

**"The First Society"**

**Part 1**

**Genesis 4:17-24**

**Introduction:** In our study of *Genesis* last week we looked at the picture of a lost sinner as we looked closely at the life of Cain. As we continue today we shall the first society that was established.

Now there is so much here to consider that we will by no means be able to see all that God has placed within these verses but we will take our time and we will gather as much as we can on our way through these verses.

The section we are about to look at is one that is of incredible importance and the reason I say that is because this is the only record of what life was like before the flood. This is what is known the antediluvian society. You see when the flood of Noah's day came it completely destroyed all remains of this society. Archeologists have nothing from this time and so all we have is the account that is recorded here.

Now in *Genesis* 4:17-5:32 the Spirit of God traces 2 lines; we have the line of Cain and then we have the line of Seth. We have more details about the line of Cain than we do the line of Seth however. There are several reasons why that is true but one of the reasons is because God desires for us to see how devastating it can be when one man turns his back on God. The consequences reach further than we can ever begin to imagine.

In *Genesis* 4:1-16 we looked at Cain and we see within him the picture of a lost sinner but we can also see the picture of an "apostate". An "apostate" is someone who has been confronted with the Truth of God's Word and knows what God requires for salvation but hardens their heart and walks away from that which God has to offer.

This describes many people today who sit in church and who hear the Truth of God's Word but continue to reject the truth of the Gospel and as time moves forward their hearts grow harder every time they hear.

**Notice Genesis 4:13**

Cain never repented of his sin.

**Notice Genesis 4:14**

I came across something very interesting about this verse this week which a Hebrew commentator had written. Here is how he says this entire conversation could read like this:

*"So, God, I can't get anything out of the ground. You've cursed me, and I'm going out and I'm gonna hide from Your presence. This is what You're doing to me. And I'm just gonna wander all over the place all my life as a vagrant and a wanderer in the earth; and," he adds this, "it'll come about that whoever finds me will kill me." "I know what'll happen. Whoever finds me will kill me."*

Want I want you to see is really 2 things:

1. Cain blamed God for the life of he would experience.
2. Cain deliberately turned his back on God.
3. Cain did not believe life would be empty without God. (This was all sarcasm)

I will back this all up as we get deeper into our lesson today.

## I. The Line of Cain

### Notice Genesis 4:17a

There is always ask the question about who Cain married? He either married his sister or he married a niece. There were no "mutant" jeans in Adam and Eve and so there would be no danger in intermarriage back then.

Now we know that by this time there was a great population of people and there are several verses that will help us to see this.

### Notice Genesis 4:14

<sup>14</sup> *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.*

Cain seemed to be concerned about how others would treat him when he went out from the presence of the Lord. That means there was not just Adam and Eve but there was many people by this time.

### Notice Genesis 5:4-5

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<sup>4</sup> *And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters:*

<sup>5</sup> *And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.*

Adam and Eve had many sons and daughters and their children also had many sons and daughters.

I read something very interesting this week and the world's population before the flood. It has been estimated by some (and this is a conservative estimate) that when the flood came there was somewhere around 7-9 billion people on the earth. This about how many children they could have if they lived to be 900. If 900 years old was the same as 90 today then they could have children for some 500 years.

I believe they could have children much longer than even 500 years. Their bodies were much stronger and healthier than our bodies. Think about what kind of shape you would need to be in to live 900 years.

Back to the point; Cain could have married either his sister or his niece.

### **Notice Genesis 4:17b**

Cain decides he is going to build a city now. By the way this supports what I had said earlier when I said Cain did not believe God when God told him he would wonder and with no satisfaction all the days of his life.

Here is Cain's attempt to disprove what God had said. He decides to build a city where he could settle down and find fulfillment for his life. This was Cain's way of saying, "I will show God and all of His followers that a man can settle down without God and find satisfaction in this life".

But it is very interesting that Cain names the city after his son and not himself.

When someone in the Bible built a city or if they took over a city they always named it after themselves when it was completed. Let me show you some examples.

### **Deuteronomy 3:14**

<sup>14</sup> *Jair the son of Manasseh took all the country of Argob unto the coasts of Geshuri and Maachathi; and called them after his own name, Bashanhavothjair, unto this day.*

**2 Samuel 5:9**

*<sup>9</sup> So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward.*

**2 Samuel 12:27-28**

*<sup>27</sup> And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah, and have taken the city of waters.*

*<sup>28</sup> Now therefore gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city, and take it: lest I take the city, and it be called after my name.*

Those are a couple of examples. So when Cain names the city after his son Enoch that tells us that Cain could not finish the city. It was not named Cainville but it was named Enochburg.

Now here is what I desire for you to see. Cain was on a mission to prove God wrong. God had told him there would be no peace in his life. He told him there would be no contentment in his life apart from God. Cain basically told God He was wrong and then Cain went on a mission to show God he could have peace and satisfaction in his life. He got married and he decided to build a city where he would find peace, satisfaction and contentment. But he could not finish it which means God was correct.

Cain was under the curse and the curse was designed to drive him to God but Cain sought to soften the curse with the possessions of this life as he lived with his back turned to God. Cain would never admit it but he was empty in his life.

**Application:**

**There are 2 important points to be made here:**

1. Cain's son followed right in his foot prints. We know this because he had to step in and finish the city his father started. So Enoch was a "chip off the old block". Because his father lived in rebellion against God so did he.

**Exodus 34:6-7**

*<sup>6</sup> And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,*

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<sup>7</sup> *Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.*

Here is what I want you to see. Your sin not only has great consequences in your personal life but it has an impact on your children and on your grand children. If you turn your back upon God and you chose to live in disobedience to God then you better believe that it will not only cost you but it will also cost your children. They will follow in your foot steps and you will lead them down a path of destruction.

Think about standing at the Great White Throne and seeing you own children standing in the crowd next to you and then you ask them, "What are you doing here?" They reply, "I followed you here."

Cain's children followed him and the same will happen with you. That is one reason why you need to be saved and then live for God. The greatest thing you can give to your children is to let them see God have the top priority in your life. Let you children see you walk by faith. Don't teach them to compromise their morals but teach them to wait upon the Lord. That kind of life will speak volumes to them. You cannot say to your children, "Do as I say and not as I do." They will see straight through that and will be just like you.

2. The second point I want to make here is that you are no different than Cain and I say that because you will not find satisfaction, peace and contentment apart from a relationship with God.

You can fight against the pressures and the struggles of life but it is the curse you are fighting and you will lose. You mind find short times of satisfaction but it will eventually fade and you will find yourself on another journey to trying to find satisfaction somewhere else.

Remember the experiment Solomon did?

**Ecclesiastes 2:3-10**

<sup>3</sup> *I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.*

<sup>4</sup> *I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:*

<sup>5</sup> *I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits:*

<sup>6</sup> *I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:*

<sup>7</sup> *I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:*

<sup>8</sup> *I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.*

<sup>9</sup> *So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.*

<sup>10</sup> *And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.*

Let me remind you of the end result.

#### **Ecclesiastes 2:11**

<sup>11</sup> *Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.*

Solomon then summed it all up at the end of his letter.

#### **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

<sup>14</sup> *For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

#### **Conclusion:**

Cain's frustration in not being able to finish the city was the grace of God extended to him. That emptiness he felt was designed to drive him to God for fulfillment but Cain would refuse day after day and so he would die with a great emptiness within him.

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The frustration you feel and the emptiness you feel are there because of God's grace. He wants you to come to Him and place your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. It is there and only there that you will find fulfillment and peace.

**John 10:10**

*<sup>10</sup> The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

He also says something else to you this morning.

**John 5:40**

*<sup>40</sup> And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.*