

Questioning the Compassion of God For Sinners: Is God filled with anger towards people in bondage to sin.

Last week we talked about the heart of God for people who are in bondage to sin being one of understanding and compassion with a desire to alleviate their suffering. And that His heart is not one of anger where He feels He wants to punish someone when He finds them in bondage to sin in their lives.

Today we are going to look at some verses that have been misunderstood to be describing God as being filled with anger and wanting to punish people when He finds them in bondage to sin.

Genesis 6:5-7 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. 6) And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at his heart. 7) And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

We look at verses like Genesis 6:5-7, and we look at the flood and we misinterpret what happened there. And then define the way that God thinks of people who are in bondage to sin through our wrong conclusions of what happened there.

A long time ago God said to me lend me your heart & I will change what you see.

Verse 5

When we think of words like evil and wickedness we think of it speaking of vampires; werewolves; etc... We think of it as speaking of being inherently evil or darkness itself. But that is not how these terms are used in the Hebrew and in the Greek.

Because of how our culture defines these terms we associate these terms with our definitions of wickedness and evil. And we immediately function from the place that God was disgusted with man; that He was filled with retributive anger towards man when He saw them in bondage to sin. We immediately interpret these verses to be speaking of God being so mad at man because of their wrong behavior that He had an overwhelming desire to punish them because of what they have done.

wickedness: sorrow; wretchedness; misery; injury; distress; sadness; unhappiness.

Explain definition of evil: The oldest manuscript we have of the OT is written in Greek. It's called the Septuagint. In the Greek the word evil is translated as

Thayers: Evil: poneros: 1) full of labours, annoyances, hardships. 1a) pressed and harassed by labours. 1b) bringing toils, annoyances, perils;

Comes from a derivative pon'-os which means toil, that is, (by implication) anguish: - pain.

Reread: so this verse would more accurately read.

And God saw the sorrow; the wretchedness; the misery; the distress; the sadness; the unhappiness of man was great in the earth because every imagination of their heart was all the time filled with laboring and toiling to preserve their own life, and to provide life for themselves.

Verse 6

For so long I thought this verse said something like, and God was so disgusted with man because of their bad behavior He wished He never made man at all.

I thought this verse was saying that God changed His mind about making man because he was so angry with them. That because he was so angry with them he wished He had never made man.

But, is that what this verse is really saying. We can never just look at a verse without considering the whole counsel of God in our interpretation.

Numbers 23:19 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? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

God is not a man that He should have to repent from what He believes or thinks. God is not a man that He can lie or change His mind.

Now we know in Genesis after God made man. He said it was very good. So we know this verse cannot be God changing His mind from that and now wishing He never made man at all.

God cannot say one day "it is very good that I made man". And then another say I wish I had never made man. That would be Him changing His mind, and it would make Him a liar for saying it was very good when He made man.

Neither can it mean that God changed His mind about man being on the earth. For He originally created man to be on the earth.

The word repent here means to be moved with pity, have compassion; suffer grief; to be sorry.

If we look at the verse the latter part of the verse explains the first part of the verse. So when it says "it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth". The explanation of what this means is found in the second part of the verse that says "it

grieved Him at His heart".

BDB: grieved: 1) to hurt, pain, grieve, displease, vex, wrest. 1b) (Niphal) to be in pain, be pained, be grieved. 1c) (Piel) to vex, torture. 1d) (Hiphil) to cause pain. 1e) (Hithpael) to feel grieved, be vexed

So what is it that grieved God at His heart? The previous verse just told us. What grieved God in His heart is that man was suffering on the earth. And the reason man was suffering on the earth is because their imagination was filled with laboring and toiling to have life.

So God was moved with compassion for man because it hurt His heart to see man suffering on the earth. This verse is not saying God wished He never made man. Rather this verse is saying that God was grieved in His heart because of the great suffering of man on the earth. It hurt God's heart that man was experiencing destruction on the earth. In the same way that it hurts our hearts when we see someone suffering.

God sees that man is suffering in the earth. His heart is hurting over the suffering of man in the earth. And He sees the suffering of man is because their life has been born from the earth. So His heart is grieved that the life of man has been born from the earth.

In the Septuagint the Greek word for "Giants" literally means earth born. Which speaks of them having a carnal mind. It speaks of a person's life being born from beneath instead of being born from above. It speaks of a person's life being born from the flesh instead of being born from the Spirit.

God made man from the dust of the ground and breathed Life into him and he became a living soul. But, His desire was not that man would try to find life from that ground he was made from. He desired that man's life would be born from above; born from His Spirit.

But through Adam the life of man was born from beneath. It was born from the earth. Through Adam the substance of man's life was hid in the flesh. It was hid in the world. And because of this the life of man was born from the earth.

It caused God's heart pain that the life of man was born from the earth because this caused them to experience a life of destruction.

So God was grieved that man was experiencing destruction in the earth, and because He saw the destruction was a result of the life of man being born from the earth. It caused Him pain that the substance of man's life was hid in the flesh. It caused Him pain that the substance of man's life was hid in the world. It caused God pain that the life of man was born from the flesh; born from beneath instead of being born from above; born from His Spirit.

God sees that the suffering of man is great. He sees that they are suffering because their imagination is filled with laboring and toiling to have life. He sees the reason their imagination is filled with laboring and toiling to have life is because their life has been born from the earth instead of being born from the Spirit. And because of this His heart was filled with grief.

We must interpret what verse 6 is saying from what was just said in verse in 5.

Explain what God felt for sinners in days of Noah in what Jesus felt for man

The best way to describe what these verses say about what God felt when He looked upon man in the days of Noah is through the ministry of Jesus on the earth.

No one has seen the heart of the Father

John said in the first chapter of his gospel that no one had seen the Father but Jesus. He said that no one had seen the heart of the Father except for Jesus. And then he says that Jesus has interpreted the heart of the Father for us. He has brought the Father out where He can be seen clearly. Jesus has brought the Father out where we can see Him for who He actually is.

So when we look at these verses in Genesis we must interpret them through what Jesus revealed to be true about the Father. When we see Jesus being moved by compassion towards sinners. It is to reveal the heart of God towards the people in Noah's day. Jesus said if you have seen me you have seen the Father.

Mat 9:36 But when Jesus saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Compassion: Deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it. A feeling of distress for the suffering or misfortune of another, including the desire to alleviate it. A feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for someone struck by misfortune, accompanied by a desire to alleviate the suffering; mercy.

In light of Jesus being the word of God. The scriptures in Genesis must be interpreted through the word that was made flesh in Jesus. These verses speak of God feeling a deep sympathy and sorrow because of the suffering of man, and Him desiring to alleviate their suffering.

Verse 7

These verses are a description of the compassion of God.

Verse 5-6 speak of 1st part of compassion of God. Where God is grieved with the sorrow of man and filled with sympathy because of their suffering.

Verse 7 speaks of the second part of compassion which is to desire to alleviate the suffering of another. So verse 7 speaks of what God did to alleviate man's suffering.

Must interpret verse from the context of God being moved with compassion because of the suffering of man & what He would do in order to alleviate their suffering.

So God sees the suffering of man is great. He sees what is causing their suffering. Now what will He do to alleviate their suffering?

Read verse 7.

Man who was born from the surface of the ground; man whose life was born from the earth. We know not talking about all man here because Noah & His family are also a part of mankind.

Destroy: blot out

Now when it says God will blot out it means that God will blot out the life of man that was born from the earth. He will blot out the life of man that was concealed in the flesh; He will blot out the the man whose life was concealed in the world through Adam.

The man whose life was born from the earth is subject to death and decay. So God says I will blot out the life of man that is subject to death and decay.

Not saying will kill mankind because Noah and his family are also part of mankind.

I see the suffering of man is because their life has been born from the earth, and not from my Spirit. I will remove the life of man from the earth. I will remove the life of man from the flesh. I will blot out the man whose life was born from the surface of the ground.

When we think of what it means to blot out we want to think of God allowing the man who came from the dust of the ground to return to the dust of the ground.

Blot out is about God seeing the state man is in because they are in the flesh. And God saying I will not allow man to remain in this state of suffering they are in. I will not allow death to continue to reign over them.

It's like in the garden when Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and God said let us keep Adam from the garden lest he now eat from the tree of life and live forever in the flesh.

Let us keep Adam from eating from the tree of life in a fallen state so the man whose life was concealed in the flesh; the man whose life is concealed in the world can return to the dust of the ground.

God put Adam out of the garden so the life of man that was born from beneath could return to the dust of the ground. And man would not be condemned to live forever in a state of death and destruction.

So God says I will blot out the life that is earthy. I will blot out the life that is born from beneath. I will blot out the life that is born from the flesh. I will not allow the life of man to remain concealed in the flesh. I will not allow the life of man to remain concealed in the world. Because this is what is causing their suffering.

Verse 7 is speaking of the new creation:

So God sees the suffering of man is because their life has been born from beneath. He sees they are suffering at the hands of death because their life has been hid in the flesh.

He says the man that was made from the dust of the ground will return to the ground from which he came. And I will make a new creation where the substance of man's life is not contained in the flesh but it is contained in my Spirit. So that they can be partakers of an incorruptible life in me. And life can reign over them instead of death and destruction.

Doesn't speak of what God will do to punish man because He is angry about them sinning. It speaks of what God will do to alleviate man's suffering.

Because of the suffering that God saw man experiencing because they were earthy.....

He says I see the thing causing their suffering is that their life has been born from the earth. Their life has been born from beneath instead of above. Their life has been born from the flesh and not My Spirit. I will create man in the Spirit. I will remove the substance of their life from the flesh; from the world. And I will hide the substance of their life in Me. So their life can never be subject to death and destruction again.

God says the man whose life was born from the earth will return to the dust of the ground. Let US create man in the Spirit in order that the life of man can be hid in US and our Spirit. Instead of being contained in the flesh and in the world. And in that the substance of man's life will be hid in the Spirit instead of being hid in the flesh. The imagination of man's heart will not be filled with laboring and toiling to have life. But, the imagination of man's heart will be filled with US and the incorruptible, immortal life We possess. And through this We can alleviate the suffering of man because they will no longer be slaves to sin but they will be slaves to righteousness through eternal life reigning over them.

When we hear God will blot out the earthy man we act as if God is now the bringer of death to the earthy man. We act as if this earthy man had life, and then life was taken from them. But, they were not the possessor's of life. Death was reigning over them.

For the sake of argument should God have just removed Himself from the situation all together. Does anyone think these people would have continued to live? These people would not have kept on living. Sin would have capitulated on them and destroyed them. Apart from them coming to God for their life to be preserved in Him this earthy man will return to the dust of the ground without any contribution from God.

Example of science experiment: set up a constant & variables.

The bible says the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. God is the bringer of one and not the other.

We think of it as God killing people..... But we see through Noah that God offered the gift of eternal life to everyone in those days.

2nd Peter 2 says that Noah was a preacher of righteousness.

Because God did not desire that any would perish. But, that all would come to Him and have life. He sent Noah to preach His righteousness to all the people.

How long do you suppose it took Noah to build the ark? Well He was preaching the righteousness of God to the people the entire time.

So God sees what will alleviate the suffering of man. And He sends Noah to preach the righteousness of God to all the people so they might be saved and have their life preserved in Him.

When it says Noah was a preacher of righteousness. It does not mean he was preaching behavior modification to people. It means he was preaching about the goodness of God to the people.

The bible says it is the goodness of God that leads to repentance. Noah was preaching about the goodness of God in order that people could hear of God's goodness to save them from death and preserve their life in Himself. And they might turn away from trusting in the strength of the flesh for life and trust in God instead.

Noah was preaching about the goodness of God to preserve man's life in Himself.

God told the people through Noah "if you would like to have your life eternally preserved in me. I promise I will save you from the death that is reigning over you, and I will make you a partaker of the eternal life I possess in Myself. But, if you do not want the eternal life I have in myself. If you do not want your life to be eternally preserved in me. There is no life outside of me, and you will return to the dust of the ground from which you came.

How can we know this is what it means that Noah was a preacher of

righteousness? I'm glad you asked!

Noah being a preacher of righteousness was pointing to Jesus coming as a preacher of righteousness. So we must interpret what it means that Noah was a preacher of righteousness by looking to the righteousness that Jesus came preaching.

Psalm 40:9-10 is a prophetic verse written by David but prophesying of the words of Jesus and His heart. It gives us a look into the Godhead and a conversation between the Father and Jesus.

In verse 9 Jesus says "I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O Lord, thou knowest.

And then in verse 10 he describes what it means that he was a preacher of righteousness when he says "I have not hid Thy Righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.

So when Jesus says he was a preacher of righteousness he is saying that he was preaching that God was righteous. He was preaching to the people about the faithfulness of God towards them. He told the people of the goodness and faithfulness of God to save them from sin and death, and to make them partakers of eternal life through him; preserve their life eternally through His Spirit.

To summarize these verses:

God looks upon man and sees them suffering at the hands of sin and death. And He sees their suffering is great.

God sees the suffering of man and it causes Him pain. He feels something in His heart that says it is not right for my people to be suffering at the hands of sin and death. It is not right for the one's I created to be partakers of my eternal life to be suffering at the hands of sin and death

He says the reason they are suffering is because they are earthy. It is because the substance of their life has been hid in the flesh; it has been hid in the world by Adam.

He feels grieved in the deepest part of His being at the suffering of man. He is filled with a desire to alleviate the suffering of man. He sees that He is the savior of man. He sees that within Himself is an eternal incorruptible life. So He says to Himself Let us blot out the life of man that was sealed in the flesh. And let us preserve the life of man in Ourselves so life can reign over them and their suffering can be alleviated.

End of Genesis: Whatever way we want to look at why the flood happened. It must be interpreted through the eyes of seeing God being so moved by the suffering of man that He had an intense desire to set them free from what was causing them to suffer.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

For so long we have looked at verses like this from the standpoint of God rejecting people. Or being angry with sinners. But, this verse is really speaking of God loving the proud & desiring to set them free from what is harming them.

What this verse is really saying is that In the day you should take on a persuasion that says you can be exalted by the fruit you can produce. God knows that persuasion will bring death and destruction to your life so He will resist you in that thing.

In the day you sit in the place where you think you can be justified by the good fruit you can get to manifest in your life. He will not agree with you about that thing. Not because he is angry. Or He has turned His back on you. But, as part of His everlasting kindness and mercy to you.

It's like if Beckie comes to me and tells me she wants to put her hand in the fire because she thinks it will be good for her. I will resist her in that thing. I will never agree with her about that being the truth. I will try to convince her to stay away from the fire any way I can because I love her. And I don't want any harm to come to her. I will never agree with her that it is good for her to put her hand in the fire.

Habakkuk 1:13 Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity.

One of the things that has caused us a problem in being able to interpret this verse correctly is all the erroneous doctrines we have been taught about the sin nature. And how we have been taught that the nature of man is sinful.

The nature of man is not sinful. Rather, man partook of a nature that exists outside and apart from them that is sinful by eating from the tree of I can have life through my ability to do the fruit of the Spirit, and not do the works of the flesh. The nature that contains envy, murder, covetousness, etc... was born from the corrupted wisdom of Satan not man. Satan presented his corrupted wisdom to man in order to get them to partake of his nature.

Because of this when we read that God cannot look on iniquity we make a subconscious connection to man. As if to say that man & iniquity are synonymous. But, they are not.

This verse does not say that God can't stand to be in the presence of sinners. It doesn't say that God can't stand to look upon sinners. It does not say that God turns His back on sinners.

Notice this verse never says that God cannot look on man while they are in their sin. It says He cannot look on iniquity. When it says He cannot look on iniquity it is not

speaking of the works of the flesh. It is speaking of the corrupted wisdom of Satan that is sin.

It is not speaking in a literal sense like God must cover His eyes.

It is saying that God can never agree with a persuasion that says there is life apart from Him. He can never agree with a persuasion that says man can be justified and have life through the works of their own hands. It is saying God can never bless the belief system that is killing His children. It is speaking of God rejecting the belief that man can have His quality of life by making flesh their arm.

It is saying God can never agree that man is the kind of being that is defined by what they do. He can never agree that the value of man is found in their ability to do what is right.

Not because He is a spoiled brat, and wants to take His ball home because we won't play the game the way He wants to play. But, because that logic can never give man life, but will always bring death to the ones He loves. It is because that logic will cause the ones He loves to separate themselves from Him.

God won't say within Himself well these guys really want to find life through the flesh let me help them to do that. He doesn't look at what is killing us, and say well they really want that thing let me now help them to have life through that thing. He doesn't say I really see they are enjoying their fornication with the flesh. Let me also adopt the wisdom of the serpent & help man to have life through the flesh. Let me now go and lay with the serpent and strengthen them to be able to have life through the flesh.

Good test of this theology is to look at Jesus because He came to reveal the Father.