

Genesis 6

Worldview: Freedom, Morality and Judgment: Who is God?

Follow up from last week: Gen 6:5

From Merriam-Webster:

Freedom: the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action; liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power of another

Morality: a doctrine or system of moral conduct; conformity to ideals of right human conduct;

Judgment: the process of forming an opinion or evaluation by discerning and comparing; **a formal utterance of an authoritative opinion**; a proposition stating something believed or asserted; **a sentence or decision**.

Question: What are some synonyms for freedom? For morality? For judgment?

Discussion: How do morality and judgment function in our society?

Freedom vs Oppression

Towards the end of his inaugural address, President Kennedy says, "Let both sides unite to heed, in all corners of the earth, the command of Isaiah -- to 'undo the heavy burdens, and [to] let the oppressed go free.'" When he says this, he is quoting the book of Isaiah 58:6.

Isa 1:15-18 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. (16) Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, (17) learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. (18) "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Discussion: How is the term "freedom" used in our society, and what dangers come from a misunderstanding of how the term should be applied?

Rom 6:20-23 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. (21) But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. (22) But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. (23) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psa 115:3 Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

Discussion: What is the difference between man's freedom and God's freedom?

Genocide or Judgment?

Hitler killed over 6 million Jews

Holocaust happened because Hitler and the Nazis were racist. They believed the German people were a 'master race', who were superior to others. They even created a league table of 'races' with the Aryans at the top and with Jews, Gypsies and black people at the bottom. These 'inferior' people were seen as a threat to the purity and strength of the German nation. When the Nazis came to power they persecuted these

people, took away their human rights and eventually decided that they should be exterminated.

<http://www.auschwitz.dk/Docu/Faq.htm>

Stalin killed his millions as well

Increasingly paranoid, Stalin unleashed his “Great Terror” in the 1930s. 750,000 members of the military or the Communist Party who he thought might oppose him were executed. Three million were exiled – imprisoned in gulags where they became slave labour.

<https://historyofrussia.org/stalin-killed-how-many-people/>

A 1948 U.N. general assembly established definitions of, and punishment for, **genocide**.

...any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genocide_Convention

Did God commit genocide?

According to our timeline, the flood occurs 1,656 years after man has been on the earth.

If the growth rate in the pre-Flood world was equal to the growth rate in 2000 (0.012), there could have been about 750 million people at the time of the Flood.

<https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/pre-flood-population/>

Gen 6:6-7 And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. (7) So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

Gen 6:13 And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Discussion: What factors contribute to calling what Hitler and Stalin did “genocide” and what God did “righteous judgment”?

Discussion: What other events in Scripture could be considered monstrous with the wrong worldview?

Discussion: How are judgment and morality inter-related? i.e. how does one’s view of authority affect worldview regarding morality and judgment?

Discussion: Apply Jesus’ command in Matthew 5:14-16 to our discussion of freedom, morality and judgment.

Next Week:

Read Genesis 7-9

Memory Verse: Gen 9:11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."