccupation with earthly cares.”
- Lawrence Richards: “Worldliness is not a matter of engaging in those practices that some question. It is unthinkingly adopting the perspectives, values and attitudes of our culture, without bringing them under the judgment of God’s Word. It is carrying on in our lives as if we did not know Jesus.”
- Kevin DeYoung: “The world stands for everything that opposes the will of God.”
- Joel Beeke: “The goal of worldly people is to move forward rather than upward, to live horizontally rather than vertically. They seek after outward prosperity rather than holiness. They burst with selfish desires rather than heartfelt supplications. If they do not deny God, they ignore and forget Him, or else they use Him only for their selfish ends. Worldliness...is human nature without God.”
- Douglas Moo: “The worldliness of this age is the sin-dominated, death producing realm in which all people, included in Adam’s fall, naturally belong.”
- David Wells: “Worldliness is that system of values, in any given age, which has at its center our fallen human perspective, which displaces God and his truth from the world, and which makes sin look normal and righteousness seem strange. It thus gives great plausibility to what is morally wrong and, for that reason, makes what is wrong seem normal.”
- Thomas Watson: “All the danger is when the world gets into the heart. The water is useful for the sailing of the ship; all the danger is when the water gets into the ship; so the fear is when the world gets into the heart.”

- The NT repeatedly decries the folly of the world

1 Corinthians 1:20 ~ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

1 Corinthians 2:6, 8 ~ Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away...8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory

1 Corinthians 3:18 ~ Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.

2 Corinthians 4:4 ~ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Galatians 1:4 ~ who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father

Ephesians 2:2 ~ in which you formerly walked according to the course of this it. of this age), according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

2 Timothy 4:10 ~ for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica

- This age is dominated by Satan and opposed to God and His Word

- That's why there are frequent admonitions to live as heirs of the age to come rather than the passing pleasures of this world

James 1:27 ~ Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

James 4:4 ~ You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1 John 2:15-17 ~ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 ~ Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? 16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. 18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

Hebrews 11:24-26 ~ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

- The point of all these admonitions is that we have died to the things of this world in which we once lived; therefore, what a tragedy, then, if we conform to the world we have left
- "This age is that which stands on this side of what we often call eternity. It is the temporal and the transient age. Conformity to this age is to be wrapped up in the things that are temporal, to have all our thought oriented to that which is seen and temporal. It is to be a time-server. How far reaching is this indictment. If all our calculations, plans, ambitions, are determined by what falls within life here, then we are children of this age. Besides, this age is an evil age...and if our fashion is that of this age then the iniquity characteristic of this age governs our life...We must have patterns that abide, patterns that are the earnest of and are continuous with the age to come. We do well to examine ourselves by this criterion: are we calculating in those terms which the interests and hopes of the age to come demand?"³
- "Are the lines between Christianity and worldly conduct blurry in your mind – and more importantly, in your life? To put it another way, is your lifestyle obviously different from that of the non-Christian? Imagine I take a blind test in which my task is to identify the genuine follower of Jesus Christ. My choices are an unregenerate individual and you. I'm given two reports detailing conversations, Internet activity, manner of dress, iPod playlists, television habits, hobbies, leisure time, financial transactions, thoughts, passions, and dreams. The question is: Would I be able to tell you apart? Would I discern a difference between you and your unconverted neighbor, coworker, classmate, or friend? Have the lines between Christianity and worldly conduct in your life become so indistinguishable that there really is no difference at all? If the difference is hard to detect, you may be in danger of drifting down the deserter's path with Demas."⁴

³ John Murray, *The Epistle to the Romans*, 113-114.

⁴ C.J. Mahaney, *Worldliness: Resisting the Seduction of a Fallen World*, 24.

Genesis 6:10 ~ Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

- The sons of Noah were not triplets (see Gen 9:24)
- It would be through Noah's sons that God would begin over with the righteous

FURTHER EVIDENCE OF MANKIND'S CORRUPTION

Genesis 6:11-13 ~ Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. 13 Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.

- Wickedness and violence had come to dominate the antediluvian world
- 3 times the word "corrupt" is used in vv. 11-12
- 2 times the word "violence" is used in vv. 11, 13
- These terms provide a graphic description of human nature at its worst
- Noah lived among a people who were living as though nothing was the matter

Matthew 24:37-38 ~ For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

- The people of Noah's day were preoccupied with the mundane matters of life, completely unconcerned with the impending judgment despite receiving many warnings
- They carelessly disregarded the righteous preaching of Noah

2 Peter 2:5 ~ and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

- As a result of their wickedness, the Lord resolved to "destroy" them with a global flood
- The world always ignores the cries of the righteous...but future judgment is as certain as it was in Noah's day