

Self-Destruction

Harmony M.B.C., Oct. 21, 2012

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Genesis 6:11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

Genesis 6:12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

Genesis 6:13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

I first want to explain the Hebrew word “violence” here:

Violence: Heb.; châ-mâs - khaw-mawce' - *violence*; by implication *wrong*; by metonymy **unjust gain**: - cruel (-ty), damage, false, injustice, X oppressor, unrighteous, violence (against, done), violent (dealing), wrong.

The word carries the idea of violence as we know it, but it also includes using whatever means is necessary to get ahead, using crooked and deceitful means to get rich, cruelty, doing damage, using and promoting lies, acting out injustice, being an oppressor of freedom, general unrighteousness, and using strong-arm tactics or extortion in personal or business dealings.

Now, I want to explain something about God’s construction of the wording in vv.

12 and 13: In v.12 - corrupt / corrupted: shâchath - *shaw-khath'* - A primitive root; to *decay*, that is, (causatively) *ruin* (literally or figuratively): - batter, cast off, corrupt (-er, thing), destroy (-er, -uction), lose, mar, perish, spill, spoiler, X utterly, waste (-r).

That is, to corrupt, ruin, and destroy by some kind of decay.

In v. 13 - Destroy: shâchath - *shaw-khath'* - it is the same word used for corrupt in v. 12 - A primitive root; to *decay*, that is, (causatively) *ruin* (literally or figuratively): - batter, cast off, corrupt (-er, thing), destroy (-er, -uction), lose, mar, perish, spill, spoiler, X utterly, waste (-r).

That is, to cast off and cause to perish because they have decayed, and as a result, ruined, and destroyed themselves

The world of Noah was in a terrible condition at the point of this account in the word of God. It was in such a corrupted state that the God whom David says has the kind of mercy that endures forever (**Psalms 136**) had gotten His fill of the wickedness of mankind. I can sympathize with God on this one because I believe we live in an almost identical world today. Like a deadly plague, vileness, crookedness, the lust of power and money, the deepest form of deceit and lying, murders, plotting, and hating of God has totally immersed the leadership of our world. Today, it appears that the most corrupted humans on the planet sit in positions of national and world leadership. It is terrible to have to say this, but all of us who follow national and world events know that it is true. When the leaders of the world are the most corrupted of mankind, the common man will be drawn into this kind of mentality and practice in life, or at the least will become victims to these global predators as they glut themselves on evil and use the common man to accomplish their wickedness. A world led by evil men who have no restraint will quickly become a world completely immersed in wickedness. We are not far from that condition now. Just a couple more generations from now and this world will not provide a place or condition for a person to be ethical, honest, and moral. This is where we find the earth in our text.

We want to look at the process of destruction that humanity followed then, and that it will follow again in this era. They will be one and the same. The only difference will be the coming of Christ to stop the wickedness to demonstrate to the earth how man can be governed in righteousness; how a righteous government is supposed to be run. This thing that Christ will do will only be temporary, however. In fact, God will demonstrate during the thousand year reign that even when humanity is governed by Jesus Christ the Righteous it still cannot pursue righteousness with purity and singleness of heart. So, at last, through its own corruption, humanity will destroy itself, and God will oblige it with utter destruction.

I. So, the process of the destruction of humanity begins and ends with humanity; that is, humans bring their own destruction

- This is the reason that God uses the same word for the decay, ruin (corruption) and destruction of the earth as He does for His act of ruining the race of man through His own destroying power.
- The formula which God introduced in **vv. 12-13** declares a law of God that is fixed: when men rot and destroy themselves with wickedness, God will answer destruction with destruction.

- In the eyes of God, humans destroy themselves when they corrupt themselves by their ungodliness
- A righteous and pure God would violate His own principles if He did not eliminate that which is rotten garbage
 - Illustrate: you accumulate garbage around your house. Let's suppose that instead of taking it out and sending it to the landfill, or burning it, you just let it build up in the corners of the rooms in your house. Describe the condition of your property after a period of doing this. This can be translated to the condition of the world if left to go on to its logical end loaded and overloaded with the wickedness of mankind.

II. Notice that the self-destruction of human-kind originates in the corruption of the mind and the wickedness that comes from it: (**Gen. 6:5**) And GOD saw that the **wickedness** of man *was great* in the earth, and *that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*.

- Both the deeds and the thoughts of the population of earth was ruined, decayed, destroyed as to any remaining representation of what the original man was supposed to act like and think like.
- **V. 12** of our text tells us that “all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.”
 - When every imagination of the thoughts of a man's heart is only evil continually the only “way” that he will follow is a way of complete rottenness. We have a multitude of men on earth today that have totally corrupted their way because their minds and souls are totally rotten.
- A lot of men today think that the coming judgment of God is a fairy tale. How do we know this? Because they think and act as though there will not be a day of reckoning. By the pen of Peter, the Lord said that scoffers would come and ridicule the idea of the return of the Lord (2Peter 3:3-4).
 - But, a judgment is certain, following the return of Christ: Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, **according to their works**.
- So, God is looking down on this wicked earth, noting every evil, defiling deed of every human on the planet. He is seeing that wickedness heaping up toward heaven, and there is a day coming when He will declare that He does not intend to put up with another single wicked human thought or deed.
- Some people have thought that because Christ is coming to set up a thousand-

year reign here that He is going to just be focused on His people and the things of bliss; but the bible does not teach that. He WILL INDEED be coming for His people, but there is another aspect of His coming that isn't advertised much. That is, the judgment of mankind for the wickedness going on here. We as believers usually think in pleasant terms about His coming, but unbelievers have another aspect of His coming to think about, because His coming for them is all about sending judgment on the earth.

- ▶ Jude describes it briefly vv. 14-15, and calls it “executing judgment.” But, this does not even begin to describe the terror of the judgment of an almighty God upon human-kind. There may be no human vocabulary to describe it.
- ▶ In Rev. 8 & 9, God tells us of 7 angels with 7 trumpets to blow, announcing the coming of 7 judgments upon human-kind (**1.** A third of the grass and trees of the earth are burned up [could this third of the earth be the most wicked area of the earth?]; **2.** Vv. 8-9; something described as a great mountain fell into the sea and the sea was turned to blood, killing a third of the creatures in the sea and a third of the ships at sea were destroyed; **3.** A meteor fell from heaven and poisoned a third of the water supply of the earth; many people died from the water or from the fact that they couldn't drink the water; **4.** The sun and moon were darkened in a third of the heaven; **5.** The horde of locusts from the bottomless pit; **6.** The four death angels are released from the rivers with the assignment to kill one-third of human-kind using the 200 million man army with their awesome weapons; **7.** The angel declares the end of time.
- ▶ In Rev. 15, the Lord writes about the 7 vials of the wrath of God that will be unleashed upon human kind at the end time. Some of the destructive power and terror of these is described in Ch. 16 and includes **terrible sores fall on mankind, the seas of the earth are poisoned and everyone in the sea dies, the fountains of fresh water and rivers are turned to blood, the heat of the sun is unleashed on the earth, the Lord causes the headquarters country of the antichrist to be in total darkness, cataclysms on earth** that sink islands and level mountains, and **60 pound hail stones falling on people everywhere.**

III. **Vv. 17-18** - As human-kind self-destructs, God has made plans to accommodate their destruction, and has also made plans for His chosen ones

- In this era, when human-kind destroys itself by its total corruption in wickedness,
- The fate described in v. 17 will happen to this race and all the earth.
 - ▶ Peter describes that last big event: 2Pet. 3:7, 10 But the heavens and the

earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

- But, God has made arrangements for His people (v.18): This covenant of God was made by Him because of something described in v. 8 (of our text)

God told Noah that he would go into the ark with his family (note that the wording in v. 18 is not asking Noah to give God permission to let him go into the ark; rather God is making a decree here...as though He is saying, “you WILL go into the ark and be saved.”)

- As then, God has an Ark for His people of grace in this era of human self-destruction.
 - ▶ In Christ, the Lord’s people are safe
 - I think there is a kind of promise given to us by Christ in His warning in Mat. 24:37 But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
 - That promise: Just as Noah was found in the ark when the flood came, and was completely safe, so believers will be found in Christ when the next big destruction comes, and will be completely safe.