

Genesis 4.16-26

“Civilized and Savage”

POPULAR DIAGRAM of Our Ancestors / seen in Science textbooks, Museum Walls

Great, great, great, great, great, great Grandma – Slimy algae in Dirty Pond

Great, great, great, great, great Grandpa – Grew some fins and gills and swam around

Great, great, great, great Grandma – Slithered out of the pond like a snake

Great, great, great Grandpa – Managed to grow 4 legs and became a lizard

Great, great Grandpa – was clever enough to get on 2 feet, some of the time;
and grew hair all over

Great Grandpa – Some kind of Monkey man / rubbed sticks together for fire

PROCESS EVOLVED & PRODUCED WONDROUS CREATURES in this ROOM

EXTREMELY POPULAR, WIDELY BELIEVED IDEA

BIBLE MAKES A SLIGHT VARIATION TO THE PICTURE

Movement in the Opposite Direction / Not Upward but Downward

Bible – BEGINS with fully formed, supremely intelligent, amazingly strong,

Morally perfect, Man and Woman – made in very Image of God

THEIR CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN BECAME INCREASINGLY

Foolish, Weak, Sickly, and Morally Perverse / DIRTY POND // Moral Cesspool

Story of Line of Cain // 4.25 Story of Line of Seth (chapter break here?)

ONE PROOF – Bible is Word of God / MUCH IS SAID IN FEW WORDS

Contrast works of Men – Usually say little with many words

Francis Schaeffer “Two Humanities” // St. Augustine “Two Cities”

“City of God” / city = SOCIETY / Contrasts Babylon or Rome with City of God

AUGUSTINE “2 cities...formed by two loves: the earthly by the love of self, even to the contempt of God; the heavenly by the love of God: even to the contempt of self”

1. City of Man 2. City of God

3.15 THREE SETS OF ANTAGONISTS

1) Serpent and Woman / 2) Descendants of Serpent of Woman 3) Satan and Jesus

MIDDLE GROUP – Descendants of Serpent / Descendants of Woman EMERGE

Between men and women who LOVE GOD and those who DO NOT

1. City of Man

a. Restless and Rootless

GOD WARNED CAIN 4.12 “You will be a restless wanderer on the earth”

GOD REBUKES THAT CAIN MIGHT REPENT

CAIN’S DEFIANT RESOLVE 4.14 “I will be a restless wanderer on the earth”

Result 4.16 “Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, lived in Nod =Wandering

CAIN EMBRACED THIS RESTLESSNESS WITH CONFIDENCE / he had a Plan

JACQUES ELLUL “Meaning of the City” – begins the book with Cain

“He is to be a wanderer and a vagabond. As such he can find no rest. He is therefore condemned to a perpetual searching for God’s presence, the God with whom he wanted nothing to do and in whom he does not believe, and his very condition keeps him from ever finding him. Whatever he does he cannot succeed, and that is the hopelessness of it all”

MODERN STANDARD Great - “City that NEVER SLEEPS” 24 hrs of Everything

Thomas HUXLEY – English agnostic, gave lecture in Dublin, Ireland

RUSHED FROM HIS HOTEL IN A HURRY TO CATCH A TRAIN

Jumped in a Horse-Drawn Taxi – told the Driver to “Go fast!”

AFTER SOME TIME HUXLEY asked Driver “Do you know where you’re going?”

“No, sir, but I am driving fast!”

US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt – told his country in first Inaugural Address

“We do not know where we are going, but we are on our way!”

LOST OUR REST / LOST OUR ROOTS / LOST OUR GOD

Edward Everett Hale published story “The Man without a County” *Atlantic* Dec 1863

About US Army officer – Philip Nolan, he and Aaron Burr guilty of Treason agst US

Before sentencing, asked if he had any words of defense;

“Damn the United States. I wish I may never hear of the United States again”

JUDGE GRANTED NOLAN HIS WISH / Instead of Execution for Treason

Imprisoned at Sea on Government vessels / Never to hear of the US again

PASSED from SHIP to SHIP, NEVER ALLOWED to STAND on LAND AGAIN

After 25 long years – Nolan is Near Death / author of fictitious story talks to Nolan

Tells him about great prosperity and growth of America

NOLAN’S last words “There is no one who has ever loved his country more”

RESTLESS, ROOTLESS, WANDERERS = love God and hate God at same time

b. Closeness without Community – Cain had a son and built a city – both “Enoch”

Enoch lit. INITIATE “New Beginnings” – CAIN BEGINS WITHOUT GOD

First SELF-SUFFICIENT Society – People without God – NT calls this “the world”

Most IMPORTANT QUESTION – Where did Cain get his wife?

5.4 “After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters”

CAIN MARRIED HIS SISTER // Abraham married his half-sister Sarah

CAIN WAS MARRIED BEFORE HE WENT TO NOD, maybe before killing Abel

Am I saying that Cain married a relative? Yes! / So did each of you who is married
One Father and One Mother / We’re all Relatives!!

DIFFERENCE between drinking water from stream in Tien Shan mtns or

What from those mountains that is carried by rivers far into the Steppe

OBVIOUSLY FROM THE SOURCE IT WILL BE MUCH CLEANER & Better

They had MINIMUM EFFECT OF SIN in THEIR BODIES – marry sisters

NO CONCERN THAT UNCLE JOE WILL HAVE 6 Fingers or be a bit Bonkers

Later the Law of Moses FORBIDS marriage between Siblings

CAIN HAD MANY CHOICES FOR A WIFE – One Writer wrote:

“If during the 900 years that Adam lived only half of the children that would normally have been born grew up (and they probably all grew up) and if only half of those who grew got married (and they probably all got married) and if only half who got married had children (and they probably all had children), that even at the half, half, half rate Adam would have lived to see more than one million of his own descendents.”

NEEDED LOTS OF EGG SALAD FOR THE FAMILY PICNIC

CITY FULL OF LONELY PEOPLE / many citizens few companions
SEEN IN THE MEANING OF THEIR NAMES:

IRAD – “fugitive” or “wild ass” / MEHUJAEEL “smitten of God”

METHUSAEL “they died asking” or perhaps “some sought after God”

LAMECH “powerful conqueror” or “wild man”

c. Gifts without the Giver – Great Improvements into Society

Animal Husbandry – Jabal “father of all those who live in tents and raise livestock”

Musicology – Jubal “father of all who play the harp and flute”

Technology – Tubal Cain “who forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron”

Song and Poetry – words of Lamech – first poem by a man in the Bible

ALL OF US are Indebted to these people / We use what they developed
 NOT ALL OF GOD'S GIFTS ARE GIVEN TO THE RIGHTEOUS

JOHN CALVIN "It is truly wonderful that this race, which had most deeply fallen from integrity, should have excelled the rest of Adam's line in their achievements... the sons of Cain, though deprived of the spirit of regeneration, were greatly gifted... the rays of divine light have shone on unbelieving nations, for the benefit of this present life...the excellent gifts of the Spirit are diffused through the whole human race"

PROSPEROUS NATION LIKE JAPAN – only 1% of population follows Jesus Christ
 POOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES – where 80% of people are Christian

JESUS "the people of the world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light" Luke 16.8

THIS IS ONLY WORLD THEY WILL HAVE – MAKE THE MOST OF IT

PATTERN of Humanity – Technical Success and Moral Failure

PRE-FLOOD Civilization Described by Job

"Will you keep to the old path that evil men have trod? They were carried off before their time, their foundations washed away by a flood. They said to God, 'Leave us alone! What can the Almighty do to us?'" 22.15-17

Family drove across the Mohave Desert – at night to avoid the Heat
 Left Los Angeles after dinner / Outskirts of Las Vegas after midnight
 SAW AMAZING BRIGHT LIGHTS of City FROM FAR DISTANCE
 God's LIGHTNING STORM – fantastic display, brighter, more glorious than Vegas

GIFTS arouse WONDER / GIVER deserves WORSHIP

d. Pride in Passion - committed to Physical Pleasure, Beauty, and Charm

Lamech has 2 Beautiful Wives / Adah = pleasure or beauty / Zillah = shade (big hair)

NOT Exactly Proverbs 31 Women / Perhaps more like Proverbs 11
 "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion"

LAMECH SANG THIS FIRST SONNET in History to them
 ROMANTIC LYRICS ABOUT MURDER AND REVENGE
 BASIS OF JESUS COMMAND TO FORGIVE SEVEN TIMES SEVENTY??

SCHAEFFER “Here is humanistic culture without God. It is egotism and pride centered in man; this culture has lost the concept not only of God but of man who loves his brother”

CHARLES ERDMAN “This history is not without its warning for the present age. Our own civilization is on trial. Its material and scientific and cultural progress has not been accompanied by an equal advance in morality and spiritual development. It is well for us to be warned...because of their godlessness, they perished in the flood.”

Jude 11 “Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain”

2. City of God

FOR SOME AN OXYMORON / cannot put God and city in the SAME SENTENCE
For them the City is INHERENTLY GODLESS

Abraham “was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God” Hebrews 11.10

PROBLEM with Godless City / NOT CITY / but Godless People who Live in It

GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY “not good to be alone”

ISAIAH looked for an URBAN CONSUMATION

“Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth....for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be no more...he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth...they will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.” 65.17-21

ZECHARIAH saw Jerusalem as the Joy of the Whole Earth

“On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity...Jerusalem will be raised up and remain in its place...If the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain...On that day HOLY TO THE LORD will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, and the cooking pots of the Lord’s house will be sacred bowls in front of the altar.” 13 & 14

PEOPLE OF FAITH / People who serve God / KINGDOM CITIZENS in the City

GODLY LINE OF SETH – goes up to family of Noah / Stars of TV show “Survivor”

3 CONFESSIONS OF KINGDOM CITIZENS

God is Great / Man is Weak / Faith is Absolutely Necessary

a. God is GREAT

Cain and descendents knew about God / CAIN EVEN ARGUES WITH GOD

Cain's GRANDSON Irad gave sons RELIGIOUS NAMES

Mehujael and Methusael / EL, as in Elohim, common Hebrew name for God

Cain's GREAT GREAT GRANDSON Lamech – knew of Cain's Divine Protection
4.24 “If Cain is avenged 7 times, then Lamech 77 times”

CAIN'S LINE TALKED THE TALK BUT DID NOT WALK THE WALK
NO EVIDENCE IN THEIR BEHAVIOR of the Centrality of God in their Lives

Francis Schaeffer traced decline of Modern Humanism – “How Shall we Then Live?”
BEGAN in 1600's Rene Descarte – based philosophy on himself and his awareness
“I think, therefore I am”

to Rousseau who Romanticized Nature

to Kant who split knowledge of things and knowledge of ideals into 2 parts

to Hegel who relativized all truth and knowledge

to Kierkegaard who invented leap of faith as only way to know the transcendent

INTELLECTUAL DIGRESSION FROM KNOWLEDGE OF GOD TO NOTHING!

HUMANISTIC version of 23 Psalm

They began – I am my shepherd

Then – Sheep are my Shepard

Then – Everything is my Shepard

Finally – Nothing is my Shepard

CONTRAST – City of God / line of Seth

4.25 “God has granted me another child in the place of Abel, since Cain killed him”

NO ONE IN THE LINE OF CAIN speaks of God giving their Children

GROWTH OF GODLY UNDERSTANDING OF ADAM & EVE

4.1 “With the help of the Lord, I have brought forth a man” / I DID IT!

HAD TRAGIC UNDERSTANDING – God's deliverance is not by Our own Doing
GOD CENTERED THINKING – VERY OPPOSITE OF HUMANISM

b. Man is WEAK

SEEN IN NAMES OF SONS – Seth “in place of” // ie In the place of Godly Abel

ENOSH “frail or weak one” MORTAL MAN / Confession of DEPENDENCY

Doctrines of God and Man are like a SEE SAW – One Down / Other Must be UP

YOU CAN NEVER HAVE BOTH ENDS UP

EXALT MAN / GOD WILL INEVITABLY GO DOWN

EXALT GOD / MAN WILL FIND HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE AT GOD’S FEET

CAIN RIDES THE SEE SAW TO THE TOP

SETH IS HAPPY TO SIT ON THE BOTTOM / His God is High and Lifted Up

After 400 Years of SLAVERY IN EGYPT “The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out...God heard their groaning and remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites with concern.” Ex 2.23

“When I consider your heavens, and the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him...

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” Psalm 8

c. FAITH is Absolutely Necessary

FIRST BIGAMIST of Bible – Lamech has 2 wives / STRONG MAN
TAKES STRONG MAN TO HANDLE TWO MOTHER’S IN LAW

RECITES FIRST POEM OF BIBLE – Praises his great strength

POEM PARAPHRASED by DONALD GREY BARNHOUSE

“I have been offended and I have judged that the offense is a mortal one, punishable by death. Because the God of the universe, who is supposed to be running things, didn’t run them to suit my fancy, but permitted someone to offend me, I have erased that offender from the face of the earth. And no one may call me to account. God put a mark on my old grandfather Cain, in order to protect him, but I am perfectly able to take care of myself.”

SHOCKING Contrast 4.26 “At that time men began to call on the name of the Lord”

ADAM & EVE – No Longer walked with God in the Garden of Eden

CUT OFF FROM GARDEN / BUT NOT CUT OFF FROM GOD / Roots in Him

LUTHER saw in this verse “a small church...in which Adam as High Priest, rules everything by the Word and sound doctrine”

CALVIN saw “a restoration of religion...a miracle, that there was at that time a single family in which the worship of God arose”

Line of Seth – UNDERSTOOD DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF SIN
 No mere Imperfection / Destined to Destroy both Individual and the Society
 ONLY HOPE OF RESCUE / GRACE AND MERCY OF ALMIGHTY GOD
 Salvation did not come through Man’s Technology and Development

Luther and Calvin were right -
 PEOPLE MUST THROW THEMSELVES ON HIS CARE – for their Salvation

“I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God...
 ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away’...The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass...I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life...The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads...Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”

Revelation 21 & 22