

Genesis 6: 1-16 Romans 1:16-32

I don't like the God of the Old Testament



Think about and discuss one or two questions from each section.

The text: Genesis 6:1-13; Romans 1:16-32

1. Read Genesis 6:1-13. What do you learn from this passage about the mind of God?
2. What emotions are stirred in God and why? Genesis 6:6-7
3. What do you understand from Genesis 6:3? In the context what is the text intending?
4. The words used to describe Noah in verse 9b are in sharp contrast to the words used to describe the people in verses 5 and 11-12. What do these verses tell you about the character of God and the nature of evil.
5. God's judgement in verses 7 and 13 is very extreme. Why? Who is responsible for such an extreme outcome?
6. What arouses God's anger in Romans 1:18?
7. Why is God's anger justified in Romans 1:19?
8. Why are those who are judged without excuse in Romans 1:20-23?
9. What do you understand by the phrase 'gave them over' in verses 24 and 28?
10. Who must accept responsibility for God's judgement in verse 20?

The Scriptures generally

God's anger seem to be in sharp contrast to some of his other characteristics:

1. Holy (set apart) – He is unlike any other Lev 20:26 Exodus 34
 2. Pure (righteous) – He defines what is 'good' Hab 1:13a
 3. Great beyond measure – He defines 'majestic, omnipotence' 1 Chron 29:11
 4. Sovereign – He is in control, rules Isaiah 46:9-10 God says to Israel:
 5. Just – He judges fairly. His very being is the standard for justice. Deut 32:3-4
 6. Loving – He defines 'compassion, mercy, kindness, forgiveness' Psalm 86:15
 7. Gracious – He gives us what we don't deserve and doesn't give us what we do deserve. Joel 2:13:
- Can such contrasting characteristics co-exist in a loving, gracious God?

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Sunday's passages

1. As you look around at your world, how would you summarize its condition in comparison with 'the days of Noah'? What does our world deserve? Is there any hope? Why or why not?
2. How should Christians be responding to the challenges of our times?
3. Christians are 'on the nose' as a consequence of so many awful episodes in which they have behaved badly. How should these episodes affect the way we 'speak' to our world?