

The Book of Genesis
Genesis 4:17-26: The Children of Adam and Eve – Part 2
11/06/2019 Wednesday PM

Introduction

- Last week we studied **Genesis 4:1-16: The Children of Adam and Eve– Part 1**. We discussed Cain and Abel from their jobs, to what they sacrificed to God on one occasion, how Cain got angry Abel and killed him, and was subsequently cursed and sent away to be a wanderer.
- We seen how Eve more than likely thought that Cain was the Redeemer that God has spoken about in Genesis 3:15 because of how she referred to him as basically coming from God.
- Cain's punishment was severe for killing Abel, however, God showed him mercy by marking him so no one would kill him.
- We ended last week with Cain going to the land of Nod, east of Eden. Nod means 'wandering.'
- Tonight, we will be looking at **Genesis 4:17-26: The Children of Adam and Eve – Part 2** as we look at what Cain was doing in this land, his wife, and the subsequent family he had. We will also be introduced to Seth, Adam and Eve's third son.

Cain's Wife – (Genesis 4:17)

¹⁷Cain lay with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch.

- One of the most widely asked questions today is, who was Cain's wife?
- If you will remember back to last week, Adam and Eve would have had daughters along with Cain and Abel.
- The only logical solution is that Cain married his sister.
- No matter how you look at this, either from a worldly or Biblical perspective, it has been proven that humans started from one man and one woman and so there would be no other way than to marry a sibling to produce the rest of humanity.
- We do need to take note that the timing of these events is not quite clear.
- We do not know how old Cain and Abel were when the first murder took place nor do we know exactly how much time passed between Cain's curse and when he found this wife mentioned here.
- All we do know as far as time is concerned is that Adam was 130 when he had Seth, and all these other events seem to have taken place before Seth was born.
- Still, Cain's wife was his sister. We must understand that so early on in human history, there weren't many genetic mutations that would cause issues like we see today.
- God did not outlaw the practice until 2500 years or so later when the Mosaic Law was written. (**Leviticus 18:11**)
- Certainly by that time, there was no need to marry close family, and the gene pool would have become quite tainted and the closer the relation, the higher the risk of birth defect and complications.
- This wasn't God changing His mind, it was God putting restrictions on us as a result of our sin as we see throughout the Bible.
- We see that Cain and his wife had a son and they named him Enoch.
- At the time of Enoch's birth, Cain was building a city and he named it after his son.
- This may indicate that Cain had to at some point leave the city because of his curse of wandering so he named the city after his son and not himself.

The Line of Cain - (Genesis 4:17-24)

¹⁸To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael was the father of Methushael, and Methushael was the father of Lamech. ¹⁹Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. ²⁰Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. ²¹His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play the harp and flute. ²²Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain's sister was Naamah. ²³Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. ²⁴If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times."

- This section of Genesis is brief, but it represents a pattern in the book of Genesis.
- God is working out His Messianic program throughout history, but Genesis first shows the history of the 'side branches' before moving on to the Messianic line of Seth.
- **V.18** - We see five generations compressed into one verse here. Enoch to Irad, Irad to Mehujael, Mehujael to Methushael to Lamech.

- There are some similarities between the names mentioned here and the names that we will see in Genesis 5.
- The names may appear similar at first sight; however they are completely different in their meanings.
- **V.19** – We see here that “Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah.” This is the first record of a polygamist marriage vs what the Bible teaches which is monogamy. (**Genesis 2:24**)
- Throughout the Bible it is plain to see that the Godly standard for marriage was one man and one woman.
 - **Exodus 20:17** says, “‘You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's **wife**, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.’”
 - **Deuteronomy 17:17** says, “He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.”
 - **1 Kings 11:1-3** says, “¹King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter-Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. ²They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, “You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.” Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. ³He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.”
 - **1 Timothy 3:2** says, “Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,”
 - **1 Corinthians 7:2** says, “But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.”
- The Bible is clear that marriage is supposed to be monogamous, however, many godly men failed in this area and paid the consequences for their sin. Abraham being a prime example.
- The Law made provisions for this “if” a person entered into a polygamist marriage, but it never encouraged the practice. (Exodus 21:10)
- **Vv. 20-22** – These verses tell us about Lamech’s sons and the occupations that they founded as well as his daughter.
 - Jabel; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock.
 - Jubal; he was the father of all who play the harp and flute.
 - Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain's sister was
 - Naamah. It was rare for a female to be named in the genealogy and we do not know why Naamah was named.
- **V.23-24** – “²³Lamech said to his wives, “Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. ²⁴If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times.”
- Here we do not know whether or not Lamech actually killed someone, or is threatening someone that may wound him.
- Either way, his arrogance is astounding. He placed himself in high esteem that he would be avenged seventy-seven times.
- Maybe this is why in **Matthew 18:22** Jesus said to forgive, “Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

The Line of Seth – (Genesis 4:25-26)

²⁵Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, “God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.” ²⁶Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.

- Now that the Canaanites are dispensed with, the narrative returns to the time not long after Abel’s murder.
- **V.25** – Adam and Eve have another son at 130 years old and Eve names him Seth which means “appointed.”
- **V.26** – Seth had Enosh which means ‘fail man’ which contrasts with Lamech’s arrogance and show’s human humility.
- Seth’s line is the line that Jesus came from, however, as we will see in the days of the flood, even Seth’s line had been corrupted and only Noah and his family was found righteous.
- It is interesting that the end of this verse says, “At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.”
- Here we have the beginning of public worship of God. This literally means ‘to call upon the name of YHWH.’
- With the close of Chapter 4, we have the end of the first *toledot* which was of the heavens and the earth. (**Genesis 2:4-4:26**)
- We have seen the creation of man and woman, the ordination of marriage, the fall of man, the first-born son commit murder, his line produce evil people like Lamech, and for it all to circle back to godly people like Seth and Enosh that institute public worship of the one true God.

Next Week’s Study: Genesis 4:16-26