

## NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH

Series: Studies in Genesis

(Gen. 4:1 – 6:8)

### I. THE MURDER OF A BROTHER (GEN. 4:1-16)

- A. God accepted Abel's sacrifice but rejected Cain's offering.
1. Abel brings the very best of his flock but Cain just brings some of his crop.
  2. Abel apparently learned from his parents that the only sacrifice worthy of God was a blood sacrifice. E.g. when God covered the sin and shame of Adam and Eve by killing an animal and providing coverings for them.
  3. God reminds Cain that if he had obeyed God and offered the animal sacrifices God had required, his sacrifices would have been acceptable. It was not the vocation or the quality of his produce that caused God to reject his sacrifice (Gen. 4:7)
- B. Cain murders Abel – the first recorded murder in the Bible.
1. Instead of being repentant for his sinful actions, Cain becomes violently hostile toward God. Cain couldn't kill God, so he kills his brother (1 John 3:12)
  2. Cain rejects God's instruction to master sin. Cain does not take responsibility for Abel's murder and responds to God: "Am I my brother's keeper?"
  3. God places a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him (Gen. 4:15). The mark is possibly a physical or spiritual mark on Cain but it is unidentifiable now since all his descendants perished in the flood.

### II. THE PRINCIPLE OF GOD'S PATIENCE BEFORE JUDGMENT

*(2 Peter 3:9) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. **He is patient with you, NOT WANTING ANYONE TO PERISH, but everyone to come to repentance.***

- A. God is patient because He wants the maximum number of people to repent so that judgment will not come upon them – that they may be saved.

*(Ezekiel 33:11) Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, **I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live.** Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?'*

- B. This delay is a demonstration of God's great mercy. God appealed to Cain's conscience to bring him back to loving God's ways (Gen. 4:6-7)
- C. People who doubt God's love think that He is vindictive and cruel. That is a severe distortion of who God is. God does not delight in even the death of the wicked but wants all mankind to be saved. God goes to the ultimate extent to demonstrate His love for us (Rom 5:8). E.g. *Saddam's Secrets* by Georges Hormuz Sada (Thomas Nelson 2006).

### III. THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVILIZATION AND THE INCREASE OF LAWLESSNESS (GEN. 4:17 - 6:8)

- A. Several of Cain's descendants are named in the development of culture.
1. Lamech marries two women. No reason is given for this departure from God's design of marriage set forth in Gen 1-2. Lamech kills a man for injuring him.
  2. Jabal lived in tents and pioneered the nomadic life of herdsmen.
  3. Jubal was the first both stringed and wind instruments.
  4. Tubal-Cain was the first to forge tools out of metal.
- B. Cain builds a city and names it after his son, Enoch (Gen. 4:17). This brings a concentration of sin into one place. Lawlessness continues to increase on the earth. Mankind, if left unrestrained, would consume themselves with their own depravity (Gen. 6:5-6, 11).

*(Gen 6:5-6, 11) The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. <sup>6</sup> The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. <sup>7</sup> So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth-- men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air-- for I am grieved that I have made them."*

*<sup>11</sup> Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence.*

- C. The Nephilim were on the earth in those days (Gen 6:4). These could be the offspring of angels that fell from their ranks and had relations with women (Jude 6; 2 Pet 2:4) or the offspring of godly men in Seth's line who married ungodly women in Cain's line.

### IV. THE GREAT PATIENCE AND MERCY OF GOD: RAISING UP PROPHETIC MESSENGERS

- A. With Seth, we see a new line beginning, a Godly line. It was from Seth's line that men began to call on the name of the Lord (Gen 4:26). Jesus' genealogy is trace back to Adam through Seth (Luke 3:23-38).
- B. Enoch walked with God and please Him. Enoch did not experience death because God took him away when he was 365 years old (Heb 11:5; Jude 14) God raised up Enoch to prophesy to His generation that God would come to judge and deal with all ungodliness. Enoch prophesies the return of Jesus!
- C. At the age of 65, Enoch has a son, and the name given to the boy is: Methuselah. His name can mean several things, one of which is: "When he dies it will be sent," prophesying of the flood that is to come. The year that Methuselah died was the year that the flood came to the earth.
- D. Methuselah lived to be 969 years old, the oldest specific age mentioned in the Bible. Methuselah's long life is a symbol of God's mercy in stalling the coming judgment of the flood, so that people would have more than ample time to repent and be saved.