

**Genesis 6**

**Wickedness in the World**

**Deliver Us From Evil**

# Genesis 6:5-6 (NRSV)

<sup>5</sup> The LORD saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

# Two Types of Evil

1. **Moral Evil**, e.g., Murder, Rape, Theft, etc.
2. **Natural Evil**, e.g., Tornado, Flood, Hurricane, Disease, etc.

# Problem With Evil

- If God is all good, he wants to prevent evil.
- If God is all powerful, he is able to prevent all evil.
- Evil Exist

# Logical Conclusions

- Either an all good and all powerful God doesn't exist, or
- Evil does not exist

# Three Structures of Evil

1. Satan/The Devil/Darkside/The Enemy
2. The World System
3. The Flesh/Humankind

# OT vs. NT

1. Old Testament refers to the evil one as the HaSatan. (symbolic)
2. New Testament refers to the evil one as Satan. (fallen angel)

# Greatest Act of Deceit

“Most people don’t think Satan is even real; it’s by the far the greatest continuous act of deceit ever pulled off in human history.”

~ H.E. Long

“There is no neutral ground in the universe. Every square inch, every split second is claimed by God, and counterclaimed by Satan.” ~ C.S. Lewis

# What Do You Believe?

- Do you believe in Evil?
- Do you believe in Satan?
- Do you believe in Spiritual Warfare?
- Do you believe there is a spiritual battle going on in the world?
- Do you believe that God is ultimately responsible for all the evil in world?
- Do you wonder why God allows humankind to be impacted by evil?

# Satan/Devil Real?

YouGov.com - 09/2013

- 57% believe in the Devil
- 72% for Blacks
- 61% for Women
- Republicans 65% vs. Democrats 55%
- 8 in 10 Christians believe in the devil
- 25% of Muslims believe & and only 17% of Jews
- 83% of Catholics believe Satan is only a symbol

# Father of Lies

<sup>44</sup> You are from your father the devil, and you choose 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 according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

John 8:44

# Spiritual Warfare

Two primary errors when it comes to spiritual warfare:

1. Over emphasis: (some blame everything on sin, conflict, demons, the devil himself.)  
**Romans 6 (wage war against sin)**
2. Under emphasis: (Others completely ignore the spiritual realm and the fact that the Bible tells us our battle is against spiritual powers.) **Ephesians 6:10-18 (warning to oppose schemes of the devil.)**

# Two Voices

Three Ways to Distinguish who is who.

1. It contradicts God's commandments.

2. It creates anxiety rather than peace.

3. It accuses us and brings us down.



# Outside Evil?

If God is **outside** of evil, and God is a moral and all powerful God, but willingly allows evil to exist, then why would any of us want anything to do with a God like that?

# Inside Evil?

But, if God is on the **inside** of evil, which I believe he is, then **we don't have to look any further than the Cross for the evidence of where God stands in the face of evil.**

# Why Does Evil Still Exist?

**Q:** If Jesus had victory over death and evil on the Cross, then why does death and evil still exist in the world?

**A:** When Jesus returns (nobody knows when) then heaven will be restored on earth. Until then, as Kingdom people, our job is continue the process until Jesus returns to finish it.

# Deliver Us From Evil

"But deliver us from evil"

- Is the last of the seven petitions in the Lord's Prayer
- The first three address God; the second four are prayers related to our needs and concerns.
- The final request is for protection by our Father in heaven.
- When Jesus was tempted by Satan, he declared:- *'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

(Matthew 4:4) NIV

# Ephesians 6:10-12

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

# Ephesians 6:13-15

<sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, **so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day,** and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup> As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

# Ephesians 6:16-18

<sup>16</sup> With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> **Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.** To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. **(Pray in the power and name of the Holy Spirit).**

# 1 Peter 5:8

<sup>8</sup> Discipline yourselves, **keep alert**. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.

**How do we keep alert?** Read and Study God's Word, Mentorship, Accountability Groups, Nightly Reviews, and total transparency of our life with God and another human being.

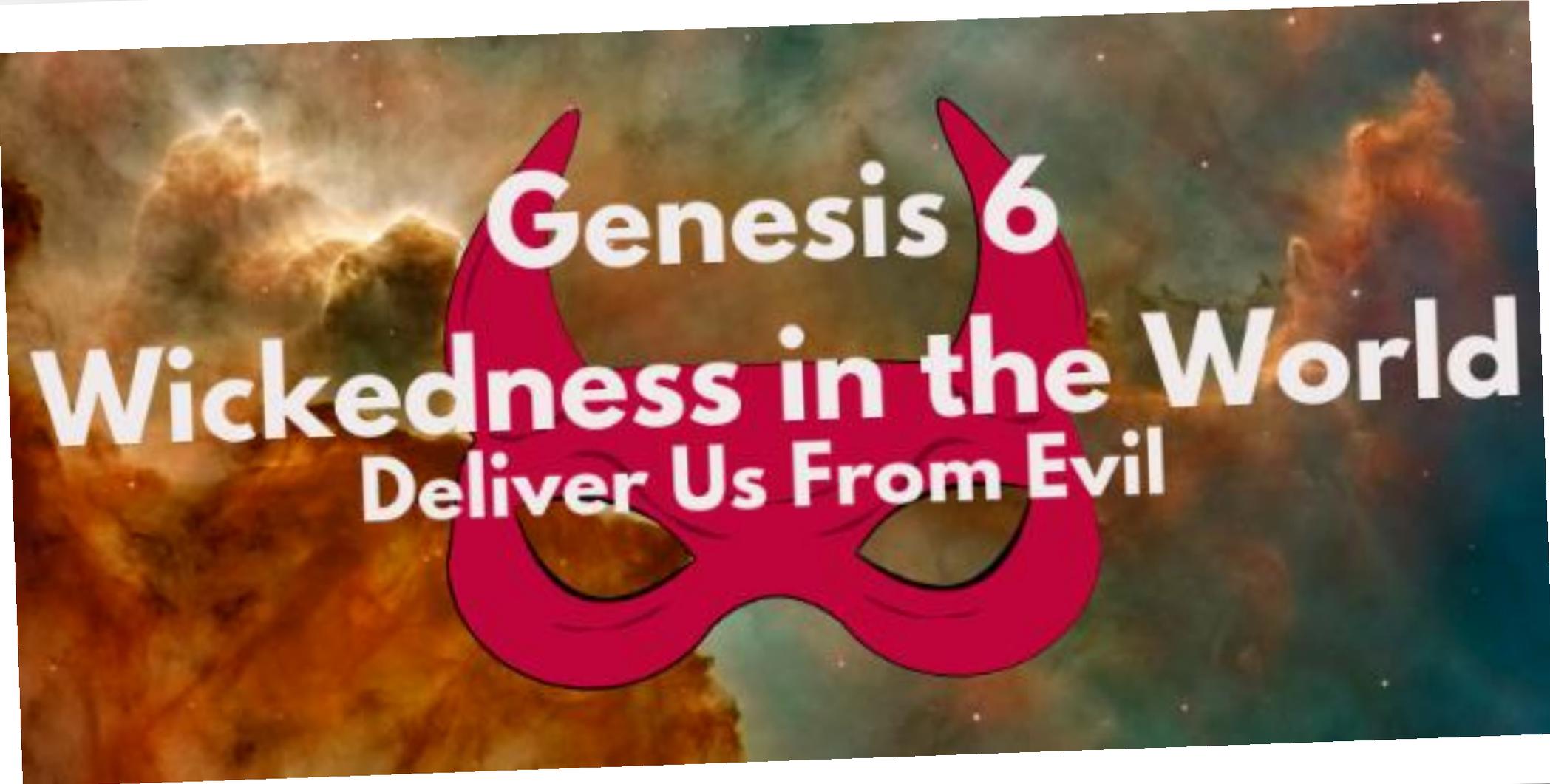
# Ultimate Example

- Observe how Jesus handled direct attacks from Satan when He was tempted in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1–11).
- Each temptation was combatted with the words “it is written.” **The Word of the living God is the most powerful weapon against the temptations of the devil.** “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11).

# Word of Caution

The name of Jesus is not a magic incantation that causes demons to flee from before us.

- The seven sons of Sceva (Acts 19:13–16).
- Michael the archangel “The Lord Rebuke You” (Jude 1:9).
- **When we start talking to the devil, we run the risk of being led astray as Eve was (Genesis 3:1–7). Our focus should be on God, not demons; we speak to Him, not them.**



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# Kingdom Carryout #1

- Evil is real.
- Satan/Devil is real.
- Spiritual warfare is real.
- Satan is the ruler of this planet, e.g., world system including the Church.
- We are in a cosmic battle. (Are you ready)?

# Kingdom Carryout #2

- We rely on God's power, not our own.
- We put on the whole armor of God.
- We draw on the power of Scripture—the Word of God is the Spirit's sword.
- We pray in perseverance and holiness, making our appeal to God.

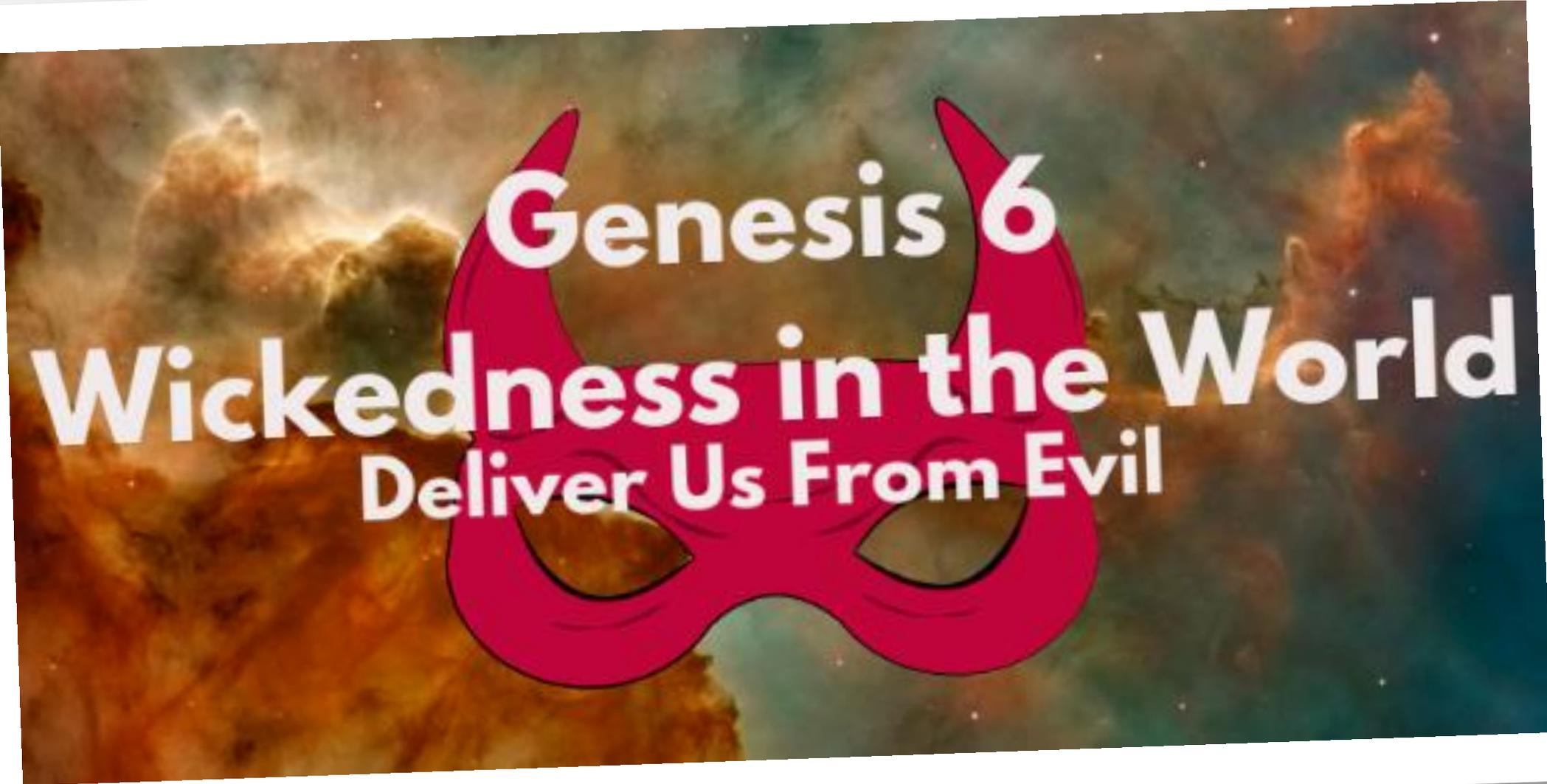
# Kingdom Carryout #3

We stand firm (Ephesians 6:13–14); we submit to God; we resist the devil's work (James 4:7), knowing that the Lord of hosts is our protector.

# Kingdom Carryout #4

“Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken” (Psalm 62:2).

- We have victory in Jesus. (AMEN)
- Jesus will come again to restore heaven on earth. (AMEN)
- In the meantime, as Kingdom people, we are to bring about the Kingdom of God. (AMEN)



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