

## Genesis Series 2022 #5 (7.31.22) #22061

### Genesis 5:1-6:8

#### Where Sin Abounds...

#### I. Jn.2:24-25. Jesus doesn't trust what is in man...?

- A. Jesus didn't "believe" or trust in humanity? He knew what was in man.
- B. What is in man? Sin, evil. Jn.8:39-47; Rom.3:9-26.
- C. Our culture (enlightenment rationalism) teaches that humans are basically good.
- D. *Jesus disagrees. We should change our minds and agree with Jesus.*
- E. The original account of it is in the first six chapters of Genesis.

#### II. The Creation was excellent. Ch.1-2. God created the world and people perfect.

- A. He created an excellent spiritual and material person—Us. Gen.1:26-31; 2:1-25.
- B. He placed them in His Excellent Garden/Tabernacle. 2:4-17.
- C. He designed them to model His own life in the material world.

#### III. But the people opted for their own wisdom, like Satan. Gen.3

##### A. Original sin: *It is a pernicious heart problem passed from our original parents. Rom.5:12-21*

- 1. Relationship with God is broken.
  - a) From confidence and loyalty to skepticism and sin. Rom.1-3
  - b) We are not born into a relationship with God. We need birth from above. (Jn.3)
- 2. Relationship between humans is broken.
  - a) From love and unity to enmity and competition. Murder/War
  - b) From cooperation to competition
- 3. Relationship with the world is broken.
  - a) The good world we were created for now eventually kills us.
- 4. Relationship with the self was broken.
  - a) On a human level, this simple switch of loyalty from God and His word to us and our word is the source of all the evil in the world.
- 5. Relationship with time is broken. There's no going back. 3:22-24.
  - a) Humans will not get back to Eden on their own.
  - b) Death hangs over us and makes time our enemy.

#### IV. The next generation shows the fruit of sin. Genesis 4-5. Two types of people...

##### A. Humanity ignoring the Lord: Cain's line. Gen 4:1-24. 7 generations to a murdering polygamist.

- 1. The first baby becomes a murderer. The second baby is a victim.
- 2. The Archetypical Crime. Murder. 8
  - a) *Crime follows sin. Sin is deeper than crime or evil.*
- 3. The Classic Stiff-Arm. 9-16
  - a) I don't know (a lie), I don't care, get off my case, God.
- 4. The Evil Legacy: 17-24
  - a) Adam, Cain, Enoch, Irad, Mehujael, Methushael—Lamech.
  - b) First mention of multiple wives = a murdering bully.

##### B. But some began to call on the name of the Lord (trust God). Seth's line. Gen.4:25-5:21. 7 generations to a faithful friend of God, plus three more...

- 1. Adam, Abel/Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, —Enoch.
  - a) Plus, three (Methuselah, Lamech, Noah).
- 2. How could people live so long?
  - a) Why not? The human body was created to re-create itself constantly, heal itself, reproduce, etc. But "aging" sets in.
  - b) People don't really know why we age. Encarta: "Experts now believe that aging is the result of many factors working simultaneously." Note that this tells us precisely nothing. It's a description, not an explanation.

### C. Even amid overwhelming evil. 6:1-8.

1. A particularly mysterious kind of moral evil. 1-4
  - a) Sons of God and daughters of men? 1-2
    - (1) Could be angels (fallen). This is the oldest view.
      - (a) Six times in OT, usually of angels. (Job 1:6; 2:1)
      - (b) Jude 14-15, quoting 1 Enoch.
    - (2) Could be demon-possessed Cainite rulers (Waltke)
      - (a) Humans, but in cooperation with evil spirit entities.
    - (3) Could be the godly line of Seth mixing with Cain's line.
      - (a) Many hold this, mostly because the other one seems so weird.
    - (4) The Bible does describe angelic persons that take on human form. We don't understand much about how the unseen realm works.
  - b) God says he won't put up with it. 3
    - (1) There is a limit to what God will tolerate. He will judge.
  - c) The Nephilim? (Heb LXX, "giants") possibly "fallen ones".
    - (1) Oldest view is that they are the offspring of the ungodly union mentioned above.
    - (2) Seen again in Num.13:33 as sons of Anak, giants in the land.
2. A profoundly widespread moral failure. 5-7
  - a) Almost universal wickedness.
  - b) Causing God personal grief and sorrow, because he must judge it.
  - c) *God volunteers for grief and sorrow...letting humanity hurt him.*
3. A completely gracious hope. Noah. 8
  - a) Through grace and one man...a new start...

### V. How to call on the name of the Lord and walk with God.

#### A. Wake up to sin and judgment.

1. It is autonomous. It doesn't need to deny God's existence, just his Lordship.
  - a) *Cain was not an atheist, but was certainly an unbeliever.*
  - b) Though denying His existence is a sophisticated way to accomplish the same thing.
  - c) It's not "bad", just autonomous. Telling God to leave you alone ... like Cain.
2. It is endemic.
  - a) It doesn't need satanic possession, just fallen human nature. 6:5, Jn.2:24; 8:39-47; Rom.3:9-26
  - b) *Satan didn't kill Abel. Cain did. It was his idea.*
  - c) People don't need to be demon-possessed to do evil.
3. It is hopeless.
  - a) Humans can't solve it. The Noah story is God's grace in action.
4. It is doomed.
  - a) It doesn't believe in judgment, but it will not avoid it...Ecc.8:11-13
  - b) God will not put up with evil indefinitely.

**B. Let God's grace find you...**

1. God is gracious in these passages!
  - a) He keeps humanity alive long enough to repent. 2Pet.3:9
    - (1) He did not execute Cain
    - (2) He did not immediately halt the evil of humanity.
  - b) He starts a new line of humans who would call on His name.
    - (1) Calling on His name is the only way to bring life into the death of humanity.
    - (2) Even though most did not, but some did...Jn.1:12-13
  - c) He offers eternal life to those who trust him. 24
    - (1) Enoch is the picture of salvation24. (Ps.116:15)
    - (2) Walking with God leads to being with God!
  - d) He judges as the last resort. 2 Pet.3:9
    - (1) The sin and the judgment, death, grieves God, Jn.11:33-35
  - e) He saves through one man, Noah—who found Gods' Grace
    - (1) Or did God's Grace find Noah?
2. Noah points directly to Christ's saving work. 1 Pet.3:2-22
  - a) The salvation is God's idea and Noah's family simply rest in it.
  - b) More on this next week.

**C. The gospel is God's grace, fulfilled in Christ, defeating sin and death.**

1. The Lord volunteered for grief, sorrow, suffering, death to save people he could never trust! (Jn.2:24-25; Rom.5:6-11).
2. Which is why, even though sin abounds, Grace abounds all the more! **Rom.5:18-21**
3. Which is why we trust only Him—because we are untrustworthy in ourselves.