

## Why So Wide?

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by Wayne Goff

***“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it” (Matt. 7:13).***

Why is the gate to eternal destruction so wide? Perhaps as we look back at the Bible and some *early references* to man’s tendencies we can gain some insight.

Genesis 4 says that *“in the process of time”* Cain brought forth an offering to God of the fruit of the ground. But it was not accepted by God (v. 5). Meanwhile Abel offered unto God *“of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering”* (v. 4). Cain was *“very angry”* (v. 5), and the word suggests a *hot anger* or *jealousy*. God warned Cain about giving in to sinful attitudes (v. 7) and told him that he should learn to rule over them. Instead, Cain let his jealousy get the better of him and when an opportunity arose, he killed his brother! (v. 8).

If a man can kill his own brother so early in the history of man, then why are we surprised by the headlines we read today?!

Some time later the entire world becomes consumed by carnality and God determines to destroy all mankind with a world-wide flood (Gen. 6). Noah, his three sons, and their wives are to be the sole survivors. The text gives us more insight to man’s tendencies: *“And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years”* (v. 3). God shall not strive with man because he is **flesh**? What does that mean?

*“Flesh”* (Gen. 6:3) is from a Hebrew word which ***“is put for that which is wholly carnal and sensual, of those given up to fleshly appetites and passions, Gen. vi. 3;...”*** (Wilson, *O.T. Word Studies*, p. 169). Man has a great desire to pursue that which is physical, visible, immediately satisfying, but corrupting. God is **not** saying that man has an *inherited sinful nature*, but He **is** saying that man is easily led astray by his carnal appetite! Give most people the option of *immediate gratification* versus *delayed gratification*, and the **majority** will choose that which is instant!

Even Christians who have **chosen** to be *“born again”* and develop a *“renewed”* spirit have to fight the natural desires. If you think not, then read your New Testament from ROMANS -- REVELATION and see how often saints and churches are warned about such things! **Becoming** a Christian is not synonymous with being a mature Christian. We must grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 3:18).

Jesus warned His disciples on the very night He was betrayed: *“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak”* (Matt. 26:41).

So dear reader, consider the history of sinful man in his relationship to God, and be warned. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life (1 Jn. 2:16) will get you if you do not fight it off with all your might (Eph. 6:11)! **Examine yourself** to see if you are in the Faith (2 Cor. 13:5). It is easy to be led astray by the Devil and his devices.

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