

# Exploring God's Word

## Lesson 2 – 2/14/2024

### I. From the Fall to the Flood

#### 1. Adam and Eve Outside the Garden

- In their new state of consciousness of good and evil, Adam and Eve began their new life outside the Garden of Eden.
- Adam now had to earn a living by the sweat of his brow.
- Eve discovered the truth of God's Word.
  - **Genesis 3:16** — “... I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children...”
- The first child Eve brought into the world was a son named Cain.
  - **Genesis 4:1** — “And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.”
- Then Eve gave birth to another son, Abel.

#### 2. The Difference between the Two Brothers

- Abel was a keeper of sheep.
- Cain was a tiller of the ground.
- According to Genesis 4:3-7, there were also spiritual differences between these two men.
  - **Genesis 4:3** — “And in the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.”
  - **Genesis 4:4** — “And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:”
  - **Genesis 4:5** — “But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.”
  - **Genesis 4:6** — “And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?”
  - **Genesis 4:7** — “If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.”

#### 3. Worship Taught

- Adam and Eve had obviously taught their sons about God's existence and about the need to worship him and to offer sacrifices to Him. (See scriptures above.)
- By adulthood, both sons should have been well-acquainted with the acceptable mode of sacrificial worship.
  - a) However, when they brought their offerings, there were obvious differences.
  - b) **Genesis 4:4** — “And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:”

#### 4. Sacrifice Accepted and Rejected

- The Lord accepted Abel's offering, but not Cain's.
- Because of this, Cain became very angry.

- The Lord said to Cain, “Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?”
- By God asking Cain this question, we learn two things:
  - a) By stating “If thou doest well...”, it meant that Cain knew what “well” was.
  - b) God was also giving Cain an opportunity to correct the issue.
    - In essence, God was giving Cain an opportunity to repent.
    - At this point, the only thing that would prevent Cain from doing right would be sin.

## 5. Blood Sacrifice, a Requirement

**An often-asked question: “What was wrong with Cain’s offering?”**

- Abel had brought a blood sacrifice.
- Cain had brought an offering of the fruit of the ground.
- From the very beginning, God’s plan called for a blood sacrifice.
- In the Garden of Eden, God had slain animals in order to provide skins to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve.
  - **Genesis 3:21 — “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”**

So, to summarize: In order for sins to be covered, blood had to be shed.

- a) A sacrifice had to be offered.
  - **Jesus Christ was the “Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8).”**
- b) The reason God chose a blood sacrifice is that **“the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).”**
- c) And finally, **“without shedding of blood is no remission (Hebrews 9:22).”**

## 6. The Punishment of Disobedience

- Instead of Cain repenting and offering a more perfect sacrifice, he chose to murder his brother, Abel.
- As a result, God enforced penalties for Cain’s sin:
  - He would be cursed from the earth.
  - When he tilled the ground, it would no longer yield crops.
  - He would be a fugitive and a vagabond for the rest of his life.
- Cain responded to God’s judgment:
  - **Genesis 4:13 — “And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.”**
  - **Genesis 4:14 — “Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.”**
- The Lord answered:
  - **Genesis 4:15 — “And the LORD said unto him, Therefore, whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.”**
- By marking Cain, God was casting both a curse and a blessing on Cain:
  - **He was cursed** because he was forced to leave the presence of God, he would have to till the ground without reaping crops and be a fugitive and vagabond for the rest of his life.
  - **He was blessed** because God placed a mark on him that would prevent people from killing him.

## 7. Men Who Walked with God

### A. Seth

- Eve gave birth to a third son named Seth.
  - **Genesis 4:25** — “And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, *said she*, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.”
- Seth was evidently a godly man with a desire to serve God as Abel had.
  - **Genesis 4:26** — “...then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.”

### B. Enoch

- Scripture doesn't give us a lot of information about Enoch.
- In a time when most men lived for over nine hundred years, Enoch only lived three hundred and sixty-five years.
  - **Genesis 5:23** — “And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:”
  - **Genesis 5:24** — “And Enoch walked with God: and he *was not*; for God took him.”
- Only one other passage of scripture offers further information on this unusual event:
  - **Hebrews 11:5** — “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”

### C. Noah

- Noah was Enoch's great-grandson.
- God saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually.
- God was sorry for even creating mankind.
  - **Genesis 6:6** — “And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.”
  - **Genesis 6:7** — “And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repented me that I have made them.”
  - **Genesis 6:8** — “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”
- Later in scripture, we also find this about Noah:
  - **Hebrews 11:7** — “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”

- ***What did Abel, Seth, Enoch, and Noah all have in common?***

## II. The Righteous Family Preserved

### 1. Faith and Obedience Required

- Although God made a way of escape for Noah, it required obedient faith on his part.
- God gave Noah specific instructions on how the ark was to be built:
  - Must be made of gopher wood.

- It must be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high.
- It must have three floors.
- It must have only one door.
- God also told Noah how many animals to take into the ark.
  - **Genesis 7:2 — Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that *are* not clean by two, the male and his female.**
  - **Genesis 7:3 — Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.**

## 2. One Plan of Escape

- God has never spared those who were disobedient to His Word.
  - Because of Adam and Eve’s sin, they were forced to leave the Garden of Eden.
  - Because of Cain’s sin, the Lord set a mark upon him and banished him from His presence.
  - Because of the sinfulness of the human race, the whole world — with the exception of Noah and his family — was destroyed.
- Because just as God had told Noah:
  - **Genesis 6:3 — “... My spirit shall not always strive with man...”**
- II Peter 2:5 tells us that Noah was a preacher of righteousness.
  - Because of this passage, many believe that Noah not only prepared for his own family, but also warned others of the impending judgment and their need to repent and obey God.
  - However, judging by what we see in Scripture, his message went unheeded.

## 3. The Place of Safety

- One week before the Flood, God led Noah and his family into the ark.
  - God also directed the animals in, after which He shut the door.
- Noah was six hundred years old when it began to rain upon the earth.
  - **Genesis 7:11 — In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broke up, and the windows of heaven were opened.**
- It rained for forty days and forty nights.
- The water continued to cover the mountains for 110 more days.
- Aft the end of 150 days, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat.
- Two and a half months later, the tops of the other mountains could be seen.
- After forty more days, Noah opened the window and sent out a raven and a dove.
  - The dove found no place to land and returned to the ark.
- After another seven days Noah sent the dove out again.
  - This time it returned with an olive leaf in its mouth.
- Finally, after an additional seven days, Noah sent the dove out again and it never returned.

## 4. Noah Receives a Promise

- After one year and seventeen days, God told Noah, together with his family and the animals, to leave the ark.
  - **Genesis 8:18 — “And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons’ wives with him:”**
  - **Genesis 8:19 — “Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, *and* whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark.”**

**\*\*\* One of the first things Noah did after leaving the ark was build an altar upon which he offered burnt offerings to the Lord. \*\*\***

- Then God made a promise to Noah:
  - **Genesis 8:21** — “And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground anymore for man’s sake; for the imagination of man’s heart *is* evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.”
  - **Genesis 8:22** — “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”
  
- God then gave Noah and his family commandments/instructions:
  - Multiply and fill the earth.
    - **Genesis 9:1** — “And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth.”
  - He said that from now on animals would fear humans and be used by them for food, except for the blood.
    - **Genesis 9:2** — “And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth *upon* the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.”
    - **Genesis 9:3** — “Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.”
    - **Genesis 9:4** — “But flesh with the life thereof, *which is* the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.”
  - God also instituted human government by declaring that murderers would suffer capital punishment.
    - **Genesis 9:5** — “And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man’s brother will I require the life of man.”
    - **Genesis 9:6** — “Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man’s shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”
  
- Finally, God gave one last promise to Noah and his sons:
  - **Genesis 9:9–13** — “And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, And I behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you; and with every living creature that *is* with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This *is* the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that *is* with you, for the perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.”

### III. Humankind Judged

- Today, when we look into the sky and see the rainbow, we remember that it is God’s token of His covenant promise that He will never destroy the earth by water again.

