

Note

Genesis 4 – Part 1

Era	Characters	Chapters
In the beginning	God create world	Gen 1
Before 4000 BC	Adam Eve	Gen 1~5 ?
Before 3000 BC	Cain Abel Seth	Gen 4~5 ?
Before 2500 BC	Noah	Gen 5~10 ?

Summary

Genesis 4 – Part 1 of 1	3
Sin spread with beginning of murder and polygamy. To guard against envy and sibling rivalry. Music invented. Creation of metalwork escalated violence.	

Transcript

Genesis 4 – Part 1 of 1

In the next few lessons, we will cover Genesis chapter 4 to 11 these eight chapters.

We had spent a lot of time earlier, just over 3 chapters, because those are foundational. At this point we will speed up. And for some of you who may be better at listening, not very good readers don't like to read too much, I would suggest at this point you start to learn to listen to your audio Bible.

Now, in these few chapters, we will see how evil and sin spread from the Garden of Eden, the fall of man, and how it spread throughout the whole world. How violence, immorality, corruption spread throughout the whole world until it became a global pandemic of such diseases, moral diseases.

Genesis chapter 1-11, which is the end of today's study covers a wider span of time than the rest of the entire Bible. Less than 1% of the Bible covers more time than the entire rest of the Bible, and more countries than the entire 99% of the rest of the Bible. Because at this point, we are looking at the world from creation and how sins have spread after this. Genesis 12 focuses on one man and his family - Abraham, then later on one nation Israel, and later on one group of people, the church Ekklesia. So the focus, worldwide focus becomes a very narrow focus. So today we're going to cover lots of time.

What does God teach us about what happened through various characters, so we're going to study a few characters today.

The first one that pops up in Genesis 1 is Cain, the eldest son of Adam. It doesn't say much about him, but it says that Cain brought a sacrifice of the field. He was a farmer. While his younger brother Abel brought the sacrifice of the flock, possibly a sheep. And, interestingly, he not only brought the animal but he brought the animal as a sacrifice. Now you will see how do you know that? Look at Genesis 4:4. And you will see Abel brought of the first things the best of his flock, and of the fat of it. When you bring an animal of course, it is a light, the whole animal comes, the lean meat, the fat all comes together. But it says he brought the first things and of the fat of it, which means that the animal had already been chopped up into its pieces and separate different parts, separated the fat also brought along. So in other words, Abel performed what is first animal sacrifice, voluntary sacrifice in the world.

Early on in Genesis, remember God had killed an animal to give the skin to cover Adam and to cover Eve. But now, Abel did it, not God. God did not kill the animal. Abel did it. Now how did Abel know what to do? I'm very sure his father must have told his sons, Cain and Abel, "You know what God did for us. We tried to cover ourselves with fig leaves, it didn't work, but God killed an animal and made skins for us. And the only way we can approach God is through this animal that was killed to provide us a covering." So Abel then obeyed his father, and also approached God with an animal that had been sacrificed.

Cain refused to do that. And God said, and the Bible says, “God was not pleased with Cain and Cain was so angry”. How come He is pleased with my younger brother, and in a fit of envy, he kills Abel - first murder in human history. First an animal got killed in the Garden of Eden, now a man gets killed just outside the garden.

What do we learn? We learn one important truth. Envy is a huge sin. Never forget that. Many people cannot differentiate between envy and jealousy. Jealousy is I'm very angry someone took what is mine, someone text my wife I'm jealous, of course, I have right to say she's mine. Same when someone takes God's honour, God's jealous because God is the only one who should be honoured. So what is envy? Envy is I'm angry someone has something that I don't have. It's not mine, but he's got more than me. So envy is a sin. Jealousy is not a sin. God is a jealous God. And you should be jealous for your wife ; jealous for your reputation, because it's yours.

Our second truth we learn is sibling rivalry. First one, be careful of envy is always in our awful human nature. Second, sibling rivalry and you see this repeated over and over again. Be careful parents. This is a sin, a problem that affects your family.

Another truth we see here is God chose Abel. Abel was favoured above his older brother. And you'll find that often, for example, Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau, Joseph over all his brothers, why does God do this? Because God wants us to know that we don't have a natural right to God, it's God's choice. We don't have a natural right. People may think, “Oh my father is a pastor so I should be the next pastor.” There's no natural right. These are some seed truths you can just ponder about.

The next character we see here in Genesis chapter 4 is a guy called Lamech, not well known. Lamech was just a few generations after Adam. He was the first man to take two wives. And this is where polygamy began. Up to this point I believe everybody knew God made one wife for Adam to love her, cherish her. Lamech took two, and from then on polygamy became very common affecting almost everybody including the patriarchs, including David, Solomon, everybody. Women from now on not was someone you cherish but someone you own as property. If I'm a rich guy, I'm a powerful guy, I could own more sheep, I could get more wives. And so that became part of human culture. Almost every society has accepted that women are like men's property. Very sad right? So Lamech begins this. You see Lamech had some kids. One of them was called Jubal. And he invented music that's very nice and you'll find that music is in the heart of God, God is musical, you will find that out. And music is found in every culture, however primitive. Jubal, the son of Lamech, invented two kinds of instruments. One was called the harp that speaks of all stringed instruments. The other was called the organ or the pipe, windpipe. And you'll find almost all cultures, in all cultures, we have some form of a string instrument and a blowing instrument. But another interesting story of his other son called Tubal Cain. Tubal Cain invented metalwork, and from then on violence rose to a new height, because almost all weapons become much more effective in metal. Up to today almost all weapons are made of metal. Before that they use stones to throw each other. For example, probably Cain killed Abel with a stone. But from this time on, Tubal Cain on, metal became used and violence escalated.

Move on we'll learn more characters soon.