

# The Shortest Distance Between Two Points is No Fun

Presented by Jason Page

August 17, 2025  
People's Church of Chicago

The shortest distance between two points is no fun.

When I first uttered those words to a friend while volunteering at the NFP civic space called multikulti, I wasn't fully aware of their profound stretch—to daily living, to our future as a species, and to the delicate balance between human curiosity and the temptations of unchecked power. My friend caught the essence, and we shared a laugh, that spark of joy born from connection.

Upon deeper contemplation, I've come to see how this simple phrase urges us toward a meaningful life, one that honors our nature as social creatures. It warns against the lure of overprioritizing efficiency at the expense of human social conductivity—the vital web of relationships that fosters love, creativity and true fulfillment. We live in an era of explosive technological acceleration, where the recreation of intelligence and the amplification of human power take center stage. Yet, in our quest to "sophisticate" humankind, we risk subverting natural evolutionary processes and divine design, often in ignorance or denial of God's sovereignty. Our existence increasingly hinges on efficiency, commodifying human power and chasing a so-called "quality of life" that minimizes survival's burdens. But when we reflect on ancient tribes—or those still resisting "civilization"—we find their joy rooted not in comfort or ease, but in deep social bonds.

What we do with that comfort often leads to exclusive consumption, breeding meaningless interactions and a hollow emptiness. This stems from consumption without creative output in those social connections. It's only through group creation—tapping into inward insight amid conductivity—that inspiration flows. Pure consumption fosters apathy, an unthinking acceptance of efficiency devoid of meaning. This mindset drives us to mimic machines, fallibly recreating ourselves against God's infallible creation. As foretold in Genesis and elaborated with context in the First Book of Enoch, such fate led to the Giants' downfall before the flood—a fate we court today.

Consider how technologies, from the simplest to the most advanced embody this risk. The more power they grant, the greater the responsibility they demand to prevent abuse through overreliance or glut use. What begins as a tool can morph into a crutch, atrophying our innate abilities. Calculators handle basic arithmetic, eroding our grasp of numerical relationships; smartphones store contacts, diminishing our memory's relational depth. Now, artificial intelligence (AI) amplifies this: used as a crutch rather than a tool, it offloads creative thinking, decision-making and even emotional labor, fostering dependency that begs for deeper integration—perhaps neural implants to "fix" the dormancy we've created. These short-sighted benefits ignore long-term consequences: eroded critical thinking, fractured communities and a society where insight yields to algorithmic output. Biotech re-engineers food genetics to counter environmental degradation we've caused, offering quick fixes that mask deeper ecological harm. Nano-robotics promise survival in a ravaged world, but at what cost to our humanity?

In this transference from humankind to machine-kind—veiled as evolutionary advancement—we devalue love for efficiency. Material pursuits eclipse the spiritual, severing our access to God. Insight fades into mere external sight trapped in a material echo chamber. Like the Giants devouring the Earth in their insatiable glut for more, our efficiency-driven markets, fueled by competition and profit prioritize self over stewardship. This insensitive transhumanist path—self-transformed humans devouring resources—justifies invasive solutions for problems we've manufactured, leading to a footprint that chokes life itself.

Prioritizing efficiency over love deprives civilization of social conductivity, the divine force connecting us to insight and God's light. Without it, we forsake contentment, mirroring the Giants' restless end. Efficiency and intelligence, when pillars of progress become greed without bounds—never complete, always devouring. Only love brings rest and fulfillment.

The aim in life is love, from which fun emerges as an outcome of curiosity—a flame that should never be extinguished or fully satisfied. Curiosity drives us to explore, create and connect; technologies must serve this, not smother it. We must wield them responsibly: as tools enhancing our God-given gifts, not crutches dulling them to be upgraded and replaced. Emphasize love's social conductivity as the central force for meaningful living, nourishing it for future generations.

God gifted us love to create and minds to wander through insight—not to recreate those gifts fallibly. With "the shortest distance between two points is no fun," fixating on endpoints yields endless void. Fun blooms from social conductivity valued over efficiency: innocence where love, creativity, and laughter thrive.

In closing: It is [YHWH] who made the earth and created mankind on it. [YHWH] hands stretched out the heavens; [YHWH] marshaled their starry hosts.

– Isaiah 45:12

# Bible Readings

## Hebrew Bible: Genesis 6:1-8

When humankind began to grow in numbers and to spread over the earth, and women became more plentiful, divine beings\* saw how beautiful the human women were, and chose women to marry with, whomever they chose. YHWH said, "I will not allow my spirit to dwell within humankind for such long periods, because they are only flesh. From now on, they will not live more than 120 years."

The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and afterward as well, when divine beings had intercourse with mortal women, who bore children by them. These were the Gibborim of old, individuals of great renown. YHWH saw the great wickedness of the people of the earth, that the thoughts in their hearts fashioned nothing but evil. YHWH was sorry that humankind had been created on earth; it pained God's heart. YHWH said, "I will wipe this human race that I have created from the face of the earth—not only the humans, but also the animals, the reptiles, and the birds of the heavens. I am sorry I ever made them."

But Noah found favor in the eyes of YHWH.

## Gospel: Matthew 24:37-42 (NIV)

37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

## Extra Canonical: 1 Enoch 7:1-6; 10:1-2

And all the others together with them took unto themselves wives, and each chose for himself one, and they began to go in unto them and to defile themselves with them, and they taught them charms 2 and enchantments, and the cutting of roots, and made them acquainted with plants. And they became pregnant, and they bare great giants, whose height was three thousand ells: Who consumed all the acquisitions of men. And when men could no longer sustain them, the giants turned against them and devoured mankind. And they began to sin against birds, and beasts, and reptiles, and fish, and to devour one another's flesh, and drink the blood. Then the earth laid accusation against the lawless ones. Then said the Most High, the Holy and Great One spake, and sent Uriel to the son of Lamech, and said to him: 'Go to Noah and tell him in my name "Hide thyself!" and reveal to him the end that is approaching: that the whole earth will be destroyed, and a deluge is about to come upon the whole earth, and will destroy all that is on it.

This passage from the First Book of Enoch expands on Genesis, describing how fallen angels (the "divine beings") took human wives, teaching forbidden knowledge like sorcery, herbalism, and warfare. Their offspring, the giants (Nephilim), grew enormous and insatiable, consuming humanity's resources until they turned on people, animals, and each other in violence and cannibalism. The earth cried out against this lawlessness, prompting God to send the angel Uriel to warn Noah of the impending flood, instructing him to hide and prepare for the deluge that would cleanse the world.