

“THE FAMILY OF THE CAINITES”

GENESIS 4:16-24

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INTRODUCTION

One man’s wickedness, left unchecked, can and does affect generations to come. Such was the case with Cain.

How important it is to be a godly parent and a good example!

Here we see the outcome of Cain, and the development of his family and descendants.

DON’T WALK IN THE WAY OF CAIN!

CAIN

- I. CAIN’S FLIGHT (16) [Cain’s departure was both his sentence from God (11-12) and his choice.]
 - A. Place of Departure—“from the presence of the LORD”
 - He had been in the actual presence of Yahweh, now he leaves.
 - Cf. Judas—“He went out...and it was night” (Jn. 13:30).
 - Those in the Lake of Fire are in “outer darkness.”
 - B. Place of Destination—“Land of Nod” (cf. Ps. 56:8—“my wandering”—only other OT usage!)
 1. Direction—“east of Eden”; further east than the general residence of all others (3:24).
 2. Where is it?
 - No one place; it means “wandering.”
 - The region where Cain wandered; therefore given the name.
 - “Dwelt”—not referring to any permanent settlement; various temporary places in region.
- II. CAIN’S FAMILY (17a)
 - A. His Wife
 1. Who was she?
 - Another group of humans? Visitor from outer space?
 - Cain’s sister—see 5:4. Cf. Gen. 20:12—Abraham and Sarah—half-sister; 24:4—Isaac & Rebekah—second cousins; 28:2—Jacob & Rachel—cousins.
 - B. His Son [“knew”—see 4:1]
 - Enoch—means “dedication”, and thus “commencement” or “beginner”
 - Cain sees in his son a new beginning in order to overcome God’s curse.
- III. CAIN’S FORTRESS (17B)
 - A. City of Enoch
 1. Likely a mere walled enclosure with a few houses—not necessarily a big city.
 2. Much time could have passed; Cain could have had numerous descendants.
 3. How could Cain settle in a city when God condemned him to wander?
 - Motive—feeling of security; fear of retribution
 - Rebellion against God’s decree.
 - Seeking to perpetuate his family; city named after his son Enoch
 - Seeks his contentment and satisfaction from this world; security in this life’s goods.
 - Seeks to make an empty existence attractive (so with vv. 18-24).
 - Wants to perpetuate himself in his posterity—**he cannot live forever!**
 - B. City not finished or Permanent
 1. Verb is a combination of two words—“was building.”
 2. The city may have been finished and lived in, but not by Cain.
 3. The account **shows the beginnings of civilization or culture.**

4. **These people were not “Cave men.”**
- C. Greater Progress in “Civilization” among those alienated from God
 1. Addicted to and devoted to things of the world—“**Worldly**—the first example of such.
 2. Attempt to give meaning to life.
 3. Children of this world in their specialty are often “wiser than the children of light.”

CAINITES—THEIR DEVELOPMENT

- I. CULTURE [Urbanization & Agriculture--Cain]
 - A. Animal Domestication—Jabal (20)
 1. Nomadism—traveling with flocks, living in movable tents
 2. “Father of”=originator of idea, and the ancestor of all who follow the practice
 3. “Cattle”—not merely sheep, also cows, goats, camels, and donkeys (cf. Ex. 9:3)
 4. Domesticating and commercially producing animals as beasts of burden, for skins, milk, etc.
 5. Possibly used for animal food in disobedience to the command in 1:29.
 - B. Musical Instruments—Jubal (21)
 1. Originator of those who ‘grasp’-i.e. “use skillfully” **both stringed** and **wind** instruments
 - Lyre—not really the harp; harp was a later development.
 - Pipe—not the organ; merely a simple pipe or flute.
 - C. Metallurgy—Tubal-cain [i.e. “Tubal the smith”; distinguished from the one in 10:2]
 1. A “hammerer” or “sharpeners” of every cutting (engraving) instrument made out of bronze and iron; bronze was an alloy of copper and tin.
 2. No need to deny actual blacksmith work here.
- II. CHARACTER
 - A. Bigamy—Lamech (19)
 1. Origin among the ungodly
 2. Seventh generation from Adam; cf. the 7th generation of Sethites---Enoch who walked with God
 - B. Sensuality and lust (19)
 1. Marriage seemingly based on pure physical attraction.
 - a. Adah—“ornament, beauty”
 - b. Zillah—possibly = “shade” or “shelter” [her long tresses of hair?]
 2. Notice the greater prominence of women among the Cainites and the emphasis upon outward appearance.
 - C. Wealth and Power
 1. Carnal-mindedness of the whole group [cf. Naamah v. 22—“pleasant”, the goal of inventions]
 2. Lamech’s bigamy may have partial motive of more sons for larger clan and greater wealth & power.
 - D. Violence [more detail in vv. 23-24; possibly using one of the metal implements of Tubal-cain?]
 - E. Pride and Insolence [Lamech—23-24]

CONCLUSION

Here we see Technical prowess but moral failure; the story of the human race!!

Believers may use the world, but must not abuse it.

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