

Scripture Reading: Genesis 4:15,

“16 Then Cain went out from the presence of Jehovah and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. 17 And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son--Enoch. 18 To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech. 19 Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. 20 And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21 His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute. 22 And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah. 23 Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me. 24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold." 25 And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." 26 And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of Jehovah.”

"The Families of Cain"

Well, we spent over twenty-five weeks getting out of chapter three, but over the next three weeks we will Lord willing move quickly up to the Great Flood in chapters seven through nine of this Book of Beginnings. As we do we must again remember that the account of the life of Cain, the account of his families and the account of their corruption of the godly line of Seth is in large part meant as a graphic reminder of the sinfulness of sin!

This morning we will consider the decedents of Cain, next week the decedents of Seth and then the sin which led to the destruction of all things living save those placed on the Ark by Jehovah God in the flood. While these families remind us that history deals with the seed of the woman and the seed of the Serpent, the sheep and the goats, the wheat and tares, these passages will also remind us that all men are still made in the Image of God though fallen in Adam. We will see skill and creativity in the ungodly line and we will see sin in the godly line!

- It should be a GREAT reminder to us who follow Jesus that we should and must live as who we are!

So this morning we look at the families of Cain, the city of man as Augustine would later present this in his ‘short’ volume, The City of God! Remember that Cain did not bring his sacrifice in faith, he then refused to heed God’s warning...

- Thus the sin that crouched at his door completely consumed him as he murdered his brother and lied to God.

God condemns him to a life as a vagabond and marks him for a long life as an example to others...

We pick up our text at verse 16:

““16 Then Cain went out from the presence of Jehovah and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.”

- Cain moves further away from God’s sanctuary & His presence, a result unconfessed sin always has!

17 **“And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son--Enoch.”**

This leads us to two very logical questions, one of which the skeptics often refer to and the other one they often don’t think to add to their attack!

- Where did Cain find a wife and how many people were in this city of Nod?

Now the skeptics are sure they have us in an impossible bind because the Bible later forbids incest and yet who else could Cain marry but one of his own sisters or nieces if God created only one man and woman in Adam and Eve! Since we know that Adam is the federal head of the human race then the answer has to be that Cain married a close relative!

- So how do we square that with the later prohibition of such marriages and the well-known physical problems which often occur when it is disobeyed? [*example of Europe's royal families*].

When we consider the chronologies of Seth's decedents next week we will see that these folks lived a LOT longer than those after the flood. After the flood these lifespans are radically reduced and it is because of the effect of sin on mankind... Moses writing in Psalm 90 says,

"7 For we have been consumed by Your anger, And by Your wrath we are terrified. 8 You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance. 9 For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh. 10 The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

This is one of those places where we simply cannot say that since this is the way things are today, so it had to be that way back then.

- Would it be possible for someone to live to be nine hundred years old today?

Obviously the answer is NO and we would also say NO to any of our children who requested a marriage to one of their siblings. And yet here in the early centuries of man's history we do see men living to be hundreds of years old and of necessity they at first married close relatives.

- So the answer to that supposedly troubling question of where did Cain get his wife is simply that he married one of his sisters or nieces.

So we are told that Cain went out from God to the land of Nod and built a city. Here again we need to ask where the people to populate that city came from unless we think it started with just three people!

- It could have started as a small city, but I would argue that by this time there would have been a great many people on the earth.

We are told that Adam was one hundred and thirty years old when he and Eve had Seth...

- So both Abel and Cain would likely have been well over a hundred when they brought the sacrifices that led to Cain's full rebellion.

It appears from our text that Cain was already married and Abel may have been as well. Adam and Eve had to have some other children for Cain to have a wife available, but there could have in fact been many more. The text seems clear that Cain and Abel were their first born so let's assume that Adam & Eve had another child every three years on average and that children in those days married at around twenty years of age.

Of course I am speculating because we don't even know what the length of pregnancy would have been for folks who lived hundreds of years, how fast or slow they matured and how prevalent twins or triplets might have been.

BUT if we go with what I think are my conservative estimates, you could already have some 5 million people by the time those sacrifices were offered.

- Thus populating the city of Nod would have been no problem!

Names are again important with Nod meaning wandering or disturbance and Enoch means dedicated.

I think the pride of Cain comes through again in naming this city after his son as we see so clearly in Psalm 49: “10 For [Jehovah] sees wise men die; Likewise the fool and the senseless person perish, And leave their wealth to others. 11 Their inner thought is that their houses will last forever, Their dwelling places to all generations; They call their lands after their own names. 12 Nevertheless man, though in honor, does not remain; He is like the beasts that perish.”

- **Cain continues his battle against God and this city can easily be seen as a small precursor to the Tower of Babel that man will erect after the flood.**

We are then given the descendants of Cain: The ungodly line is given first as is often the case in Genesis.

18 “To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech.”

Several generations are given quickly with no details and then we come to the sixth generation from Adam where God reminds us of the sinfulness of sin and also the wonder of man made in God’s image even in his fallen state...

19 “Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah.”

We see here the first reference to polygamy in the Scripture which is a clear violation of the Creational ordinance of marriage being between one man and one woman. As we move forward in the Scriptures and the rest of human history it is a practice that we see in both the godly and ungodly lines, but always wrong in the eyes of God. It was the downfall of even King Solomon and it certainly did not help Lamech here near the beginning.

With Lamech and his family we see how sinful man has become with polygamy and threats and murder!

- **And yet, in the midst of this, we see that they are still men and women made in the image of God!**

There is no doubt that Lamech was an evil man and that we are fast approaching the time when God would repent of making man and destroy the earth with the great flood... And yet here we have the history of a family with many impressive accomplishments...

20 “And Adah bore Jubal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21 His brother’s name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute.

22 And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.”

Now if you want a profound explanation for why the Holy Scriptures record the birth of Naamah, it will not come today! It is sort of like that last portion of Jonah where we learn about ‘much cattle.’ The best the commentators could do was that Moses wanted us to know that Zillah also had two children as well: Of course I believe they both likely had many more as we discussed above, but Naamah is mentioned nonetheless.

There are some important details from the lives of the other children: We see advances in husbandry, in music and in craftsmanship.

- **Now I think it is with that last one that we are given a strong hint of just how advanced these early men and women really were.**

Remember that the materialists want us to believe that man advanced from lower animals and thus began in a very primitive state learning the basics of life over hundreds of thousands of years.

Here the Book of Beginnings tells quite a different story. The evolutionists see the ‘bronze age’ as earlier than iron, but both only discovered and used well after the date of Noah’s flood and long after they believe man crawled out of the mud or came down from the trees.

- Rather here in Genesis, the real history that God has given us, we see Tubal-Cain instructing craftsmen in both bronze and iron very early in man's history!

That should help us understand that Moses is not just making passing references to things of interest but explaining how despite their increasing sinfulness these men were still made in the image of God and capable of great achievements. Like Mr. Ham's comment in the big debate this week about how non-Christians can do good science today...

- They just don't know that they are borrowing from God so heavily when they do so!

These children of Lamech were obviously not giving God the glory for their achievements either, but they were great achievements nonetheless. If we work backwards from the reference to iron we should see that Jubal was working with very advanced musical instruments and that Jabal was advanced in husbandry as others would have been with agriculture. We will see later that the first thing Noah does after leaving the ark is to plant a vineyard! Anyone familiar with grapes and wine knows this is one of the most advanced forms of agriculture:

- Where did he learn that art?

But sadly, in the midst of all these advances we see a family in open rebellion...

23 Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me. 24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold." I have heard three different reasons given for Lamech's boasting, but before I go into them, you will notice in most of our English Bibles that this text is set off as poetry and grand poetry it is in the Hebrew... They had advanced language!

- Again, not something you would expect from cavemen in the Stone Age!

Richard Bleesloe has the interesting take that Lamech is boasting out of fear of his wives! He was not only an insecure man, but one with two wives! Others think he had not actually murdered anyone but was boasting that he could do whatever he wanted.

- The more common understanding, and I believe the most likely is that Lamech had in rage killed one or two people and is now boasting that he does not fear God or His punishments.
- Not a good place to be!

As we move forward in God's revelation we clearly see that He was not pleased with the families of Cain... In Job 22 we see the arrogance of Lamech when we read, "15 Will you keep to the old way Which wicked men have trod, 16 Who were cut down before their time, Whose foundations were swept away by a flood? 17 They said to God, 'Depart from us! What can the Almighty do to them?'

The Apostle Peter as he writes his final Epistle turns to this portion of history as a warning for us today:

I Peter 3: "1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

And finally in the Book we don't often quote from Jude tells us "8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. 9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" 10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. 11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. 12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; 13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. 14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

- Well Jude gives us a pretty long list of sins and attitudes we should avoid and warns us to avoid others who practice them!

As we shall see in two weeks, the godly seed of Seth was eventually corrupted by those who walked in the way of Cain and that led to the great flood.

- It should come as a very sober warning to us when we are tempted to be friends with the world, the flesh or the devil!

Jude goes on to talk about the right way which we will consider at the Table this morning, but as we consider the contrast of the Godly and ungodly lines here in the Book of Beginnings let me close this morning with the way the Apostle Paul explains that contrast in the lives of those who have but their trust in Jesus in Romans chapter 8:

- Reminding us, as I pointed out at the beginning, that we should and must live as who we are in Christ!

Romans 8: "1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors--not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

Communion Meditation: Jude

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. 22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction; 23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion & power, Both now & forever. Amen. "