

2021: Saturday, 9/11 at 4:00 & Sunday, 9/12 at 9:00



Scripture: Genesis 3:1 – 6:8, NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This sermon is part 1 in a new series I am calling, **Are You Ready to Cross the Finish Line?** Why such a title? As we think about the world in which we live, God **✠**created it, **✠**is continuing it, and **✠**will eventually bring it to an end. When will that happen? No person knows the date, *but many things should be catching our attention:*

- **Jesus basically said:** As people were unprepared when the flood came, *so they will be unprepared when I return* (Mt. 24:37-39). Do most seem unprepared?
- **The Bible says: 2 Timothy 3:1-4** “...in the last days... men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers [*users of abusive language*], disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...” // Years ago, *such people were few*; today, *such people are many!*
- **The Bible says: 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3** “...the day of the Lord will come [*unexpectedly*] just like a thief in the

night. While they are saying, 'Peace and safety!' then destruction will come upon them suddenly..." // Most today are ▶**un**aware, ▶**un**interested, and ▶**un**prepared.

In this first sermon of the series, we are focusing on some **highlights** and **lowlights** from [Genesis 1:1 – 6:8](#).

1. **Creation and Perfection** ([Genesis 1-2](#)): Those two words correspond with [Genesis chapters 1 and 2](#). In six days, God created the heavens, the earth, and all that is in them; **everything was perfect** – ▶vegetation on the dry ground, ▶light sources in the sky, ▶fish in the sea, ▶birds in the air, ▶animals and people on the dry land, and 😊no death, 😊no mourning, 😊no crying, 😊no weeds, 😊no pain!
2. **Fall and Consequences** ([Genesis 3](#)): Very shortly after God created Adam and Eve, *and before they followed God's command to be fruitful and multiply*, **they were tempted by Satan and fell into sin**. Their sin brought ▶immediate spiritual death, ▶much pain and trouble, and ▶eventual physical death. God's perfect world was ruined for 😞all people, 😞all animals, and 😞nature itself.
3. **Promise and Sacrifice** ([Genesis 3](#)): God told Satan, *that great fallen angel and deceiver*: A great future descendant of the woman will come (the Messiah) and you will inflict much pain upon Him, **BUT He will destroy you (15)!** Then, *to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve*, God sacrificed an animal, which pointed ahead to **Jesus offering Himself as the perfect sacrifice, to clothe us with His righteousness!**
4. **Murder and Mercy** ([Genesis 4](#)): God blessed Adam and Eve with a son named Cain; then Eve, *expressing her faith in God's promise*, said, **"I have gotten a man, the Lord with the help of the LORD"** (1). Her faith was right – *looking for*

the Messiah, but Cain was not the Savior. Then Eve had a second son named Abel. In time they both offered a sacrifice to God; “the language implies that the offerings were accompanied by prayer requests, and that Abel received that for which he prayed but Cain did not” (TLSB). **Then Cain murdered his brother.** Even though Cain expressed no sorrow, *the Lord showed mercy to Cain by putting a mark on him so that others would not kill him.*

5. **Descendants of Cain and Seth** (Genesis 4-5):

- a. Cain married one of his sisters, *a practice which was not prohibited by God until the time of Moses – about 2,500 years later.* Then, *through a brief genealogy, we come to Cain’s great great-grandson Lamech; he took two wives; then, later, he bragged to them, “I have killed a man for wounding me; And a boy for striking me” (23).* *Sin was increasing more and more!*
- b. Adam and Eve had another son named Seth, *the line through whom the Messiah would come.* Then Seth had a son named Enosh. At that time, people “**began to call upon the name of the LORD**” (26) – *worshipping, praying, and preaching about the coming of the Savior!*
- c. The descendants of Cain were *generally UNBELIEVERS (4:17-24)*, while those of Seth *generally BELIEVED God’s promise to send the Messiah (5:1-32)*, and included famous people, such as Enoch – *taken to heaven without dying (24)* and Methuselah – *who lived to be 969 years old and was the grandfather of Noah (27-29).*

6. **Thoroughness of Wickedness** (Genesis 6:1-8): Sin began with Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit; then Cain murdering Abel; then Lamech murdering two people. Then, **in Genesis 6, sin had a HUGE GROWTH SPURT!**

- a. Mixed marriages: The sons of God (*believers*) married the daughters of men (*unbelievers*).
- b. Falling away: God created people to be in relationship with Him, *yet by that time in history*, the LORD said that most people had become **mere flesh** – *focusing only on the things of this world* (**much like today**).
- c. The Nephilim: They were mighty men – *in a sense*, yet they were “**tyrants..., sinners ripe for judgment in God’s eyes**” (TLSB) (**like the mighty men in the world today**).
- d. The LORD’s assessment: “...**the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and... every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually**” (5).
- e. The LORD’s decision: “‘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.’ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD” (7-8).

Conclusion: Unbelief and wickedness never turn out well, so the LORD is calling everyone to repent now and be ready to cross the finish line – *before it is too late!*

- **Truth** – God is powerful – *creating*, and merciful – *saving!*
- **Relevance** – Since the end is coming, *stay close to Jesus!*
- **Inspiration** – Since most are focusing on this world, *let us seize our opportunities to point them to Jesus!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, since the world seems ripe for judgment, keep us in Jesus and use us to warn others that the finish line is drawing closer and closer!

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