

# Why is Evil so Widespread and Powerful?

How far will men go...?

# From Last Week: Sin → Death

(separation from life)

- **Genesis 2:16,17** > God gave complete freedom with only one command
- **Genesis 3:7-9** > After they ate the fruit, they hid themselves from God
  - ✓ When someone dies *physically*, their soul is separated from their body
  - ✓ When someone dies *spiritually*, their spirit is separated from God
- **Genesis 3:10-12** > Fear, Shame, and Guilt

# From Last week: Clues to Remember

- **Genesis 3:9** > God came down and called out to the sinful man
  - “Where are you?” An opportunity to confess sin
- **Genesis 3:17-18** > Thorns and Thistles
  - Thorns: an image of the pain of sin
- **Genesis 3:21** > God covered their shame
  - God allowed the death of an animal (**a substitute**) instead of the death of the man
  - The first animal sacrifice:
    - A reminder that sin causes death.
    - **Leviticus 17:11** > The blood contains life and forgiveness.

# Three stories about evil

- Cain and Abel (Genesis 4)
- The Great Flood (Genesis 6 – 9)
- The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)

# Cain and Abel - Genesis 4

- **Verses 1-2:** Cain and Abel – both born sinners
- **Verses 3-5:** Two sacrifices; two responses
  1. Abel : sacrifice of a lamb, following the pattern set **by God** – accepted
  2. Cain : sacrifice of fruits and vegetables, giving the result of **his own work** – rejected
    - Cain offered a sacrifice that was good in his own eyes, but was not what God desired
    - “Religion” = people try to please God with their own ideas and efforts.

# God's Warning to Cain

- **Verses 6-7:** Sin actively tries to trap people and take them further away from God.
- **Verse 8:** Cain closed his mind to God's warning, choosing sin again.
- **Verses 9-10:** God "calls out" to Cain, giving him a chance to confess and repent.
- The "blood cries out" – the Bible reminds us that blood represents life.
- **Verse 11:** Sin always results in a curse

# Things to Remember

- Even the **very best efforts** of man **cannot** please God. He is God – **His way** is the **only right way**.

# Genesis 5 – Adam's children

- **Verse 3:** Adam's next son (Seth) – in *man's* image
- **Verses 4,5:** Adam lived 930 years with many sons and daughters
- People lived a very long time (solar protection, stable climate, genetics slowly changed by sin)
- Chapter 5 ≈ 1500 years
- Rapid **growth of population** and rapid growth of **spiritual darkness**

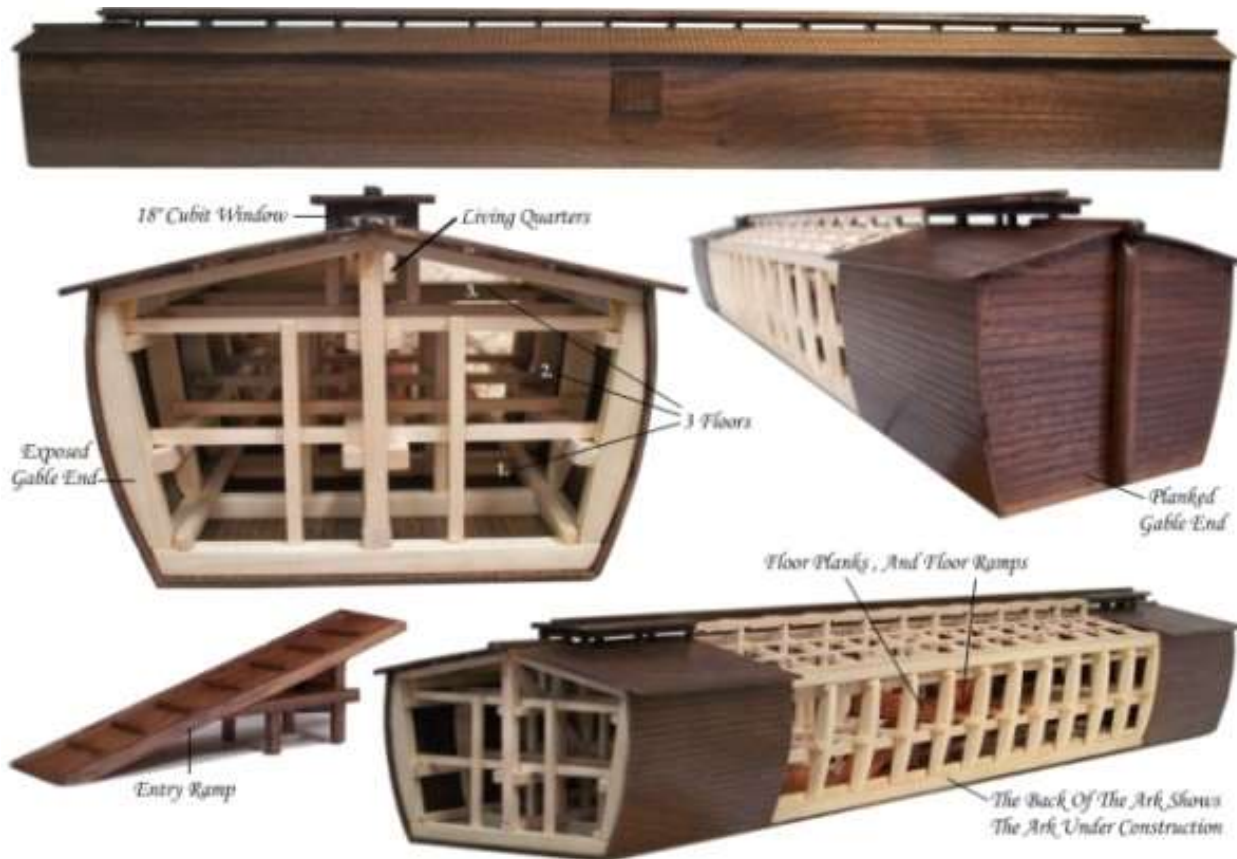


# Genesis 6 – Evil on the Earth

- **Verses 5-7:** How much wickedness (evil) was on the earth and in the people?
- How did God feel about the wickedness?
- What did He choose to do?
- **Verse 8:** Noah – the only man on earth who pleased God.

# Genesis 6 – God’s plan

- **Verses 13-16:** God warns Noah about the judgment and uses him to build a safe place.



- ✓ 100 years to build
- ✓ Very large: 522 railroad boxcars
- ✓ Very stable: same design used by modern ships
- ✓ A box: it didn't need to travel – just float.

# Genesis 7 – The Great Flood

- **Verse 13:** Only eight people entered the ark
- **Verses 15,16:** God brought pairs of every animal to the ark. And then, God shut the door.
- **Verses 11,12:** Water came from above and below, rising above all dry land (v.19).
- **Verses 23,24:** Everything outside of the ark died
- **Ezekiel 33:11** How does God feel about death?

# The Great Flood : is it true?

- Over 270 flood stories like this in cultures all over the world
- Geology shows there was a major flood event:
  - Canyons without deltas
  - Rock layers bent and folded without cracks
  - Rapid burial and fossil formation of plants and animals
  - Clear boundary layers between sedimentary rock

# Huge fossil discovery made in China's Hubei province

By Helier Cheung  
BBC News

🕒 24 March 2019

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AO SUN

Scientists say the fossils have been "exquisitely" preserved



The discovery is particularly remarkable because "the majority of creatures are soft-bodied organisms like jellyfish and worms that normally stand no chance of becoming fossilised", Prof Robert Gaines, a geologist who also took part in the study, said in an email to the BBC.

The majority of fossils tend to be of hard-bodied animals, as harder substances, like bones, are less likely to rot and decompose.

The Qingjiang biota must have been "rapidly buried in sediment" due to a storm, in order for soft tissues to be so well preserved, Prof Zhang says.







Prof Gaines hopes his work will also strike a chord with modern readers.

"Biotic diversity today is something that we take for granted, even though there are indications that extinction rates are sharply increasing.

"Yet most of the major animal lineages were established in a singular event in the history of life, the Cambrian explosion, the likes of which have never been seen before or after. It also reminds us of our deep kinship to all living animals."



ROBERT GAINES

The creatures were rapidly buried by mudflows and sediment

# Things to Remember

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- In the midst of **judgment for sin**, God shows mercy, providing a **safe place**.



# God's Commands and Man's Response

- **Genesis 9:1** What did God tell the people to do?
  - Fill the earth = travel and spread out
- **Genesis 11:1,2** How many languages on the earth?
  - Just one
- **Genesis 11:3,4** Did people obey God?
  - No, they did not want to spread out across the earth
- What name did they want to lift up?
- **Isaiah 43:7** What name should people lift up?

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- **God** created people for **His glory**, but people are proud and seek their own glory.

# God's Response to Man's Evil

- **Genesis 11:5,6** What did God say about the men?
  - With common language and goals, they will accomplish everything that they plan.
- Is the power of man a good thing or bad thing?
  - When it is against God, it is always a bad thing.
- **Genesis 11:7-9** Did God destroy the evil men?
  - No, He multiplied their languages to force them to spread out. Again, we see mercy in judgment.

Global Languages remind us that, even in His judgment, **God shows mercy.**



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- God created people for His glory, but people are proud and seek their own glory.
- **Evil is real** and always pulls men away from God. We have **only one hope** – **God** must **bring us** back to Himself.

# Evil is Inside Everyone

- Our culture says that the problem is on the outside and the solution is on the inside.
- When we pray “deliver us from evil,” we must recognize that the evil inside of us is our greatest danger (**Matthew 6:13; James 1:14,15**)
- Although we may be able to run away from the evil outside of us, we cannot run from ourselves.
- Only God’s grace has the power to rescue us from the most threatening evil of all—the evil that still resides in our hearts.

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(next week, the first step in His plan...)



And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. Genesis 9:12,15

