

Wash your hands  
regularly



Keep your distance



Stay home if you  
have symptoms



Follow Government  
guidance



**welcome**

**it is good to be together**

**let's keep each other safe**

**we will start at 6pm**

# We will glorify

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1. We will glorify the King of kings,  
we will glorify the Lamb.

We will glorify the Lord of lords,  
who is the Great I AM

2. Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty.


We will bow before His throne.

We will worship Him in righteousness.

We will worship Him alone.

3. He is Lord of heaven, Lord of Earth  
He is Lord of all who live.  
He is Lord above the universe,  
all praise to Him we give.

4. O hallelujah to the King of kings,  
hallelujah to the Lamb.  
Hallelujah to the Lord of Lords,  
who is the Great I AM.



# THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

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EPHESUS AND US



**ANY QUESTIONS – 07956 895818**



# ACTS 19



# HOW GOD WAGES WAR

- 1: Through his Son
- 2: Through his Spirit
- 3: Through his Word
- 4: Through his People

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**5. THROUGH ALL PEOPLE**

# THERE IS A DANGEROUS SITUATION DEVELOPING

*A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in no little business for the craftsmen. He called them together, along with the workmen in related trades, and said: "Men, you know we receive a good income from this business. And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that man-made gods are no gods at all.*

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# THERE IS A DANGEROUS SITUATION DEVELOPING

*There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited, and the goddess herself, who is worshipped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty." When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's travelling companions from Macedonia, and rushed as one man into the theatre.*

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# THERE IS A DANGEROUS SITUATION DEVELOPING

*Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theatre. The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there. The Jews pushed Alexander to the front, and some of the crowd shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defence before the people. But when they realised he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" (Act 19:30-34)*

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SATAN  
IS ON THE  
BRINK OF A  
**SUCCESSFUL  
FIGHTBACK**

Paul can't stop it . . .

*Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theatre. v30-31*

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SATAN  
IS ON THE  
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**SUCCESSFUL  
FIGHTBACK**

No one is in control . . .

*The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there. v32*

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# GOD INTERVENES & OVERCOMES

How does he do it?

What mighty force does he use?

What mighty miracle does he perform?

**God stops Satan through  
the unbelieving town clerk  
doing his job!**

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# THIS IS BEAUTIFUL

*The city clerk quietened the crowd and said: "Men of Ephesus, doesn't all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to be quiet and not do anything rash. You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess. If, then, Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a grievance against anybody, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. They can press charges.*

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# THIS IS BEAUTIFUL

*If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly. As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of today's events. In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it." After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly. (Act 19:35-41)*

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TALKING ABOUT COMMON GRACE

# WE KNOW ABOUT SAVING GRACE

- Regeneration
- Justification
- Sanctification
- Glorification

**You know, the Gospel.**

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# BUT THIS IS COMMON GRACE

- These are gifts of God - **grace**
- They don't save anyone - **not saving**
- For everyone saved or not - **common**
- About keeping the world habitable
- About stopping it falling down while God rebuilds

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# SEE IT IN ACTS 19

Government

*v35 the city clerk*

The legal system

*v38 the courts are open . . . they can  
press charges*

The rule of law

*v40 we are in danger of being  
charged with rioting because of  
today's events*

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# OTHER EXAMPLES INCLUDE

Art, Literature and Culture

Education and Science

Marriage and family

Friendship and community

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## TIM KELLER

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*God gives out good gifts of wisdom, talent, beauty, and skill 'graciously' - that is, in a completely unmerited way. He casts them across all humanity, regardless of religious conviction, race, gender, or any other attribute to enrich, brighten, and preserve the world.*

















**ANY QUESTIONS – 07956 895818**



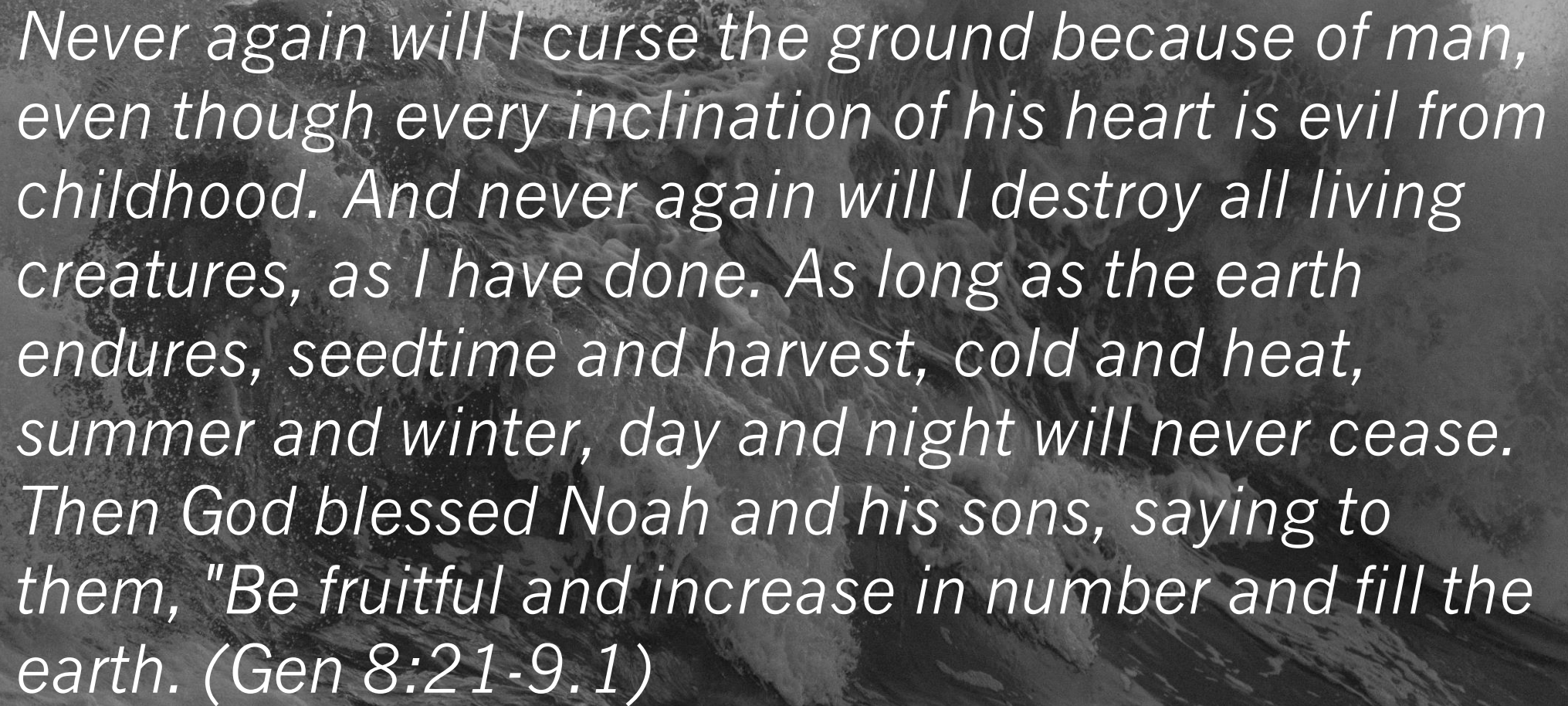
**WHERE IS THIS IN THE BIBLE?**





**rooted in creation**





*Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. (Gen 8:21-9.1)*

# ACTS 14 SHOWS COMMON GRACE IN ACTION

*In the past, he let all nations go their own way. Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy. (Act 14:16-17)*

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# ROMANS 13 SAYS SOME AMAZING THINGS

*Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.*

*Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. (Rom 13.1-6)*

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**LET'S GET PRACTICAL**

# HAVE CONFIDENCE

- It is God's world
- It is in rebellion but he still sovereign over it and still committed to it
- He is working way beyond the walls of the church
- All good comes from him and you'll find some good everywhere

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# RECOGNISE THE POWER AND VALUE OF THESE COMMON GRACE THINGS

- In Acts 19 Satan is on the brink of a victory
- God stops it through the town clerk, through the legal system and through the rule of law!
- That is God using 'common grace' in the spiritual battle.

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# THE CHURCH HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ALL THIS

- To teach about it
- To disciple for it – the workplace, citizenship, community, politics
- And to intercede . . .

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Tim 2:1-4)*

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# BUT THE INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN IS CENTRE STAGE

- The business of the church is 'saving grace'
- It is the individual believer who moves this forward as they follow their calling and use their gifts

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# SO BE INVOLVED

- Your work matters
- Love where you live
- Take your citizenship seriously
- Use you hobbies, interests and skills
- Join and form facebook groups, committees and organizations

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# SO BE INVOLVED

- All these things are good
- God will use them
- Maybe you'll never know how
- But he will

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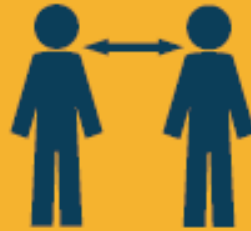


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