



# THE STORY OF THE WORLD



## Severity of Sin & Sweetness of Grace

Genesis 4-11

### Main Idea

Man's sin always demands judgment, death; God's grace always offers salvation, life.

### Overview

From the very beginning of the story, God has a plan to redeem his people and restore all of creation through the promised offspring of the woman in Genesis 3:15. So as we read the rest of the Pentateuch (first 5 books of the Bible), we should continually be asking, "Is this the Son of the woman who will bring deliverance and make all things new?"

### **I. The Murder of Able**

- Adam and Eve have two sons, Cain and Abel
- Abel worship God in faith (cf. Hb 11:4), Cain is corrupt in his heart
- Cain kills Abel, and thus experience the judgement of God – the removal from God's presence
- God graciously appoints another son, Seth, for Adam and Eve
- Chapter 5 shows us that death reigns

### **II. The Flood**

- Humanity increases in size, and continues to die and rebel against God
- God sees the human heart is continually and only evil all the time, so he brings judgment
- God graciously saves Noah - it was the grace of God poured out on Noah, not Noah's good choices, but God's gracious choice that made Noah righteous and blameless (cf. Hb 11:7)
- Noah, walks with God doing all that he commanded
- After the flood, Noah offers sacrifices to God showing his submission to and dependence upon God
- God provides Noah a sign of his faithfulness in the rainbow
- Noah has three sons, Hem, Shem, and Japheth

### **III. The Tower of Babel**

- Humanity continues to rebel against God
- Instead of fulfilling God's command to be fruitful and multiple and fill the earth, they settle and strive to make a name for themselves
- God brings judgment and disperse the people all over the earth

## Questions

Discussion Starter: *Do you think most people have a built-in desire for justice? How do they deal with that desire when they have done wrong?*

1. Read Genesis 4:1-8. What do these verses teach us about properly worshipping God?
2. What does the author mean when he says, "sin is crouching at your door"? What does this tell us about the nature of sin? How can we protect ourselves from the danger of sin?
3. Read 4:9-16. What do these verses tell us about the character of God? What do they tell us about the result of sin?
4. Read 6:1-10. How does the author show that the people here are similar to Adam and Eve in the garden? What is the author trying to tell us by revealing these similarities?
5. What does verse 5 tell about the nature of mankind? What do verses 6-7 tell us about the character of God?
6. Why did God save Noah? How does this point us to the gospel?
7. Read 6:13-22 and then read Matthew 24:36-39. How does Jesus interpret the flood and what significance does that have for us?
8. Read 9:1. How are these verses similar to Genesis 1? What the significance of the similarities and the implication for us?
9. How do chapters 6-9 point us to the gospel?
10. Read 11:1-9. Discuss the ways you see these people disobeying God. How is this similar to the ways we disobey God?
11. Contrast the tower of Babel with the gospel of Jesus.
12. After reading these verses/chapters, where do you see God's grace? How does this encourage you with your walk with Christ?
13. Why all the genealogies?

Accountability Question: *Where/how do you minimize the seriousness of your sin?*