

4/3/22

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**Sermon – Conundrum of Evil**

**Scripture – Genesis 6, 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 15:1-9, 1 John 4:7-21**

**Main Message – God has reasons framed in love even though it doesn't appear to be so in every circumstance.**

Some people do not believe in God. Quite frankly, some of the reasons given are non-sensical to a logical mind. It has become a convenience to deny God in any shape or form. However, for others, I do understand the "moral" individual who considers the nature of evil and why it is allowed to endure. Those people are interesting to talk to because they open up not only a moral dilemma but also the Conundrum of Evil. A strong and savvy Christian should be able to feel comfortable discussing, debating, and teaching with great patience and wisdom. So, you say you're not any of those things? Well, here you go, you may no longer hide behind an excuse.

Consider the early days prior to the flood. God gives man free will. Man chooses the path of evil continually. God destroys most of man with a flood. Even the uneducated in the Bible know of this story, though perhaps not all the details. Even so, free will is nice and all, but God did only what God can do; do a hard reset on what happened. So the details matter and the clues given are invaluable to explain the complexity of God's plan and wisdom. **Read Genesis 6**

Consider Saul, the first anointed king of Israel by God and Samuel who was the prophet of God. Let me read to you a part of this account. **Read Samuel 15**. This command is rather abrupt and, in your face, and only the most callous individual would kill all, man, woman, and child. Yet that was God's command. ~~Samuel~~ failed. Yet we read and promote to others "God is Love" just as it says. Those individuals you would speak to about the love of God, may counter with those things even in the Bible that set up this conundrum which is associated with evil.

The details matter and God is a complex leader of His Mighty plan. It indeed is about love, but evil endures and seems stronger sometimes. It is stronger because mankind did not and to this day does not execute His commandments. Evil perpetuates because we are all like Saul. We see at best only the now, but we fail to understand the longer term implications of our decisions where God does.

God had to wipe out most of humanity in Genesis because of the corruption of the blood lines by which Christ would come. Only Noah was untarnished and would be part of the reset to get things back on track. God's love was to protect the blood line of Jesus Christ who was foretold to come and save the world through a tremendous act of love.

Those Amalekites were nomadic raiders that harassed the Hebrews as they left Egypt and wandered through the wilderness. They were a thorn in the side of Israel for quite some time. Gideon and his 300 chosen by God won a great battle, but they continued to be an issue and Saul had one thing to do, protect the future of God's chosen people by eliminating their evil presence. They simply never learned to leave Israel alone. Samuel took a sword and slew the Amalekite King Agag into tiny little pieces lest anyone forget.

Evil, left to perpetuate is a problem for everyone. But what about Jesus who said, "Love your enemies?" Well, come back next week for a further examination of this very important concept. God is indeed love, but is more complex than our simple view on the matter.

