

5. Conflict, Common Grace and the God of history

While waiting to begin: Think about this week's news (or your own week)...

- How have you seen the Devil at work?
- How have you seen the Lord at work?

Recap: the Story of the Old Testament...

1. **All Scripture is God-breathed...** including the Old Testament!
2. **The O.T. is all about:** Jesus... God's Kingdom... and especially God's *covenant*
3. **Creation:** God is King... Adam and Eve in covenant relationship with Him
4. **Fall:** Adam's sin... as our Head... means we inherit guilt and a fallen nature.

1. Ceaseless conflict

Genesis 3:15, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring ["seed"] and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

- **The family of faith (resisting Satan... of which we are a part)**

Adam and Eve (*Genesis 3:20, 4:1, 5:1*)...

Abel (*Genesis 4:4*)... Enoch (*5:24*)... Noah (*6:8*)... Abraham and Sarah (*12:1-3*)

Hebrews 11:13-16, "These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city."

- **The family of Satan (lying... killing)**

John 8:34, 44, "Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin... ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

1 John 3:10-12, "By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. ¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous."

2. Common grace

- “common grace” (e.g. Matthew 5:45)
- **introduced and illustrated by God’s actions following the flood**

Genesis 6:5-13 → de-creation → Genesis 8:20-9:17

- Noah’s worship
- Re-creation and command to be fruitful and rule
- Common grace *despite ongoing sin*:
 - God’s provision and protection
 - A covenant with creation

- → **The rest of the Bible (and our daily lives) displays conflict and common grace**

3. The God of history

- **God determines destinies (Romans 9:21, Acts 17:26)**

9:25, curses Canaan... because of HAM’S sin → the Canaanites

9:26, blesses Shem → Abraham... the Lord Jesus

9:27, promise to Japheth → converted Gentiles

- → **We’re invited to TRUST Him and to WORSHIP Him**