

## GOD WORKS THROUGH PEOPLE – Genesis 4-6

September 19, 2021

As Christians, we should be thankful that God tells us how to live our lives here on this earth. And it's by going to the Bible, by living according to God's word.

- At this time, we're going through Genesis, a book that is foundational to your Christian life. And today we're going to look at some truths from Gen. 4-6.

As we look at these three chapters, we learn a number of things:

- First, we see that the world is growing in population, that the command God gave to Adam and Eve to populate the earth is taking place. You go through Gen 4-5, and you read about all these people being born, and all these different names of people.

- Gen. 4:1 - We see that Adam and Eve had a child with the help of the Lord, which means God enables us to have children, and therefore is sovereign over the growth of the earth.

- Acts 17:24-28. God is the giver of life, the One who plans the life of every person, and puts them in the place He wants them to live and at the time He wants them to live.

Second, there are different occupations. Gen. 4:1-2, 20-22. We read about shepherds, farmers, musicians, and metal workers. I've thought of how people in different localities have all these different occupations, and somehow it works out that everything that needs to get done gets done, that people are working at all these jobs that fulfill the needs of the people. And God is sovereign over this. The job you have meets a particular need. James 4:13-14

Third, we read about sin, and sinful people. Gen. 4 talks about one person who sins, and his name is Cain, the son of Adam and Eve. And what do we learn?

1. There are 4 specific sins that Cain commits.

- First, God tells him to sacrifice to the Lord, and we don't know the particulars, but he disobeys God, and God isn't pleased with him.

- Second, we read that Cain is angry at God.

- Third, it is implied that Cain is jealous of his brother Abel.

- Fourth, Cain murders his own brother Abel.

2. Cain sins against God and he sins against man. Now all sins are against God, and if we sin against God, then that sin can result in sinning against man, which is what we see here.

3. Cain never learned to master his sin. As people, we're all tempted to sin, to do that which is wrong, is unrighteous, and these can be sins in our thoughts, our speech, or our actions. But Cain did not get victory over this temptation and sin. Cain wasn't a true believer, for the true believer, the true Christian gets victory over his sins, not perfectly so, but in general. If a person does not get victory over sin, then you have to question whether that person is really saved, and has actually been forgiven of his sins.

- Many verses in the Bible talk about how we are to get victory over sin, how we are not to be slaves to sin, but we are to master it. Indeed, it is one of the most important lessons Christians need to learn is getting victory over sin. Rom. 6, Ps. 119:133

4. A person is judged for his sins. That happens to different degrees to unbelievers during their life on earth, and if a person never repents, then he's punished forever in hell. Gen. 4 tells us that God judged Cain by making him a vagrant, a wanderer on the earth. But God had mercy on Cain by not letting him get killed by another person. And so even though Cain killed Abel, God wouldn't let anyone kill Cain. That was mercy.

Gen. 6:5, 11-12. The population of the world was continuing to grow, some population experts even thinking the world could have had billions of people in it at this time. But sadly, the whole world was sinning, was extremely corrupt. And one of the reasons for that was that women were being possessed by demons, and then had relationships with men, and the children who were born were very evil and wicked.

- Gen. 6:13. Whereas God had judged Cain, one man, now He judges the whole world. And this is extremely sobering. God's goal was for man to populate the world, and man had done that. But here is God judging and destroying all the people in the world because of their sin, except Noah and his family. This demonstrates that God is perfectly holy and righteous, and that He must punish all sin, which is exactly what He does.

The Bible gives us many stories about sinful people, sinful families, sinful cities, sinful countries, and sinful kingdoms, and how He judges them for their sin. There's the example of Cain, and Achan's family, and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and countries like Israel, and kingdoms like Babylon, Assyria, and Greece.

- This picture of sin and judgment is seen in the whole Bible, and as I've talked about in recent weeks, we're sobered and saddened to see how it's now happening in our country.

- In the near future, Christ is coming back to rapture the church, but also to judge the whole world, but this time it won't be by a flood, but by fire. Ps. 98:9; Luke 3; Rev. 8-9, 16

Fourth, God always has His people on earth, what we often call His remnant.

This remnant is comprised of people whom God has chosen to save, to have mercy on, and has chosen to use as His instruments, ones He works through.

The Bible is filled with many examples of people God works with and through for His purposes, for His glory, and for that person's good, that family's good, or for that nation's good, which we will see in the story about Israel, which begins in Gen. 12.

Well, let's look at the primary examples God gives us in these three chapters.

- First, there is Abel. Gen. 4:4 says that God had regard for Abel, which means God was pleased with Abel. God had instructed Abel to sacrifice the first fruits of His flock, and he did. "*Abel, on his part, brought of the firstlings of his flock, and their fat portions.*"

- Heb. 11:4. Abel was a righteous man, and he was righteous because God had mercy on Him, because God made him righteous. And because He was a righteous, then Abel was righteous in his actions, and offered a better sacrifice than Cain.

- Heb. 11:6. Abel was a man of faith - he looked to God and trusted God, and therefore was righteous, and had a relationship with God, and obeyed God, and pleased God.

Second, there is Seth. Gen. 4:26. It doesn't say much about Seth, but it says enough for us to know that he too was a righteous man. Seth, Adam and Eve's son, was taking the place of Abel, who had been murdered. And through Seth the Messiah would come. - Luke 3:36-38. Seth, along with Enosh, Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah, and Shem, are all mentioned in Gen. 4-6, and all these are descendants of Adam and Eve, are the seed of the woman talked about in Gen. 3:15, and are part of the genealogical line of the Messiah, of Jesus Christ.

Now Seth called on the name of the Lord. Now when we say a person's name, we don't think of the letters or the spelling of that name. What comes to mind is who that person is, and what that person is like. I say the name Martin Luther King, and you immediately think of what he was like, the kind of person he was, what he did in life.

- Seth is calling on the name of the Lord, which means he knows the Lord, he knows who the Lord is, and what He is like, His character. And Seth then has a relationship with God. And because he has this relationship with God than we know that Seth is righteous, and it was God who made him righteous, for only God can make a person righteous.

Third, there is Enoch. Gen. 4:21. It says Enoch walked with God, and that's a powerful statement. A person might say, *"I read my Bible in the morning, and say my prayers at night,"* but that's a lot different than a person who walks with God during the day. Let's say you are going on a walk with someone. When you are walking with someone you have this relationship, and you are talking back and forth, and typically you are enjoying the company of the other person. And it's a relational time, a personal time, a private time, a special time. It's just you and the other person.

And we see that Enoch walked with God after Methuselah was born - and maybe God used the birth of his son to wake him up, to see his need for God, and it seems like it was at this time that Enoch became a believer. And Enoch walked with God for 300 years, which is very motivating, and an example to us of how we are to walk with God.

Jude 14-15. Enoch walked with God, he had this close relationship with God, but he was also a preacher - and it's clear that Enoch knows that God is holy, and is righteous, and that God will judge and punish all sin. And Enoch is actually predicting the end-times' return of Christ, when Christ will come back to earth with all these angels and judge the unbelievers in the world. These vs. make it clear that Enoch was a holy man, a godly man, a man who was righteous, and a man who hated sin - and he had to be if he was to walk with God.

Heb. 11:5. And Enoch was the next man listed after Abel, and he was also a man of faith, and that he was a man of faith means he trusted God, he believed God, he called upon God. And vs. 6 says that his life was pleasing to God. In fact, God was so pleased with Enoch that he shortened his life, and took him home to heaven at the early age of 365.

The fourth person God focuses on in is Noah. Now Noah was the great-grandson of Enoch; and I'm sure Noah heard that his great-grandfather Enoch was a righteous man, a godly man. And Noah, like Enoch, was a righteous man too.

- Gen. 6:8. Noah found favor or grace in the eyes of the Lord. This means Noah was saved by the grace of God. It's nothing Noah did, but what God did for him.  
Eph. 2:8-9. Noah believed God, had faith in God, and was saved by God's grace.

Gen. 6:9. Three words are used to describe Noah's character:

- He was righteous, meaning he was holy, forgiven, a believer in God.

And every believer is righteous, is holy in the sight of God. Eph. 1:4-5

- He was blameless, he was complete, without blemish. This means Noah was a mature believer, that he was saying no to sin, that he was living a holy and godly life.

He walked with God, just like Enoch. This phrase walked with God was only used for those who were really mature, really godly, who had a very close relationship with God.

- There's one more thing about this word walk. It's also translated by the word go.

For Enoch and Noah, walking with God meant that they were going with God, that is, God was with them, walking with them, and leading them as to where they were to go and what they were to do. Walking with God then does not just convey the idea that Enoch and Noah had a relationship with God, but that they also had a purpose from God.

A relationship with God and a purpose from God – that's how we should think about our own lives. Paul – Phil. 3:7-14

Heb. 11:7. Noah too was a man of faith, being listed after Abel and Enoch.

And he was reverential towards God, meaning he feared God - and having been warned by God about the judgment to come, he built this ark to save his family, and so mankind then would keep going, and the earth would be repopulated.

- And building the ark wasn't easy - it took Noah about 100 years. Even though jeered, slandered, and persecuted by ungodly people, Noah persevered. And Noah was being obedient, which is what Gen. 6:22 tells us. And then the ark was finished, the flood came, his family and animals were saved, and the world started growing again.

We have then these godly men, good examples to us of how we are to be righteous, blameless, and men and women of faith. We are to call on God, and we are to walk with God, and we are to obey God, and do whatever He wants us to do.

- And we read about sinful man and that God judges sinful man.

- And we also see the beginning of the ancestral line of the Messiah, of Jesus Christ.

- And God always has His remnant of saved people He works with. When you think about the church in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, you need to realize that we are in the minority, and that we are a remnant too, and that's the way it's going to be the rest of our time on this earth.