

Lamar E. Cooper, Sr.  
Executive Vice President & Provost  
The Criswell College

## The Days of Noah

(Genesis 6:1-7; Matthew 24:37)

As the human family multiplied (v. 1), so did its wickedness and lawlessness. God took note of the fact that every thought and motive of humanity was given wholly to evil purposes (v. 5). God saw no redeemable features left in the lives of this generation. Their sinfulness, perversion, and corruption had reached such proportions that judgment could no longer be delayed.

Jesus made the same striking comparisons between the wickedness of the human family and the impending judgment to befall the earth at the Second Coming of Jesus. He said, "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matt 24:37). These are some of the characteristics that the Bible identifies to be evident in the last days. Consider the following, there was:

1. Preoccupation with satisfying physical appetites (Lk 17:26-30).
2. Rapid advances in technology (Gen 4:22).
3. Pluralistic and universalistic philosophies dominated all thoughts (Heb 11:7).
4. Materialism ruled the attitudes and interests of the human heart (Lk 17:29).
5. There was an excessive devotion to pleasures and physical comforts (Gen. 4:21).
6. There was no fear of God in belief or practice in daily life (2 Peter 3:5; Jude 11).
7. The sacredness of marriage was no longer observed (Matt 24:38).
8. The inspired Word of God was ridiculed and rejected (1 Peter 3:19).
9. The population of the earth grew rapidly (Gen 6:1, 11).
10. There was widespread violence and inhumanity to human beings (Gen 6:11, 13).
11. All cultures and all people were thoroughly corrupt (Gen 6:12).
12. There was a preoccupation with perverted sexual behavior (Gen 4:19; 6:2).
13. There were pervasive thoughts, words and acts of blasphemy (Jude 15).
14. There was organized and flagrant Satanic activity (Gen 6:1-4).
15. There were widespread systems of abnormal human depravity (Gen 6:5, 12).

God was burdened, heavy-hearted and repented about the human condition. The word repent is the Hebrew **נָחַם**, *nacham*. It is not the regular word for repentance of evil, **שׁוּב**, *shuv*, which means a change of direction, something God does not do, 1 Sam 15:29. *Nacham* conveys the idea that God was grieved and disappointed that He had been so summarily and completely rejected by all humanity. That God determined to destroy the human race was evidence that even though He wanted to show them compassion, He saw no hope of their repentance.