

# A WORD ON WORSHIP

## Review of Message from July 17, 2016

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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### Genesis 6:5-8

*“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.”*  
8 *But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.”*



Have you noticed that we have become specialists at shirking responsibility and blaming others for our actions? If I overextend myself financially, it's not my fault; it's the fault of easy credit. If I get lung cancer, it isn't my fault that I chose to begin smoking; it's the fault of the tobacco company. If a man in a rage shoots and kills his neighbor, it isn't his fault; it's the gun manufacturers. If a drunk driver goes the wrong way on the highway, hits a school bus and a number of people are killed, the Ford Motor Company is sued for making an unsafe bus. We've even got "no fault" divorces now, so that if a marriage doesn't work out, no one has to take the blame. And people aren't guilty of perverted behavior anymore; it's in their genes. We blame heredity, environment, chemical imbalance, temporary insanity, job pressures, poverty, prejudice, and abuse.

Now certainly those things can contribute to who we are and can cause problems for us, but we have taken it to an extreme that says that no one is accountable for their behavior anymore. The message of the Bible runs contrary to our societal views. The Bible states that mankind is sinful. As a result, God must judge man's sin. Yet, although God must judge sin, the Bible also teaches that He loves mankind and invites man to enter into a relationship with Him. Genesis 6:1-8 shares this tension.

Ultimately, God's sorrow means action must be taken, not that a great cosmic mistake has been made. God is a living person and, as such, He can and does change when the occasion demands it. He does not change in His character, person, or plan. But He can and does respond to our changes. Our heavenly Father's heart breaks when we disobey Him. To cause Him such grief in light of all that He has done for us in Christ is the height of ingratitude.

If our world, like Noah's, is provoking the judgment of God, how is He warning us today? In the Old Testament, when a nation slipped so far away from God that its people no longer read His Word or heeded the prophets, He warned them of impending judgment through national or natural disasters such as an invading army or a locust plague. Today, He warns us in the same ways. When we hear of a nation invading another nation or a country self-destructing into civil war or a volcano erupting or a tidal wave sweeping villages away or an earthquake leveling entire cities or a forest fire devouring hundreds of thousands of acres of woodlands or a drought shriveling millions of acres of farmland or an epidemic threatening to wipe out a nation's entire population, are we hearing the warning of the Creator demand, "Repent! Judgment is coming! I am holding you accountable for your wicked, willful ways?"

**Sunrise Community Church**  
*Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst*  
**EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.**

9642 Live Oak Ave. • Temple City, CA 91780

(626) 287-6120 • [PastorAndy@SunriseTC.org](mailto:PastorAndy@SunriseTC.org) • [www.SunriseTC.org](http://www.SunriseTC.org)