

Not the Way It’s Supposed to Be<sup>1</sup>

*What is Shalom?*

*The Hebrew prophetic vision of Shalom covering the world*

Isaiah 2:4 → Weapons turned into farming equipment, no more war

Isaiah 11:6-9 → The lion lies down with the lamb

Isaiah 25:8 → No longer will there be weeping

Isaiah 32:1-5 → There will be streams in dry places. No longer will there be fools. People will be careful and seek understanding.

Isaiah 35:1 → The desert will bloom with flowers

Psalms 96:11-12 → Nature filled with wonder, trees singing for joy

Revelation 7:9 → All humanity knitted together in brotherhood and sisterhood

Revelation 21-22 → The people delight in and worship God. God is the center of this beautiful *Shalom*.

**Shalom**

Created – Genesis 1,2

*The refrain, “It is good, it is good... it is VERY good.”*

*Physical needs met – A mist from the ground to water crops. Abundant food. Rare metals. Four rivers.*

*Emotional needs met – “It is not good that the man should be alone, so I will create a helper fit for him.”*

*Spiritual needs met – God walked among them, and was a present reality in their lives.*

Violated – Genesis 3-11

Genesis 3:16-24 → Breakdown of core relationships. Man and woman’s work, their relationships with each other, with God, are broken.

Genesis 4:23-24 → The spread of human violence. Lamech boasts of vindictive murder.

Genesis 6 → The flood. Every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Genesis 9 → Noah gets drunk. The curse spreads to Ham.

Genesis 11 → Babel. The entire earth gathers, again, in rebellion against God.

Of all things, we should fight against sin!

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<sup>1</sup> Series influenced by “NOT the Way It’s Supposed to Be,” written by Cornelius Plantinga, 1996

## How to Battle for Shalom

### Sin is a predator

*That wants to consume you*

*That wants to master you*

C.S. Lewis – “At first, the Nazis killed the Jews because they hated them. Then, they hated them because they killed them.”

**Sin leads to sin.** James 1:14 “...but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

*That you can defeat*

*God has clarified the problem for us*

*God has warned us for the battle*

*God is committed to inhibiting the spread of sin*

*God has disarmed the power of sin over the believer*

- Cain’s sin resulted in death for Abel.
- The “blood is crying out to” God. For justice against Cain.

*The word ‘cry’ is the desperate cry of men without food expecting to die, or of people oppressed by their enemies, it is the scream of a woman being raped. It is the plea to God of the victims of injustice. The law, the prophets, and the psalms unite with narratives like this to assert that God does hear his people’s desperate cries for help.... it is a cry to God for vengeance. – Gordon Wenham*

- Punishment comes upon Cain... but not ultimate justice.

So... build your house on the solid rock – Matthew 7:24-27

## Questions for Personal Study

1. As you envision living in God’s “shalom,” what would be the best part for you?
2. How does sin violate *shalom* in the world? In your life?
3. What do we learn from how sin trapped and ensnared Cain?
4. What do you need to do to battle sin in your life? How does Jesus offer us hope?