

GROUNDS OF FAITH CAFÉ: “Genesis” (Subtitled: Is there a snake in your Garden too?) Further subtitled: Lessons from the Garden! Lesson 7. (Gen 4:17-5:32). For lesson copies, go to <http://www.montgomerychurch.org/resources8.html>

Introduction: Last week, 4:16 closed with the “wanderer” (“*nad*” 4:14) wandering eastward (interestingly this and future references of going “east” strongly suggest moving away from God). When Cain finishes his wandering, he establishes a city in the land of “*nad*” (“wandering”). This week, we read of Cain’s lineage that follows (4:17-24). We will also makes some comparisons to the line of Seth in chapter 5 to truly delineate man’s continued degeneration as they move further away from God.

Explanatory overview: As a reminder, we continue to read a series of narratives with a common theological structure: sin - punishment - renewal. Scripture portrays Adam & Eve (chap 3); Cain & Able (chap 4); Noah & flood (chap 6-9); tower of Babel (chap 11). Each instance has similarities: sin = rebellion; God punishes; renewal = often in form of a child. The progression appears to reveal:

Characters	Sin	Punishment	Renewal
Adam & Eve	Desire to be “like God” Eating of prohibited tree	Painful childbirth; toil; hierarchical “rule”; expulsion from Garden (from God’s Presence)	Clothed in animal skins Birth of Cain
Cain & Able	Anger --- Murder	Wanderer (expelled from “soil”)	“Mark” on Cain Birth of Seth
Noah & Flood	Social violence on community scale	flood	Sacrifice; Covenant sign; Noah’s descendants
Tower of Babel	Self-gratification (name); fame	Scattering; communication confusion	Abraham

Read: Genesis 4:17-26 completely through. Cain’s disdain of and rebellion from God resulted in his becoming a “marked” wanderer – expelled from the soil he loved to till. Now we read of the effects of his character traits upon his descendants. Lamech is the primary focal point.

- **Re-read 4:17-24. At least three observations seem to stand out in these verses**
 - **With the descendants of Cain, we see the beginning of the trappings of civilization. For whom does Cain name “his” city? What specific things do the descendants invent and manufacture? What does this activity suggest to you, if anything?**
 - **From Cain’s descendants we also get the first case of bigamy (note verse 19). Now re-read Gen 2:24. Has Lamech violated God’s design? What should he expect?**
 - **As you read further in 4:23-24, we see Lamech justify a homicidal act to his wives. Re-read God’s act of grace to Cain for cold-blooded murder of his own brother (4:15). Now compare Lamech’s action (killing a man for simply wounding or striking him) and Lamech’s anticipation of God’s response in 4:23-24. What does Lamech anticipate God’s reaction to be to his murderous act? Do you think Lamech shows any respect for God in this newly advanced technological society?**
- **Read 5:1-3. In the midst of man’s continued degeneration, another child is born to Eve. What specific points of potential renewal strike you about the birth of Seth? What key point of contrast do you see within Seth’s lineage and the lineage of Cain described previously? What do you think it means to “call upon the Name of the LORD”?**
- **Read 5:21-29. Three key names stand out: Enoch, a different Lamech, Noah. If Cain’s lineage epitomized baseness, what do you think Seth’s lineage represents? This genealogy concludes with the key character in ensuing narratives – Noah. What does 5:28 say Noah’s role will be? What point (s) do you think God is making by giving us these genealogies?**