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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Genesis 6.

(2016)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Genesis 6.

Topics.

- The sons of God saw the daughters of man and took them for wives.
- The LORD was grieved, because every thoughts of man's heart was evil.
- Noah a righteous and blameless man walked with God and had three sons.
- Make an ark for I will bring a flood upon the earth and everything will die.
- The LORD will establish His covenant with Noah, he enters the ark.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

The previous chapter: chapter five briefly speaks of God creating man and then focuses upon Adams godly seed line, which preserved true faith and the worship of God from Adam to the flood, and from whose loins Christ came and then the focus shifts to Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth.

The Sons of God saw the Daughters of Man and took them for Wives.

Genesis 6:1-4 ----- ¹When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." ⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

The sons of God and daughters of men: (v2) the following verses show that the expression the "sons of God" refers to human men and women who belong to God's Kingdom: -

Jesus said: -

- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God (Matt. 5:9).

Paul wrote: -

- The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God (Rom. 8:19).
- In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith (Gal. 3:26).

The expression, "The sons of God came in to the daughters of men" means that the men of Seth's line (referred to as the sons of God because Seth's line was the bloodline of the Messiah) lusted for the unbelieving sensual woman of Cain's line and took them for their wives. Ultimately these women caused the men of Seth's line to fall away from God as Cain himself did. This principal continues all the way through the Old Testament with God constantly warning His people (the sons of God) not to mix marriages (especially with woman who had a strong faith in pagan gods). Even today godly men are still lusting upon sensual worldly woman and falling from their ministries.

Genesis chapter five is called, "The book of the generations of Adam" (v1) yet Cain and his entire line are excluded from the genealogy it completely skips Cain and moves straight onto Seth (the third recorded son of Adam and Eve). Since Able was murdered it is understandable that he is excluded since there would be no line to trace, but this is not so with Cain who settled in the land of Nod and built a city.

Since Cain is not included in this genealogy the sons and daughters of God refer to those in the line of Seth while the sons and daughters of men refer to those in the line of Cain. However this does not mean that Seth's line was filled with godly men and women, but that the Redeemer; the Son of God, born of Mary came from his line. By the time of the flood the only people found faithful to enter the ark from the line of Seth were Noah and his three sons Shem and Ham and Japheth (Gen. 7:13) which means that all of Cain's line and almost all of Seth's line were not counted worthy.

My Spirit shall not abide in man forever: (v3) further on in this chapter we are told that the wickedness and violence of the population at this time was so enormously great in the earth and that every thought of the mind and intention the heart of the people was continually set upon evil. At this time the entire known world (except for Noah) (v8) was utterly corrupt and filled with violence that God in His wisdom determined that mankind would no longer live such long lifespans (up to 500-900 years was common) and shortened the life of mankind to 120 years.

Nephilim: (v4) the word Nephilim comes from the Hebrew word (*n^ephiyl*) it literally means a feller (i.e., a bully, tyrant or a giant. It refers to human men who happen to be of larger in stature than what is considered normal. The word, mighty comes from the Hebrew word (*gibbowr*) it literally means powerful, warrior, tyrant, giant, champion, chief, strong or valiant and can refer to a man who acts as a fierce tyrant or a man who is a valiant champion of the people. Notice there were giants (Nephilim) in the land before the sons of God came into the daughters of men and afterwards.

The following verses show that the giants (Nephilim) are human men and not supernatural creatures or angels as some believe: -

- They were also accounted giants (*rapha'*), as the Anakims; but the Moabites call them Emims (Deut. 2:11).

The word giants comes from the Hebrew word (*rapha'*), it literally means a giant and carries the idea of energizing or stirring up a giant. Anakims: comes from the Hebrew word (*Anaqiy*) and means long-necked, they were a race of giants, meaning they were very large in stature and descendants of Anak which dwelled in southern Canaan.

- The land of Ammon was also was accounted a land of giants: giants (*rapha'*) dwelt therein in old time; and the Ammonites call them Zamzummims (Deut. 2:20).
- Only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants (*rapha'*); behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man (Deut. 3:11) (Deut. 3:13) (Josh. 12:4) (Josh. 13:12).
- The border went up by the valley of the son of Hinnom unto the south side of the Jebusite; the same is Jerusalem: and the border went up to the top of the mountain that lieth before the valley of Hinnom westward, which is at the end of the valley of the giants (*rapha'*) northward (Joshua 15:8).
- Joshua answered them, If thou be a great people, then get thee up to the wood country, and cut down for thyself in the land of the Perizzites and of the giants (*rapha'*) (Joshua 17:15) (Joshua 18:16).

In Deuteronomy the people of Israel say that their brothers have made their hearts melt, saying, "The people are greater and taller than we and the cities are great and fortified up to heaven and we have seen the sons of the Anakim there." (Deut. 1:28). The people of Israel are frightened because the sons of Anakim dwelling in the land of Canaan are taller than them (meaning they appear as giants in their eyes).

NOTICE: the lofty language the writer uses, "cities built up to heaven," cities do not reach to the heavens it is lofty language to highlight how big and fortified these cities are, likewise when the writers use the word giants they are using the same lofty language to highlight how big in stature these men are.

Summary: from the above verses (there are many more) it is very clear that the term giants (Nephilim) are not supernatural creatures angels, aliens or demons (as some believe), but are always human men who happen to be of a larger stature than what is considered normal, much like many of the American basket-ball players are today. For further information see the title: -

- Giants and the Sons of God came into the Daughters of Man.

In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The LORD was Grieved, Because Every Thoughts of Man's Heart was Evil.

Genesis 6:5-7 ----- ⁵The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

Not only is the behaviour and actions of the inhabitants of this corrupt generation continually evil, but so too is every thought of their mind and intention of their heart. It is interesting to notice that the expression, "the earth is filled with violence" is mentioned twice (v11, 13) this perhaps is because violence is totally contrary to the command of Jesus, "love your neighbour as yourself," meaning do not deliberately do harm to other humans.

No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote: -

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

Paul shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the spirit underpinning the law is love, because the spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from all types of harm and hurt, whoever keeps the law will do no wrong to a neighbour (neighbour embraces all mankind not just those in God's Kingdom).

The LORD was sorry He had made man and it grieved His heart: (v6) this ancient generation had become so far removed from God's original creation and His intention for the descendants of Adam that His heart is stricken with grief. Some may think it was cruel of God to annihilate an entire race, but imagine living in a world where God is absolutely void in it except for Noah and no one is safe from crime, criminals, violence and all sorts of abuse (physical and sexual).

Even more than this is the truth that such a world of darkness is not God's plan for this earth. The mind, thoughts and heart of the people was so grossly corrupted that their world could not be healed. The only solution was to blot the entire nation out and begin again with Noah the only righteous man in it.

Noah a Righteous and Blameless Man walked with God and had Three Sons.

Genesis 6:8-13 ----- ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. ⁹These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah had three sons, ¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth."

Shem: comes from the Hebrew word (*shem*) it carries the idea of a definite visible and noticeable position, name or title as a mark or memorial of individuality and by implication it carries the idea of honour, authority, character, fame and renown.

He was the eldest son of Noah (Gen. 5:32). He was 98 years old, married, and childless at the time of the flood. After it, he, with his father, brothers, sisters-in-law and wife, received the blessing of God (Gen. 9:1), and entered into the covenant. Shem is always named before Ham and Japheth, either because he is the eldest son or because he was the forefather of the Hebrews and from his line the Messiah was born. With the help of his brother Japheth, he covered the nakedness of their father and received the first blessing. (Gen. 9:25-27).

He died at the age of 630 years. He had five sons, their future generations occupied the central regions between Ham and Japheth, and peopled the finest provinces of the East. The languages of some of these nations are still called the Shemitic languages, including the Hebrew, Chalee, Syriac, Arabic, Ethiopic, etc., but amongst these are found several languages spoken by nations descended from Ham. See also Japheth and Ham in, Map Locations and People of the Bible (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Ham: comes from the Hebrew word (*Cham*) it literally means hot or warm. Sometime after Noah was 500 years old he fathered Shem, Ham and Japheth (Gen. 5:32) and Ham fathered Cush, Mizraim, Phut and Canaan who populated Africa and adjoining parts of Asia. Noah planted a vineyard and drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent (perhaps he passed out while getting ready for bed, whatever the reason Ham saw the nakedness of his father and went out to get his two brothers to come and look. Rather than look Shem and Japheth showed their father respect and took a garment and walked in backwards so they would not see their father's nakedness.

When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what Ham had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan he shall be a servant to his brothers." (Gen. 9:20-25). Noah drinking an excess of wine was wrong and Ham's sin was not that he saw his father naked, but that he failed to show respect to his father and deliberately went to get his brothers so they could also mock and stare at their naked father.

Japheth: comes from the Hebrew word (*Yepheth*) it literally means expansion and carries the idea to open, make roomy, and in a figurative mental and moral sense to be or make simple in a sinister way (i.e., delude allure, deceive, entice and flatter to persuade. He was one of the three sons of Noah and the father of the Japhetic race.

The following words: "by these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands (Gen. 10:5)," is commonly interpreted to mean that the peoples of Europe were descended from Japheth and originator of some of the Asian, people. The Bible makes mention of all three sons being grown and married before Noah's 600th birthday.

Ham was the father of the Hamitic race while Shem was the father of the Semitic line of descent, which included the Jews as well as Syrians and Arameans, among others. It was through his descendants that the "promised seed of the woman" (Gen. 3:14-15) would come. These three sons of Noah were to be responsible for the repopulating of the world after the flood. The Adamic nature of longevity still remained with Noah, and, to a lesser degree, the sons of Noah, however as time passed after the flood lifespans were reduced to 120 years.

Noah was a righteous man: (v8) righteous and blameless in this context does not mean that he was without sin before God it simply means that Noah was a decent man, who obeyed God and only did good. Today we don't use the word righteous in this context, we would simply say, he was a very decent and good man, meaning he was kind, decent and treated others with fairness, kindness and justice. It says he was blameless in his generation, meaning no human could accuse him of any wrongdoing.

Righteousness as used in this context is about being blameless before mankind, and not about being without sin before God. There has only ever been one man that has stood before God without sin, and he is the Son of God the Lord Jesus Christ the sacrificial Lamb without Blemish. If any of us could attain to the glorious state of being sin free Christ died for no reason. Jesus didn't give himself to the bloodstained cross of Calvary so we could attain to the perfect standard the law demands and to the Holiness of God, but because we can't if we could there would be no need for him to have died.

Ponder for a moment: consider the violence, wars, murders, rapes and the domestic abuse and violence in our earth today and yet God has not brought His judgment upon us, now imagine how evil, corrupt and violent Noah's generation must have been for God to bring such widespread destruction to the known world of that ancient era.

Make an Ark for I will bring a Flood upon the Earth and Everything will Die.

Genesis 6:14-17 -- ¹⁴Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. ¹⁶Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.

Considering Noah had no power tools and no machinery as we have today the building of the ark was truly a great wonder and feat. However rather than focus on the construction of the ark this study will look at the spiritual message contained within the story of Noah and the ark. The known world of Noah's generation had become so corrupt that the cup of iniquity was overflowing with wickedness forcing God to bring His judgment upon the earth and utterly destroy all flesh.

The only way the people could save themselves from the impending doom of the raging waters destroying the known world of that era was to enter the door of the ark and be safely carried by it over the waters of the flood until they receded and they could leave the ark and walk on dry land to start a New World. Now jumping thousands of years ahead in time to the New Testament age we hear Jesus saying to the Pharisees and Jews: -

- Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. (John 10:7-9).

And in the book of Revelation the final book of the Bible we read of another day when God's judgment will be poured out upon the earth: -

- The angel called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast." (Rev. 18:2).
- A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more." (Rev. 18:21) see also (Rev. 14:8) (Rev. 16:19) (Rev. 17:5).

The great city of Babylon symbolises the global world's system of finance, its governments and its global trade and commerce. Then in the book of Matthew and Luke we see Jesus telling his disciples: -

- As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (Matt. 24:37) (Luke 17:26).

Just as it was in the days of Noah another day of God's great judgment will come and sweep across the face of the earth bringing enormous destruction on a global scale. This judgment will come not by a flood of water, but by the collapse of the world's financial system and its governments and trade. When this great Day of Judgment will come no one knows, however Jesus did give us some signs to watch out for, for those interested in these signs, see Matthew 24 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Now concerning Noah's generation the apostle Peter wrote: -

- Because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. (1 Peter 3:20).

Just as Noah preached God's message of salvation and called the people to enter the door of the ark so they would be saved from the destruction of the flood and carried and protected by the ark until the waters of the flood ended. After which they would be delivered onto dry land to build up a New World

Preaches and ministers of the Gospel have been calling those of this world to enter another door (John 10:7) and be saved (John 10:9). This door of course is the Lord Jesus Christ he like the door of the ark is the spiritual door who all must enter to be saved from the coming judgment of God's wrath upon this earth.

A little while after Jesus said, "As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man," (Matt. 24:37) (Luke 17:26) he gives the following warning: -

- Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, "Lord, open to us," then he will answer you, "I do not know where you come from." (Luke 13:24-25)

A day will come in the same way that it came to the people of Noah's generation when the door shut and it mattered not how desperately people shouted, scratched and clawed at the door it could not be opened. Likewise a similar day of God's judgment is coming again, when the door to God's Kingdom will be shut.

Jesus in the final book of the Bible said: -

- Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. (Rev. 3:20).

To enter this door all must believe the message of the bloodstained cross of Calvary and the Good News of the Gospel and by faith believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and trust in God's grace for their salvation.

The LORD will establish His Covenant with Noah, He Enters the Ark.

Genesis 6:18-21 ---- ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. ²¹Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them." ²²Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

I will establish my covenant with you: (v18) God's covenant was not just for Noah, but also for his sons Shem, Ham and Japheth and every living bird and animal that came off the Ark (Gen. 9:8-11) this covenant God establish was: -

- That He would never again destroy all living creatures or cover the earth by a flood. (Gen. 9:11).

The rainbow is set in the sky to be an everlasting sign of God's covenant between Him and Noah, his sons and all living creatures on the earth and for all future generations (Gen. 9:12-17). The entire earth was populated by the three sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth who walked off the ark. (Ham was the father of Canaan) (Gen. 9:18-19).

God's command to Noah and his sons was: -

- To be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth (Gen. 9:1, 7)
- Not to eat any creature while it was still living (Gen. 9:4-3)
- To put to death anyone who murders another human because God made man in his own image. (Gen. 9:6).

The LORD told Noah and his sons that every animal on the earth, everything that creeps on the ground, every bird of the air and every fish of the rivers and seas will fear them and that they will be food for them as the green plants were. (Gen. 9:2-3)

Covenant: comes from the Hebrew word (*b^eriyth*) it literally means a compact (because it is made by passing between pieces of flesh) and refers to a covenant (i.e., an agreement, contract, promise and pledge). From the Greek it comes from (*diatheke*) and refers to a special contract, especially a will covenant and testament.

A covenant not only provides clear rules and laws, but also guides a relationship between two contracting parties in a way that nothing else could this is why the Bible is called The Old and New Covenant, or The Old and New Testament,” signifying an agreement between two parties.

The Old Testament covenant of law is confirmed by the blood of animals while the New Testament covenant of grace which is the best and most perfect covenant is confirmed by the blood of Christ.

God's statement, “I will establish my covenant with Noah, and he will enter the Ark with his wife and their three sons and their wives (Gen. 6:18) is the first mention of the word covenant as used in this chapter embraces all of the following promises: -

- God's promise that Noah and his family would be kept alive during all the scoffs and threats of the wicked world against him during his time of preaching and building of the ark and that he and his family would be kept alive in the Ark until the flood had passed.
- God's promise that the course of nature will continue to the end of time.
- God's promise of grace that He would be a God to Noah and that out of his seed He would take to himself a people.
- God's promise that even though Adam failed and all flesh is to be destroyed He will not abandon His covenant of life with the seed of the woman (Gen.3:14-15) but will maintain and establish it with Noah by keeping him safe in the Ark to begin a New World. (It was through the seed line of Noah's son Shem that the promised seed of the woman the Messiah the Christ came).
- God's promise that Noah and his family would come safely out of the flood and repopulate the earth.
- God's promise to Noah that never again will all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth. (Gen. 9:11).
- God's promise that He would save Noah, his wife and their three sons and their wives, (eight people in all) (1 Peter 3:20) and preserving them to begin a New World.

The wonder of the ark: some may wonder how could two of all animals be put on the ark, but this ship was very large about half the size of St. Paul's cathedral and it is certain God by His Spirit drew them onto the ark. Added to this there is no reason to think that they had to be fully grown animals and it is very likely God kept them sleeping during much of their time on the ark.

My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years: (v3) from this verse many believe that Noah spent 120 years building the ark, however this is not an actual command to build the ark, but a warning that God is going to bring judgment upon Noah's generation in 120 years' time.

The Bible does not give us the exact age Noah was when he began to build the ark, but it does tell us he was 500 years' old (Gen. 5:32) when he gave birth to his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth and that he was 600 years old when he entered the ark and the waters of the flood came upon the earth (Gen. 7:6-7). Taking into account the birth of Noah's three sons and their ages commentators have estimated that Noah spent anywhere from 100-75 years building the ark.

Following is the chronological order: -

- The LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years. (Gen. 6:3).
- These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Gen. 6:9).

After having these three sons God said to Noah: -

- I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. (Gen. 6:13).

In (Gen. 5:32) we are told that Noah was 500 years' old when he gave birth to Shem, Ham and Japheth and in (Gen. 7:6-7) we are told he was 600 years old when he entered the ark and the waters of the flood came upon the earth which means that God's command to build the ark must have been sometime after Noah was 500 years old, which also means that the maximum time spent building the ark would be 100 years or less.

NOTE.

- Some have applied God's statement, "mans days shall be 120 years," to the longevity of human life, but for a number of generations after the flood, people lived to be much older than this (e.g., Noah lived to 950, Isaac lived to 180 years) so it is not referring to longevity.
- Even though Shem was not the oldest he is often listed first (i.e., Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth). (Gen. 6:10) (Gen. 7:13) this is because of importance since it was from his line that Christ came.

The building of the ark over such a long period of time was not only a daily warning to a wicked race, but also a deepening of Noah and his household's faith and their reliance on God. God could have saved Noah without putting him to so many years of labour and trouble, but rather chose to employ him in building the ark to preserve him and his family, for a testimony to the wicked generation he lived amongst and perhaps for the trial of his and his families' faith and obedience.

God gave Noah very specific instructions on how to build the ark which Noah did over an enormously long period of time. There is no doubt that there would have been times when Noah's faith was greatly tested, but he did not waver in his obedience and God not only saved him and his family to begin a New World, but also crowned him with the promise that from his seed would come the promised seed of the woman (Gen. 3:14-15) the Messiah the Christ and Saviour of the world and by him the world will be saved.

For your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast: (v5) this means that should an animal shed the blood of man or woman so that they die the life of that animal must be taken not for the punishment of the animal which is under no law and therefore unable to sin, but to protect human life from further harm. This law was later confirmed by the Law of Moses: -

- When an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten, but the owner of the ox shall not be liable. (Exod. 21:28)

This shows how tender God was concerning human life He will have the beast that kill human life put to death to protect human life.

The following words of the LORD to Noah, "every moving thing that lives shall be food for you" (Gen. 9:3) show that is not a sin to take the life of an animal if it is to be used for man's benefit (i.e., food and clothing). Necessity arose to use animals for food, which required a law to be given that guards animals against cruelty. Animals are not moral creatures and therefore have no proper rights in contrast to this man is a moral being and therefore should show animals a certain level of compassion

because they do feel pain. Forbidding eating blood (meaning eating an animal while it is still alive), protected the animal from extreme cruelty and extreme pain. This law highlights the truth that man being a moral being is not to inflict unnecessary suffering on a lesser creature susceptible to pain. This is the reason the blood of the animal is to be shed (i.e., its life taken) before the animal is used for food so that its sense of pain is speedily ended as the blood leaves the veins.

NOTE: it is interesting to notice that there is a command given to put to death animals that preyed on man for their food at the time when the animals had just been saved.

At the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man: (v5) the following verse shows that all mankind has one heavenly Father the LORD God Almighty and one earthly father Adam and all are made of one blood.

- Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? (Mal. 2:10)
- God made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth. (Acts 17:26).

Wilful murder should always be punished with death either in this world or the next. God will punish murders that are beyond man's power to find out and punish. When a man is murdered he is unable to seek justice for his life that had been unjustly taken, therefore God and justice requires that the murderers' life be taken by the living and if they are unable to avenge the blood of the murdered upon the murderer God will.

The underlying theme contained in this verse is that if God cares about the blood of animals be assured He is much more caring for the blood of human life especially when their life is taken by unjust and violent hands.

The statement, "at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man," (v5) has nothing to do with the law concerning the avenger of blood. The focus is upon a near kinsman being the murderer. The commandment requires that should this be the case even he should be put to death.

It should also be noted that man is made in the image of God (Gen. 9:6) which means that those who unjustly kill a man deface the image of God and dishonours Him. Another reason a murderer was to be put to death was to instil fear in society and thereby curb man's anger and lust for revenge and to teach society not to shed human blood.

NOTE: some feel the putting the murder to death places no value upon life, but it is actually quite the contrary, it places the highest value on human life, since there is no higher price anyone can pay for a life. This is why God gave His most beloved Son over to the bloodstained cross of Calvary, it is the highest price God and His Son could pay to redeem mankind from death to eternal life. All the gold and treasured of this world cannot repay such an enormous debt.

Civil government: no civil law is recorded in Scripture concerning crime prior to the flood. Cain feared the natural vengeance which his conscience told him his sin deserved, but it was not appointed for any individual to enforce any penalties upon him. At this time God himself was not only the sole legislator, but also the sole administrator of the law. In the New World Noah is to establish God gives mankind the authority to establish civil governments and magistrates judge wrongdoing and to appoint and executioner of the crime of murder.

This work in carrying out such executions is given in very general terms. We are not given any laws or guidelines concerning who such a man should be, but only told that it is to be done by man. The practical application of appointing an executioner is left open to the government or legislator of each community. The obligation and responsibility is laid solely on man to institute a civil constitution suited to our present fallen condition and set up a system of human government given public and official authority to curb, contain and suppress acts of violence and crime and appoint the required punishment to be inflicted on the transgressor in proportion to their crime.

Concerning such civil institution and magistrates the apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote: -

- Rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. (Rom. 13:3-4).

These verses teach us that man is made in the image of God in that he is able: -

- To govern himself in civil matters and judge between right and wrong
- To reason and exercise his rights especially over inferior creatures.
- To govern and judge even among his fellow-men
- To have the rights over his children and all that belongs to him.
- To feel wronged when that which is rightfully his has been taken and have a sense of justice in requiring the wrongdoer to make compensation by giving back what he has taken or an equivalent in its place.

This is God's universal law and principle of justice between the wrongdoer and the one suffering the wrong. Man is called to rule according to the laws of God and they must live in the laws of God.

Finally: murder is the most heinous crime which man can commit against his fellow-man and before God.

End.