

Genesis 6:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and ... This passage belongs to the primeval history section (Genesis 1-11) which establishes universal truths about God, humanity, sin, and divine purposes before focusing on Abraham and Israel. These chapters answer fundamental questions about human origins, the spread of wickedness, God's judgment, and the preservation of a righteous remnant.

Recurring patterns emerge: human sin escalating from individual disobedience to societal corruption, divine patience followed by judgment, gracious preservation of a remnant, and covenant promises ensuring redemptive purposes continue. The genealogies connect historical persons, demonstrate the fulfillment of divine promises (blessing and multiplication), and trace the line leading to Abraham and ultimately Christ.

Key theological themes in this section include:

1. sin's destructive progression affecting all humanity
2. God's righteous judgment while preserving mercy
3. human pride and autonomy opposing divine sovereignty
4. cultural development as both blessing and potential idolatry
5. God's sovereign plan advancing despite human rebellion.

These narratives provide the necessary context for understanding God's calling of Abraham and the covenant promises through which all nations will be blessed.

Historical Context

The primeval history (Genesis 1-11) parallels ancient Near Eastern traditions including Sumerian King Lists (pre-flood longevity), Akkadian flood traditions (Atrahasis, Gilgamesh), and Mesopotamian city foundation myths. However, Genesis demythologizes these traditions, presenting monotheistic history rather than polytheistic mythology. The genealogies connecting Adam to Noah to Abraham provide historical framework absent in pagan myths.

Archaeological evidence confirms ancient urbanization (chapter 4's cities), agricultural development, metallurgy, and musical instruments emerging in Mesopotamia's early history. The Babel account reflects Mesopotamian ziggurat construction (stepped pyramid temples), particularly in Babylon. Linguistic diversity requiring explanation was obvious to ancient peoples, making the Babel narrative culturally relevant.

For Israel in covenant with Yahweh, these chapters explained their relationship to surrounding nations. All peoples descended from Noah, but Israel descended from Shem through Abraham—chosen for blessing all nations. The flood demonstrated God's justice and mercy: judging wickedness while preserving the righteous. This pattern would recur throughout Israel's history, assuring them that God's covenant faithfulness endures despite judgment on the wicked.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen our understanding of God's character and His relationship with creation?
2. How should this truth about Judgment shape our daily decisions and priorities?
3. What connections can we trace from this verse to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection?

Interlinear Text

יְאָמַר	אָמַת	אָמַת	מִצְרָמָה	אָמַת	מִצְרָמָה	אָמַת
said	And the LORD	I will destroy	H853	both man	H834	
H559	H3068	H4229		H120		
בְּעֵת אֲתִי	מִעֵל	פָּנָי	קָדְםָה	מִצְרָמָה	יְעַד	
whom I have created	H5921	from the face	H6440	of the earth	H127	both man
H1254				H120		H5704
בָּהַתְּהָתָה	וְעַד	רְמַשְׁבֵּת	וְעַד	עַוְּנָה	כְּבָשָׂמָמָה	
beast	and	and the creeping thing	and	and the fowls	of the air	H3588
H929	H5704	H7431	H5704	H5775	H8064	
נִמְמָתִי	כִּי	עֲשִׂיתָמָה:				
for it repenteth	H3588	me that I have made	H6213			
H5162						

Additional Cross-References

Zephaniah 1:3 (References Lord): I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumblingblocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the LORD.

Psalms 37:20 (References Lord): But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.

Proverbs 16:4 (Creation): The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

Proverbs 10:27 (References Lord): The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org