

**THE END OF THE FIRST WORLD**

The Old Testament Today

Banska Bystrica, 26th January 2020

**Gn 6:1-8** When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup> the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. <sup>3</sup> Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. <sup>7</sup> 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." <sup>8</sup> But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD

<p>ἀπεξεδέχετο ἡ τοῦ θεοῦ μακροθυμία ἐν ἡμέραις Νῶε κατασκευαζομένης κιβωτοῦ</p>	<p><b>1 Pt 3:20</b> ...God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared,</p>
<p>τοῦτο πρῶτον γινώσκοντες ὅτι ἐλεύσονται ἐπ' ἐσχάτων τῶν ἡμερῶν [ἐν] ἐμπαιγμονῇ ἐμπαίκται κατὰ τὰς ἰδίας ἐπιθυμίας αὐτῶν πορευόμενοι <sup>4</sup> καὶ λέγοντες· ποῦ ἐστὶν ἡ ἐπαγγελία τῆς παρουσίας αὐτοῦ; ἀφ' ἧς γὰρ οἱ πατέρες ἐκοιμήθησαν, πάντα οὕτως διαμένει ἀπ' ἀρχῆς κτίσεως. <sup>5</sup> Λανθάνει γὰρ αὐτοὺς τοῦτο θέλοντας ὅτι οὐρανοὶ ἦσαν ἔκπαλαι καὶ γῆ ἐξ ὕδατος καὶ δι' ὕδατος συνεστῶσα τῷ τοῦ θεοῦ λόγῳ, <sup>6</sup> δι' ᾧ ν ὁ τότε κόσμος ὕδατι κατακλυσθεὶς ἀπώλετο. <sup>7</sup> οἱ δὲ νῦν οὐρανοὶ καὶ ἡ γῆ τῷ αὐτῷ λόγῳ τεθησαυρισμένοι εἰσὶν πυρὶ τηρούμενοι εἰς ἡμέραν κρίσεως καὶ ἀπωλείας τῶν ἀσεβῶν ἀνθρώπων</p>	<p><b>2Pt 3:3-7</b> knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. <sup>4</sup> They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." <sup>5</sup> For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, <sup>6</sup> and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. <sup>7</sup> But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.</p>

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## 0. INTRODUCTION: UNANSWERABLE (?) QUESTIONS

- How “big” is our imagination? How reliable is the word of God?
  - **Mt 24:35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away (ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ παρελεύσεται, οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρέλθωσιν)
  - **Mk 13:31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away (ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ παρελεύσονται, οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρελεύσονται)
  - **Lk 21:33** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away (ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ παρελεύσονται, οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρελεύσονται)

## 0.1. TIME / HISTORY

- genealogies → gaps?

## 0.1. THE EXTENT OF THE FLOOD

- Ante-diluvian earth:
  - earth axis perpendicular to the plane of earth orbit around the **sun**?
  - water canopy (on the earth-orbit)?
  - geological upheavals (rise of the high mountain ranges)

## 0.2. THE SONS OF GOD (GODS?)

- Angels? ()

[CASSUTO *Genesis*] ...the reference is definitely to angels, (Psa. 29:1; 89:6 [Hebrew, 5:7]; Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7; so, too, Dt 32: 8, according to the reading of the Septuagint). Consequently, it appears more correct to explain these expressions to mean angels or the like.

- **(Jude 1:6)** And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day ἀγγέλους τε τοὺς μὴ τηρήσαντας τὴν ἑαυτῶν ἀρχὴν ἀλλὰ ἀπολιπόντας τὸ ἴδιον οἰκητήριον εἰς κρίσιν μεγάλης ἡμέρας δεσμοῖς αἰδίοις ὑπὸ ζόφου τετήρηκεν)
- **2Pt 2:4** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment (Ἐὶ γὰρ ὁ θεὸς ἀγγέλων ἀμαρτησάντων οὐκ ἐφείσατο ἀλλὰ σειραῖς ζόφου ταρταρώσας παρέδωκεν εἰς κρίσιν τηρουμένους)

- **demons?**

[CASSUTO *Genesis*] ...it is apparent from the context that not angels sublime and pure, but those of a degraded type, are referred to. The Talmudic sages also held (B. Hagiga 16a), that, although the ministering angels do not beget offspring, the demons do procreate.

- kings? (the sons of the gods)

[*IVP Bible Background Commentary*] The term “sons of God” is used elsewhere in the Old Testament to refer to angels, but the idea of sonship to God is also portrayed corporately for the Israelites and individually for kings. In the ancient Near East kings were commonly understood as having a filial relationship to deity and were often considered to have been engendered by deity.

### 0.3. NEPHILIM

- **Nu 13:33** And there we saw the Nephilim (אֲחֵי־הַנְּפִילִים) (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.

[IVP Bible Background Commentary] In Numbers 13:33 they are identified, along with the descendants of Anak, as some of the inhabitants of the land of Canaan. The latter are described as giants, but there is no reason to consider the Nephilim to be giants. It is more likely that the term describes heroic warriors, perhaps the ancient equivalent of knights errant.

### 0.4. HEBREW

- <sup>ESV</sup> **Genesis 6:3** Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not **abide** (לֹא־יָדוֹן רוּחִי) in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years."
- <sup>NRS</sup> **Genesis 6:3** Then the LORD said, "My spirit shall not **abide** in mortals forever, for they are flesh; their days shall be one hundred twenty years."
- <sup>KJV</sup> **Genesis 6:3** And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always **strive** with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

### 0.5. THE PURPOSE OF THE STORY

- → warning of the coming judgment

#### 1. "NORMAL" LIVING

- how the "normal" matters of life become rebellion against God

#### 1.1. POPULATION EXPLOSION

- **Gn 1:28** "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

#### 1.2. DAUGHTERS

- ...That they were FAIR... → focus on beauty; (kalokagathia?)
- **Gn 5:4** The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters
- **Gn 4:19-22** And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. <sup>20</sup> Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. <sup>21</sup> His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. <sup>22</sup> Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah (נַעֲמָה "pleasant").
- **Gn 3:15** I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel

#### 1.3. MARRIAGE

- **Gn 2:24** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
- Gn 6:2 And they took as their wives any they chose.

[CASSUTO Genesis] According to the traditional rabbinic interpretation as well as the view of most modern exegetes, the Torah refers here to grave offences, or opposition to the worldorder approved by the Lord; and this was the reason for the punishment meted out to the generation of the Flood. But this exposition does not appear to fit the language of the text. And they took them wives is simply the usual expression for legal marriage.

## 2. FOCUSING ON THE FLESH

- **Gn 6:3** In as much as he, too, [ bešaggam] is flesh (בְּשָׂרָה הוּא בָּשָׂר) )
- **Mt 24:37-39** **As were the days of Noah**, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

### 2.1. EATING AND DRINKING MARRYING AND GIVING IN MARRIAGE

- based solely on *choice* and *beauty* ... **Gn 6:2** ...the sons of God saw (→ “visual culture”) that the daughters of man were attractive (romantic love). And they took as their wives any they chose...
- “casual living”

### 2.2. THE WAR OF PASSIONS

- **James 4:1-3** What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions
- **James 5:1-4** Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup> Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup> Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup> Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

### 2.3. THE HEART

- **Jer 17:9-10** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? <sup>10</sup> "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."
- **Mk 7:21-23** For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup> coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person. (→ Mt 15:19)

## 3. THE DIVINE SOLUTION

- **Gn 6:3** Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide (יָנִיחַ?) in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.
- **Gn 6:5** 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

### 3.1. THE GRIEF OF GOD

- **Gn 6:6** <sup>6</sup> And the LORD was sorry (וַיִּנְחַם יְהוָה) that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart (וַיִּחַשְׁבֵּב אֶל-לְבָבוֹ)

[CHAMBERS] An unemotional love is inconceivable. Love for the good must involve displeasure and grief for the evil. God is not an almighty sultan reigning aloof, He is right in the throes of life, and it is there that emotion shows itself. "And it repented the Lord. . . ." God does not repent like a man, He repents like God, that is, without change of plan or purpose. "God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it?" (Numbers 23:19). If God were to say of any sin, "Oh well, he didn't mean it, I will let it go," that would be a change in God's purpose. If God overlooked one sin in me, He would cease to be God. The "repenting" of God in individual cases means that God remains true to His purpose and must

mean my condemnation, and my condemnation causes Him grief and agony. (*Our Portrait in Genesis*)

### 3.2. THE EXTERMINATION OF THE HUMANKIND?

- **2Pt 3:5-7** the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, <sup>6</sup> and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. <sup>7</sup> But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly (Λανθάνει γὰρ αὐτοὺς τοῦτο θέλοντας ὅτι οὐρανοὶ ἦσαν ἔκπαλαι καὶ γῆ ἐξ ὕδατος καὶ δι' ὕδατος συνεστῶσα τῷ τοῦ θεοῦ λόγῳ, <sup>6</sup> δι' ὧν ὁ τότε κόσμος ὕδατι κατακλυσθεὶς ἀπόλωτο· <sup>7</sup> οἱ δὲ νῦν οὐρανοὶ καὶ ἡ γῆ τῷ αὐτῷ λόγῳ τεθησαυρισμένοι εἰσὶν πυρὶ τηρούμενοι εἰς ἡμέραν κρίσεως καὶ ἀπωλείας τῶν ἀσεβῶν ἀνθρώπων)
- **1Pt 3:18-20** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> because they formerly did not obey, when **God's patience waited in the days of Noah**, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. → **3:21 BAPTISM**, which corresponds to this, now saves you... (ὅτι καὶ Χριστὸς ἅπαξ περὶ ἁμαρτιῶν ἔπαθεν, δίκαιος ὑπὲρ ἀδίκων, ἵνα ὑμᾶς προσαγάγη τῷ θεῷ θανατωθεὶς μὲν σαρκὶ ζῶοποιηθεὶς δὲ πνεύματι· <sup>19</sup> ἐν ᾧ καὶ τοῖς ἐν φυλακῇ πνεύμασιν πορευθεὶς ἐκήρυξεν, <sup>20</sup> ἀπειθήσασιν ποτε ὅτε ἀπεξεδέχετο ἡ τοῦ θεοῦ μακροθυμία ἐν ἡμέραις Νῶε κατασκευαζομένης κιβωτοῦ εἰς ἣν ὀλίγοι, τοῦτ' ἔστιν ὀκτὼ ψυχαί, διεσώθησαν δι' ὕδατος· <sup>21</sup> ὃ καὶ ὑμᾶς ἀντίτυπον νῦν σώζει βάπτισμα, οὐ σαρκὸς ἀπόθεσις ῥύπου ἀλλὰ συνειδήσεως ἀγαθῆς ἐπερώτημα εἰς θεόν, δι' ἀναστάσεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ)

### 4. TO REMEMBER

- To believe the word of God about the ante-diluvian world we have to abandon extrapolating today's situation back before the Flood.
- The message of the Flood is basically warning of the coming Divine judgment against the ungodly humanity.
- Let us beware of how we use the "normal" things of life. Wickedness begins with forgetting to worship God.