



Genesis 6:5-8

When God Looked at the
Heart of Man — Judgment
Delayed, Grace Revealed

Genesis 6 is the turning point:

- Boundary violation (6:1–4)
- Grace window (6:3)
- Corruption spreading (6:4)
- Now: **God's verdict**
- This is not impulsive judgment.
This is measured, patient, holy response.
- BUT you MUST remember the words of Jesus “As in the days of Noah”

Genesis 6:5 — The LORD's Diagnosis (The Heart Problem)

- **“The LORD saw”**
- Hebrew: רָאָה — ra'ah (rah-AH)
- Meaning: to inspect, examine, perceive fully
This is a judicial inspection, not a glance.
- **“Wickedness”**
- Hebrew: רָעָה — ra (rah)
- Moral corruption (evil), calamity-producing corruption

- This is **intentional wordplay**:
- God **saw deeply**
- What He saw was **not surface-level sin**
- It was **pervasive internal corruption**
- The verse then **stacks** the diagnosis:
- “wickedness was great” → **scope**
- “every intent” → **totality**
- “thoughts of his heart” → **source**
- “only evil continually” → **persistence**
- This is a **medical-style diagnosis**, not a casual observation.

- God does **not** judge on appearance.
He **sees (ra'ah)** the **inner corruption (ra')**.
- This explains why:
 - Judgment is justified
 - Grief follows (v.6)
 - Grace is still extended (v.8)
- **ra'ah** → God's perfect perception
- **ra'** → humanity's perfected corruption
- What this verse is saying:
 - When God fully examined humanity, He found total moral collapse at the heart level.

- **“Intent”**
- Hebrew: יֵצֶר— **yetser** (YET-ser)
- The framework, inclination, imagination that shapes action

- **“Heart”**
- Hebrew: לֵב— **lev**
- The control center: mind, will, desires, conscience

- **“Only evil continually”**
- Hebrew emphasis stacks absolutes
This is **directional corruption**, not occasional sin.

The phrase in Genesis 6:5

- “...every intent of the thoughts of his heart was **only evil continually**.”
- This is **not poetic exaggeration**. It is a **forensic verdict** built by stacked absolutes.
- Hebrew text (key words only):
- כָּל(kol) — *every / all*
- רַק(raq) — *only / exclusively*
- רָע(ra‘) — *evil / corrupt*
- כָּל-הַיּוֹם(kol-hayom) — *all the day / continually*
- Hebrew does **not** stack words like this unless it intends **totality**.
- This is not:
- “mostly”
- “frequently”
- “often sinful”
- This is **directional, settled, dominant orientation**.

Occasional sin vs. “only evil continually”

- **Occasional sin**
- Occurs when:
- A person sins **against their direction**
- Your life is on a path
- One path of fallen man and one of redeemed man
- Redeemed man is on a path where God guides believers toward life and purpose, often contrasting the "path of righteousness" or "life"
- with the "way of the wicked" is a path leading to death,
- Side note Jesus offers eternal life, and encouraging believers to make straight paths for their feet through wisdom, instruction, and faith in Him, even when the path is narrow and challenging
- Conviction still functions
- Repentance is possible and active
- The heart is conflicted (Romans 7 pattern)

Fallen “Path”

- In Scripture, a **path** is not behavior—it is **orientation**.
- Direction over time
- Pattern of decision-making
- Governing authority
- Adam moves from **God’s word** to **self-determination**
- “You will be like God...” (Gen 3:5)
- This is the birth of autonomous (having the freedom to govern itself or control its own affairs.) man.
- When Adam fell he changed paths and EVERYONE from Adam is on his “path”

Genesis 3 to 6

- By Genesis 6, fallen man is no longer conflicted.
- The language changes from **failure** to **fixation**.
- Adam: *fell*
- Cain: *chose*
- Generation of Noah: *locked in*

This path is marked by **four irreversible losses**:

- **1. Conviction no longer functions**
- Conscience becomes dull, then silent.
- Isaiah 5:20 — “Woe to those who call evil good...”
- Evil is no longer resisted; it is redefined.
- **2. Repentance is no longer sought**
- Not because God won't receive it—but because the heart won't desire it.
- Proverbs 28:14 vs Romans 1:28
- God eventually **gives them over** to what they insist on becoming.

- **3. The heart is no longer conflicted**

- Romans 7 no longer applies.
- No “I hate what I do”
- No inward war
- No struggle toward righteousness
- Peace exists—but it is **false peace**.

- **4. Evil becomes directional, not occasional**

- This is where Genesis 6:5 lands:
- “Only evil continually”
- This means:
- Evil is the compass
- Self is the authority
- God is excluded, not debated

First, a necessary distinction (very important)

- The Bible distinguishes between:
- **People who sin**
- **People who are fallen**
- **People who are hardened**
- Not everyone alive today is in the Genesis 6:5 state.
- But Scripture teaches that entire cultures can move in that direction, and individuals can cross into it.
- Jesus is talking about **heart condition + moral trajectory**.

What does that look like?

- **Evil is no longer recognized as evil**
- This is Isaiah 5:20 territory.
- Moral inversion becomes normalized
- Language is redefined to protect sin
- Shame is recorded as oppression
- This is not confusion.
This is **redefinition**.

- **Conviction no longer functions**
- This is the most dangerous sign.
- No inward resistance
- No guilt over sin
- No fear of God
- No grief over corruption
- Paul calls this a **seared conscience** (1 Timothy 4:2).

- **Repentance and God is mocked, not sought**
- Not ignored—**ridiculed**.
- Repentance is labeled harmful
- Moral restraint is seen as violence
- Holiness is framed as hatred
- This matches Romans 1:32:
- “They approve of those who practice them.”

- **Evil becomes identity, not behavior**
- This is crucial.
- Genesis 6:5 is not about acts—it is about **intent** (*yetzer*).
- Today this looks like:
 - “This is who I am”
 - “I was born this way”
 - “Don’t question my truth”
- Sin is no longer confessed.
It is **defended**.

The difference between “lost” and “hardened”

- **Lost people:**
 - Still feel tension
 - Still wrestle
 - Still justify (which means conscience exists)
 - Still respond to truth (even angrily)

- **Hardened people:**
 - No struggle
 - No grief
 - No shame
 - No repentance impulse
 - No fear of consequence
 - Jesus treats these two groups very differently.

Why this matters for the Church

- The Church is not called to:
 - Fix the hardened
 - Argue with the seared
 - Redeem cultures by force
- ***The Church is called to:***
 - ***Proclaim truth***
 - ***Rescue the reachable***
 - ***Disciple the willing***
 - ***Be distinct, not dominant***
 - **Noah didn't reform the world.
He built an ark.**

Genesis 6:5 explains why:

- Laws don't fix people
- Education doesn't save hearts
- Technology doesn't restrain evil
- The problem is **internal**, not external.
- If the problem is **internal**, then the solution must also be **internal**
- **Law** restrains behavior, not the heart
- **Education** informs the mind, not the will
- **Technology** amplifies capacity, not character

So what *does* address an internal problem?

- **The Bible gives only one answer:**
- **Heart replacement, not behavior modification.**
- “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you...”
— Ezekiel 36:26
- Not improved.
Not educated.
Not restrained.
- **Replaced. It is made new, it is resurrected! (John 2:11-22)**
- Jesus tells Nicodemus:
- “You must be born again.” (John 3:7)
-

God's solution is:

- Gospel proclamation
- Regenerated hearts
- Spirit-led obedience
- Distinct people living counter-culture
- That's why:
- Noah builds an ark
- Abraham is called out
- Israel is separated
- The Church is set apart

Hardened hearts are real — and often unreachable *by men*

- Jesus Himself teaches this.
- “Seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.”
— Matthew 13:13
- Hardened people are not argued into repentance.
They are not educated into humility.
They are not pressured into truth.
- **Human means fail.**

But God *does* break hard ground — sovereignly

- God never says hardened hearts are **permanently immune**. He says they are **humanly unreachable**.
- **Key promise:**
- “Break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the LORD...”
— Hosea 10:12
- Notice:
- God commands the breaking
- But He alone can cause the rain

- **Soft hearts respond to invitation**
- **Hardened hearts require intervention**
- This is why Scripture includes **judgment, discipline, and crisis.**
- God *both* hardens Pharaoh **and** confronts him repeatedly.
- Why?
- Pharaoh first hardens himself
- God then confirms his chosen direction
- Plagues are not persuasion — they are exposure

How God breaks hardened ground (biblical pattern)

- God uses **external pressure** to expose **internal corruption**.
- Common tools:
 - Loss
 - Collapse
 - Humiliation
 - Consequence
 - Silence
 - Fear
 - Isolation
- Not punishment for punishment's sake — **surgical mercy**.

Why the Church must be careful here

- The Church's role is **not** to break hard hearts.
- That is God's work alone.
- The Church is called to:
 - Proclaim truth clearly
 - Live distinctly
 - Warn faithfully
 - Love sacrificially
- God handles the **breaking**.
- I believe this is what Noah did and he was a preacher of righteousness.

Genesis 6:6 — God's Grief (Holiness with Real Sorrow)

- **“Sorry”**
- Hebrew: נָחַם— **nacham** (nah-KHAM)
- To be moved with sorrow, to sigh deeply, to experience pain
- **“Grieved”**
- Hebrew: אֲצַב— **atsab** (ah-TZAV)
- Deep emotional pain, distress
- This is not regret from ignorance.
This is grief from **relational betrayal**.

Some say God must have made a mistake.

- God did not make a mistake.
God is revealing His **personal holiness**.
- Genesis 6:7 is **not** saying:
- God regrets creating humanity
- God miscalculated
- God changed His mind like a man
- That would contradict:
- God's omniscience (Isaiah 46:9–10)
- God's immutability (Malachi 3:6)
- God's declared purposes (Ephesians 1:11)
- So the verse **must** be read covenantally, not emotionally.

- This word is used when:
- A covenant is broken
- A moral line is crossed
- A response becomes necessary
- Genesis 6:7 — The Sentence (The response)
- **“Destroy”**
- Hebrew: **מָחָה**— **machah** (mah-KHAH)
- To wipe out, erase, blot clean
- This is **cleansing language**, not rage language.

- **Creation Is Included**
- Man was given dominion
- When the head collapses, the system beneath it decays

BUT WAIT!!!!!!

- Genesis 6:8 — The Turn (Grace Enters the Story)
- “**Grace**”
- Hebrew: **יְנִיחַ**— **chen** (khen)
- Favor freely given, unearned kindness
- Grace appears **before** obedience is described.
- Grace is not God reacting to Noah.
Grace is God initiating rescue.
- Grace does not deny judgment.
Grace provides an escape **from** judgment.

Days of Noah Pattern

- Pattern:
- Moral collapse
- Boundary confusion
- Normal life continuing
- Warning ignored
- Judgment delayed
- Remnant preserved
- One way of escape
- **Current-Event Parallels (measured, not sensational)**
- Redefinition of identity
- Celebration of what God calls evil
- Violence normalized
- Truth reframed as hate
- Mockery of judgment
- Grace still offered

Noah's name is not incidental — it is prophetic

- Noah (נֹחַ— nōah) means:
- rest
- comfort
- Relief
- So before the Flood narrative even begins, Moses signals:
- Judgment is coming
- But **comfort will carry God's plan forward**
- Noah is not just a survivor — he is a **transition figure**.

Noah as a type (not the fulfillment)

- Noah is:
- A righteous man among a corrupt generation
- A preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5)
- A builder of salvation while judgment approaches
- A means by which life is preserved
- But Noah:
- Saves only his household
- Preserves temporal life
- Emerges into a still-fallen world

Jesus is the greater Noah (the fulfillment)

- Jesus explicitly places His return in **Noah's framework**:
- Pre flood, pre call of Noah Enoch was taken (the Church)
- Noah the ark safe from the judgement of the earth (the Jews)

- This reframes end-times teaching:
- Not escapism
- Not date-setting
- Not doom obsession
- But **comfort for the faithful** living in a corrupt age.
- Just as Noah and Enoch:
- Walked with God
- Obeyed quietly
- Endured mockery
- Trusted God's timing
- So believers today are called to:
- Remain faithful
- Build what God asks
- Live distinctly
- Trust in Christ

In Closing

- If Genesis 6:5 is true → the heart must be transformed, not improved
- If God is grieved → sin affects relationship, not just behavior
- If judgment is real → love must include truth
- If grace appears before the ark → God always provides a way out
- Genesis 6 is not about a flood.
It's about a God who:
 - Sees truth clearly
 - Feels grief deeply
 - Judges righteously
 - Extends grace first
 - And the goal is not survival.
The goal is **relationship**.



Genesis 6:5-8

When God Looked at the
Heart of Man — Judgment
Delayed, Grace Revealed