

Genesis 4-5 – Thursday, October 25th, 2007

- Chapters 4-5 cover 1,600 years of human history.

4:1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

- This is the first mention of a sex in the Bible, but it's likely that Adam and Eve enjoyed sexual intimacy prior to the fall.
- The word "knew" means that Adam knew Eve, sexually. We have the same meaning in the New Testament. (Ginosko)
- The name is the nature, and she names him "Cain" which basically means, "I've got him" or "here he is."
- In other words, Eve thinks that Cain is the promised seed of Genesis 3:15; and that Cain would redeem them.
- The fact of the matter is that Cain wasn't the Savior; he was a sinner and would murder their other son.
- Also, Cain was the seed of man, (Adam), not the seed of the woman.
- We, like Adam and Eve here, have misunderstood God's ways, God's plan, and especially God's timing.

2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

- Cain was a farmer, and Abel a shepherd. Wait a minute, where are those cavemen come in to the picture?
- There is no such thing as cavemen, sorry Geico!

3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

- Cain's offering of fruit from the ground was unacceptable to the Lord,
- Abel's offering of his sacrificed firstborn lamb that was acceptable to the Lord.
- Hebrews 11:4 tells us that Abel is commended for his faith, not just his sacrifice.

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. NIV

CAIN'S OFFERING	ABEL'S OFFERING
Was produce	Was sacrifice
Was some of many	Was the first-born of his flock
Was just an offering	Was also with the most prized fat
Was disobedient to what God required	Was obedient to what God required
Was probably beautiful aesthetically	Was likely bloody, messy and smelled
Was in the flesh	Was in faith
Was by works (fruit of his labor)	Was by the Spirit (fruit of the Spirit)
Symbolized man's efforts coming to God	Symbolized God becoming a man
No blood was shed	Blood of an innocent lamb was shed

- The "Lamb of God" for a man, Abel (Genesis)
- The "Lamb of God" for a family, Passover (Exodus)
- The "Lamb of God" for a nation, Yom Kippor (Leviticus)
- The "Lamb of God" for a world, Salvation (John)

Abel is another picture of Jesus.

† **A Shepherd - Acceptable Sacrifice - Hated by Brother(s) Slain, blood shed**

Hebrews 12:24 ...to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. NIV

6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

- God is asking Cain why he's angry and depressed, and giving him a chance to change the course of his life.
- God is giving Cain a way of escape from the devastating consequences of sin. As we know, Cain doesn't take it.
- Damian Kyle calls v7 the first counseling session. All counseling sessions have this verse 7 as the solution.
- If you do the right thing, you'll be accepted, but if you don't, sin lies (a crouching animal waiting to pounce) at your door.
- It's interesting to note that Cain hasn't murdered Abel yet, that's in the next verse. God always warns us before we fall.

8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

- This is the first murder ever. Actually it's the first physical death as well. Here-to-fore, nobody had died yet.
- Keep in mind that Able had done nothing to Cain. Cain's murder of his brother is demonically motivated.
- Cain is experience several very powerful "drug-like" emotions: Jealousy, Pride, and Anger. Anger with a brother is murder.

- The first part of Jude 11 pronounces a curse to them that have taken the way of Cain.
- What's the way of Cain? To be jealous of, have anger towards, and be slanderous against your brother

Jude 11 Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion. NIV

- 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"
- Notice how God is asking Cain questions like he asked his parents, Adam and Eve. He's looking for confession and restoration.
 - Abel's response clearly shows that he has no intention of confession or repentance.

- 10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. 11 So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."
- Notice how the curse upon Cain is more severe than it was on his dad, Adam. Adam could still work the ground, but not Cain.
 - Also, Adam could not stay in the Garden of Eden, but his son Cain could not find a resting place to stay on the entire earth.

- 13 And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! 14 Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me." 15 And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.
- Interesting that God doesn't say that Cain will be hidden from His face, Cain says God will be hidden from his face.
 - For Cain to say that this "is greater than I can bear is like saying God isn't being fair."
 - Nobody really knows what Cain's mark was however, it's been suggested that it was God's love and grace protecting Cain.
 - Notice that in all of this, not once does Cain regret his sin, he only regrets the consequences of his sin.

"One of the clearest marks of sin is our almost innate desire to excuse ourselves and complain if we are judged in any way."
(Boice)

"One of the consequences of sin is that it makes the sinner pity himself instead of causing him to turn to God. One of the first signs of new life is that the individual takes sides with God against himself."
(Donald Grey Barnhouse)

- 16 Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD 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.
- Here's the question skeptics always ask: "Where did Cain get his wife?" E-Harmony of course!
 - Adam & Eve had numerous children over hundreds of years, which means that Cain would have married a distant, distant sister.
 - Isn't that forbidden by God, and against the law? Not yet! This was pre-law and not subject to God's judgment. That would come later.
 - The "gene pool" of humanity was still pure enough that a brother and sister genetically could have normal healthy children.
 - One has likened it to a stream of water; the further it gets from the source the more it gets polluted along the way.
 - It would seem that by the time God made it forbidden in Leviticus 18:9, the gene pool was so polluted that God had to protect us.

- 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.
- Now we get into Cain's family tree. One interesting note is what the names/nature means.
 - Enoch means dedicate, Irad his son means literally "wild donkey", Mehujael means "blot out that Lord".
 - Methusael means "they are dead who are of Lord". Lamech means "Poor & Lowley."
 - We'll revisit these names at the end of our study in Chapter five.

- 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."
- The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Lamech brags about killing a man, just like his forefather Cain killed a man.
 - Parenthetically, one would have to conclude at this point that the world is waxing worse by the day and become more and more evil.
 - I suppose you could compare Cain and his son Lamech and their world then, to us and our world now.

THEN	NOW
There is boasting about human strength	The world boasts in its humanism
They have no interest in God	We have kicked God out of everything
The city is Cain's city	The world has become my world
The focus is on outward beauty (Adah mean's beauty, or pleasure)	We are more concerned about Hollywood than the Cross of wood

- Notice in v24 Lamech says that if Cain is avenged seven times, I seventy times seven. This is the polar opposite of what Jesus said:

Matthew 18:21-22 21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times? 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. NIV

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 the LORD.

- Adam and Eve have another son and they name him Seth which means appointed, another seed, as in a replacement for Abel.
- Seth wasn't the one promised in Genesis 3:15 however, it would be from his line that the promised one would come.
- Notice that now "men began to call on the name of the Lord. With the birth of Seth, they would call on and identify with the Lord.
- I suppose it's possible that before Seth was born, not one of them called upon the name of the Lord.

5:1 This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.

- It's possible that at this juncture we come to an end of Adam's direct account which was preserved and passed down to Moses to edit.

3 And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. 4 After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters. 5 So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.

- We now get into the genealogies which are very fascinating. We're prone to skip over them as if there's no message in them.
- One reason to take notice of the genealogies is to understand how quickly the world was populated.
- One writer has conservatively estimated that if Adam could have seen more than a million of his descendants in his lifetime.
- That's only if he saw half the children he fathered grow up and only half of those actually get married and have children.
- One has suggested that by the time of the flood, there could have been 6-7 billion people on the earth.
- If that's the case, then when Jesus said; "as in the days of Noah, so too would it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man, Woe.

6 Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh. 7 After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years, and had sons and daughters. 8 So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died. 9 Enosh lived ninety years, and begot Cainan. 10 After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and had sons and daughters. 11 So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died. 12 Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel. 13 After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived eight hundred and forty years, and had sons and daughters. 14 So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died. 15 Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared.16 After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years, and had sons and daughters. 17 So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died. 18 Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch. 19 After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters. 20 So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died. 21 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. 22 After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. 23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. 24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

- Enoch was raptured! He didn't see death. This is a picture of the rapture of the church and the tribulation for Israel.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. NIV

- One suggested that Enoch had a keen awareness of the coming judgment, and that's why he walked so close to God.

25 Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. 26 After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. 27 So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died. 28 Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. 29 And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed."30 After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and had sons and daughters. 31 So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died. 32 And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

- Interesting that Methuselah lived the longest, and had a son named Noah. Perhaps we'll see why God did it this way in a moment.
- One commentator has noted that if these genealogies are consecutive, then Seth died when Noah was 14 years old.
- This means the Noah would have known Adam's son. Again, why are genealogies so important? I suggest it's in the names, here's why

NAME	MEANING
Adam	Man
Seth	Appointed
Enos	Subject to death
Cainan	Sorrowful
Mahaleleel	From the presence of God
Jared	One comes down
Enoch	Dedicated
Methuselah (God sent the flood a year after he died.)	Dieing He shall send
Lamech	To the poor and lowly
Noah	Rest and comfort