

CORRUPTED CREATION

from
 **FAITH MAKES SENSE**

The Bible's story of creation is one of a very good creation that experiences corruption as a consequence of human decision. God's description of creation at the end of Genesis chapter 1 is "very good." In order to understand the corrupting effects of sin, we must look at why creation was "very good" and what happened. Here's a brief introduction to creation and corruption.

A VERY GOOD CREATION

The opening chapter of Genesis not only describes the events of creation, but also offers us a glimpse as to the value and/or function of creation. In the first 5 days of creation, God states that creation was "good." However, at the end of the 6th day of creation, after humanity has been made in the image of God, creation is deemed "very good". This illustrates that creation was the best it could be when God's image-bearers (humans) were serving Him as the regent authority, in charge of creation, leading and directing it to glorify God.

VERY GOOD

Creation was "the best it could be" when God created and placed mankind into His creation.

THE IMAGE OF GOD

The image of God in humans describes our ability to reflect God's character and represent Him in His creation.

ADAM'S REGENCY

God's direction to Adam to "rule over" creation was not making Adam king, but God's regent representative.

CORRUPTION ENTERS CREATION

The story of God's "very good" creation only lasts for two chapters. In Genesis 3, temptation enters Eden. Satan assumes the form of a snake and talked to Eve, tempting her to doubt God's word and desire her own self-determination. The same temptation now faces all human descendants.

QUESTIONING GOD

Satan's opening assault on creation and faith in God begins with "Did God really say..." (Genesis 3:1)

OFFERING LIES

Satan added to his temptation by claiming that disobeying God would make humans "like God". (Genesis 3:5)

NEW MORAL CENTER

In the fall, Adam and Eve chose their desire over God's design making themselves their new moral center.

THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF CORRUPTION

After the fall, God comes to humanity to address the situation and describes the consequences. The serpent receives consequences for his actions. All female humans receive consequences for Eve's actions. But, when God gives consequences to Adam, it is not male humans that receive the consequences, but the planet itself. "Cursed is the ground because of you." (Genesis 3:17)

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NOAH IN HIS WORLD

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The story of the Noah's Ark is a fantastic example of God's grace in the midst of judgment. However, to fully appreciate Noah the man of faith, we must see him in the light of the world in which he lived. Here is a brief introduction to Noah in the world in which he lived.

THE WICKEDNESS OF NOAH'S WORLD

The corruption of the world that began in Eden spread throughout the generations as humanity expanded. In the time of Genesis 6, humanity was so wicked and evil the Bible says, "every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time." (Genesis 6:5). The Lord's response to this was sorrow. God experienced grief at the wickedness of humanity. The grief God experiences is the reason He chooses to send the flood. Human sin had become such a problem it required God's divine intervention.

ON THE EARTH

The repetition of the words "the earth" in Genesis 6:5-13 illustrate the global effects of human wickedness.

MATTER OF THE HEART

Genesis 6:5 reminds us it is not only human action that is evil, but the thoughts and inclinations of the heart.

FULL OF VIOLENCE

The term "full of violence" in Genesis 6:11 literally means acts of physical aggression and violence.

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF NOAH

On the background of the wicked world in which he lives, Noah is conversely described as a "righteous" man who was "blameless" and who "walked faithfully with God". Noah is a shining example of how we can still choose to live for and walk faithfully with God despite the wickedness of the world.

RIGHTEOUS

Describing Noah as righteous means he was "in the right" when it came to living the way God had designed him.

BLAMELESS

Blameless in Genesis 6:9 literally means Noah was devout and complete in the wicked world he lived in.

WALKED FAITHFULLY

Noah is described as a man who "walked" or stayed with God as he lived His life. God was his companion.

DID GOD MAKE A MISTAKE

When modern readers read God "regretted" making mankind, they can often misinterpret God's actions at creation as a "mistake" on God's part. This is not what the text says. God is not grieved that He made man. The Creator is grieved at what man has made himself out to be. The flood is a harsh but necessary intervention of God to arrest the worldwide wickedness and offer mankind a second chance to choose to live according to God's design instead of chasing after its own desires.

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