**Genesis Chapter 4:1 – 5:32**

With the conclusion of Chapter Three and our introduction to the

fall of man into sin and the promise of a Messiah, the Old Testament continues to chronicle the history of mankind in three parallel themes:

Theme #1 – The physical history and genealogy of mankind.

Theme #2 – Mankind’s continued fall into sin

Theme #3 – The continued promise of a Messiah.

1. With the first two verses of chapter 4, we see our first introduction to a genealogy. Who was the first descendent of Adam and Eve?

Cain was the firstborn son of Adam and Eve.

2. Eve said, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” What is the meaning of this phrase?

This was a totally new experience for Eve. With the birth of Cain she realizes the miracle of birth. Even today, with all the advances of science, it is not something we can duplicate in the laboratory.

3. Verse two begins, “and again.” What are the two possible ways to interpret this phrase?

This phrase could mean:

1. And again Adam knew Eve and she gave birth to another son.
2. Abel was a twin of Cain. So, Eve gave birth to Cain and again to Abel.

In verses three and four we are introduced to the sacrificial system which is Messianic in nature. First, the sacrifice of a lamb was symbolic of the coming Lamb of God. The shedding of blood showed the penalty of sin. God’s acceptance of it indicates atonement. Man’s offering of it indicates his acknowledgement of his sin and his reliance on God for life and eternal life. The offering of grain also is an acknowledgement of God’s providence and man’s reliance on Him. It was given in thanks to God for His providence, which is both temporal and eternal.

4. What was the occupation of Abel? Cain?

Abel was a shepherd.

Cain was a farmer.

5. Who is mentioned as bringing the first offering?

Cain.

6. Who is mentioned as bringing a first fruit or firstborn offering?

Abel.

7. What is the significance of a first fruit or firstborn offering?

The “first-fruits” offering was important in three ways:

1. It showed thanksgiving to God at the beginning of the harvest.
2. It was therefore an act of faith that God would complete the harvest.
3. The first-fruits were the most valuable at market. Therefore, it was giving God the best.

8. Read 1st Samuel 15:1-22; Psalm 40:6-8 and Psalm 51:17. What does God take delight in? What does He not take delight in?

God is pleased with obedience and a humble/repentant heart. God takes no pleasure in a sacrifice from the non-repentant and disobedient heart.

9. What makes a sacrifice offering or any good work acceptable in God’s eyes? (Hebrews 11:4-6)

God only accepts the sacrifices, offerings and good works that flow out of faith in Him.

10. Many people want to try to explain the problem with Cain’s offering by focusing on what he gave. They would say that Abel’s offering was superior because it was a lamb/atonement sacrifice while Cain’s was a simple offering of thanksgiving. Read Mark 12:41-44. What do we learn about the substance of offerings?

It is not the substance of the offering but the heart with which it is given. The widow valued God more than herself and gave all she had. This is also a powerful expression of faith in God’s providence. She trusted that God would provide.

11. What was Cain’s first reaction to God’s disregard for his offering? (vs. 5) Cain became angry and depressed.

12. How did God respond to this initial response of Cain?

God confronted Cain and lovingly addressed the problem. He told Cain:

1. If he did well or right, his offering would be accepted.
2. If he didn’t, sin would take control of him.

13. How is sin described by the Lord? (vs. 7)

The Lord describes it as a predator.

14. Read 1st Peter 5:8. What else is described in a similar way?

What is the remedy? (1st Peter 5-9)

The devil is described like a lion seeking to devour. We are to resist him by standing firm in the faith.

15. What action(s) did Cain use to address his problem with God? Why?

Cain spoke to his brother and lured him into a field. Just like the serpent he began with what probably sounded like innocent words. However, they were words of deception. Once Abel was deceived, Cain killed him. Cain was jealous of Abel. Instead of dealing with his own insufficiency he blamed Abel and selfishly killed him.

16. It is said that “evil breeds evil.” Perhaps it is better to look at the real root of the problem and say that “sin breeds sin.” What sin followed Cain’s murderous sin?

Cain lied to God and said he didn’t know where his brother was. This was also deceptive.

17. What was God’s judgment on Cain? Why?

God cursed the ground that Cain would farm. It would never yield him good crops. He would also be a fugitive and wanderer. Since Cain spilled Abel’s blood on the ground it was fitting the judgment fit the crime. Since the ground would not yield a good harvest for Cain, he would wander in search of better ground. He would always be seen as a fugitive on the run.

18. Consider the crime and the punishment. What can we learn from

this when it comes to making judgments?

Every wrong must carry a consequence. Every consequence should fit the offending action.

19. How did Cain respond to God’s judgment? How didn’t he respond? What does this tell us about Cain?

Cain said it was more than he could bear. He did not ever admit to the sin or show sorrow over it. Cain was ruled by selfish pride. His only concern was for himself.

20. What was Cain’s fear? How did God address it? Why?

Cain feared that others would kill him because of his atrocity. God put a mark on Cain that would prevent others from killing him. We do not know what this mark was. We see God’s mercy in this action. Cain deserved death but got life. God also promised seven-fold (perfect) vengeance on anyone who attacked Cain.

21. Cain had been a farmer. What did he become?

He became a city dweller and built a city.

22. Sin breeds Sin. What sinful practice came from Cain’s offspring? (vs. 9) What has this lead to?

Lamech was the first bigamist. Bigamy has turned into polygamy.

23. What other sin did Lamech engage in? Why

Lamech was also a murderer. He killed a young man who had struck him.

24. To what did Lamech compare this action to? Why?

Lamech compared his vengeance to God’s curse of anyone who would have harmed Cain. This curse had kept Cain safe. Lamech’s inordinate act of violence was meant to scare anyone who might consider hurting him. He promises out of proportion revenge.

25. Having followed the growth of sin through the line of Cain, Moses returns to the account of Adam and his offspring. Since the Messiah would come from the offspring of Eve what had to happen? Did it?

Eve had to have another son. She gave birth to Seth (4:25). Vs. 26: “to Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. …”

26. What else happened following the murder of Abel? (vs. 26) Why?

People began to call on the name of the Lord. They began to worship Him. It would appear that Adam learned from Abel’s murder. He needed to lead his family in God’s ways of righteousness.

27. For four chapters we have had a retelling of the history of mankind. How did Moses know all of this? According to 2nd Timothy 3:16 the Holy Spirit inspired men to write the scriptures. We also get a good indication in the first verse of chapter five of what one of the tools the Holy Spirit used was. What did Moses put into his account?

Moses says, “This is the book of the generations of Adam.” Obviously, there were some written records that Moses relied on.

28. What is said about Adam in regards to:

His age when Seth was born? 130.

His age at death? 930.

The composition of his family? He had other sons & daughters.

29. What was unique about Enoch?

Enoch didn’t die, he walked with God.

30. What was unique about Enoch’s son Methuselah?

Methuselah had the longest recorded life at 969 years.

31. What did Lamech believe about his son?

He believed that Noah would bring relief from their painful work.

32. What did Lamech say about the ground?

Lamech said the ground was cursed.

33. When had this happened before?

God had cursed the land of Cain following his murder of Abel.

34. Putting the last two questions and answers together, what inference can we make about civilization at the time of Lamech?

Lamech equated their hard toil and lack of crops with the curse put on Cain. Obviously he felt that the civilization was sinful and cursed by God.

35. Using the genealogy in chapter five, calculate the year in which Noah was born.

Noah was born 1056 years after the Creation.

36. In what year did Noah begin to have sons?

Noah began to have sons 1556 years after Creation