

GENESIS CHAPTERS 4 TO 11

This is a new segment covering 8 chapters of Genesis. In Genesis Chapter 3, we saw how Adam and Eve sinned and fell. In this segment, we will see how sin spread to the whole world like a pandemic with lots of violence, corruption, immorality, etc. (See Romans 5:12 too)

You should note that Genesis Chapters 1 to 11 cover more time and more countries than the entire Bible although these 11 chapters take up only 1% of the Bible.

Genesis Chapter 12 is of a narrower focus, only on an individual, Abraham whose original name was Abram. Later on, the Bible focused on only one nation, Israel. Subsequently we will see that in the New Testament, the focus was only on the Church. It begins from a worldwide view to a narrow focus as we progress through the books of the Bible.

GENESIS CHAPTER 4

There are three main characters in this chapter that we should take note of.

1. Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:2-8)

- a) Cain, the eldest son of Adam, was a farmer. Abel, his brother, was a keeper of sheep.
- b) Abel brought an animal as sacrifice to God. He even brought along the fat of the animal, which meant that the animal was killed. This was the first mention of a voluntary animal sacrifice.
- c) Earlier, God Himself killed an animal in Genesis Chapter 3 to provide coverings for Adam and Eve after they sinned and realised they were naked. Probably, Abel obeyed his father, Adam's teachings, so he knew how to bring an animal sacrifice to God.
- d) Verses 4-5 say that God accepted Abel's offering but did not give regard to Cain's offering. Out of envy, Cain killed Abel. This was the first murder mentioned in the Bible. We can learn some seed truths from this first murder:
  - i. Envy is a huge sin. Envy is not the same as jealousy. Jealousy happens when someone is taking away what belongs to you but envy happens when you do not have what someone else has. Envy is a sin but jealousy is not (See Proverbs 14:30). Our God is a jealous God and He does not want to share His glory (which belongs only to Him) with anyone else. You should be jealous about things that belong to you but are being taken away e.g. your wife or your reputation.
  - ii. Sibling rivalry is real and parents must be very careful about this.
- b) Why did God favour Abel's offering over Cain's offering?
  - i. The reason for this is given in Hebrews 11:4 which says that by faith, Abel offered a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain.
  - ii. Abel brought the firstborn of his flock and did what was pleasing to God by faith. His heart was right with God. To God, obedience is more important than sacrifice as we can see from 1 Samuel 15:22-23. Abel believed in the promise of the coming Messiah by faith, and hence his offering pleased God.

2. Lamech (Genesis 4:16-24)

- a) Lamech was the 7<sup>th</sup> generation after Adam from Cain's line.
- b) Genesis 4:19. Lamech was the first man to take two wives (i.e. first bigamy) and that was when polygamy started. Polygamy was against God's original intent to have one man and one wife when God instituted marriage in Genesis Chapter 2. Polygamy affected generations of kings and men thereafter. Women also became treated like properties to be owned by men.
- c) Genesis 4:21. Lamech had a son named Jubal who created music. God loves music. Music is found in every culture. Jubal created the harp and the pipe. All cultures have similar musical instruments of string and pipe types.
- d) Genesis 4:22. Lamech had another son named Tubal-cain who invented metal work. After that, violence was taken to new heights because most weapons are made of metal.

GENESIS CHAPTER 5

This chapter begins with the genealogy of Adam. God remembers every name and age of each person and what they did. This is a great comfort to us that our labour will not be in vain. It is therefore important for us to remember names of people also.

There are also three characters to take note of in Chapter 5.

1. Enoch (Genesis 5:21-24)

- a) Enoch prophesied that the judgement of God by the Flood would be in his generation. He named his son, Methuselah which means "When he dies, it will come". The global Flood (or the Great Flood) would happen when Methuselah died.
- b) Enoch also prophesied the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ in Jude 14-16.
- c) God always warned through His prophets before He executed any judgement. Similarly, the job of a Christian is also to warn others, who do not know Christ yet, of their impending destiny to the eternal lake of fire.
- d) Enoch was raptured because he walked closely with God.

2. Methuselah (Genesis 5:25-27)

- a) Methuselah, the son of Enoch, lived for 969 years which made him the oldest man who ever lived on Earth. Adam only lived up to 930 years of age. However, due to violence in the world, God had to reduce the years of men. Otherwise, there will be even more violence today.
- b) The name Methuselah means "when he dies, it will come". God has mercy on men, so He prolonged Methuselah's life to give people a chance to repent.

3. Noah (Genesis 5:29-32)

- a) Noah was Methuselah's grandson.
- b) He was commanded by God to build the Ark before Methuselah died.

GENESIS CHAPTERS 6 TO 9 – THE GREAT FLOOD

1. Chapter 6 shows the increasing corruption on Earth.
2. Genesis 6:1-4. The sons of God had children with the daughters of men and this resulted in children who were giants (or Nephilim). Violence and immorality became rampant. It should be noted that most commentators believe that the “sons of God’ here refer to fallen angels.
3. Genesis 6:5. The wickedness of man was great and continuous. It is like a global pandemic ALL the time.
4. Genesis 6:6 says God regretted that He had made man on the Earth and it grieved His heart. This is such a sad statement. Then the Great Flood came and God had to rebuild the world. Genesis Chapters 6 to 9 was the story of the Great Flood. Many cultures have a story of a great flood. It is not a fairy tale because specific details are given in these chapters.
5. Why was Noah chosen to build the Ark?
  - a) Genesis 6:9. Noah was a righteous man in the midst of evil.
  - b) Noah was listed amongst the heroes in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews Chapter 11. Hebrews 11:7 says that Noah warned the people of the Flood although he had never seen rain before that time. Before the Flood, vegetation was watered from the mist that went up from the Earth as described in Genesis 2:6. Yet, Noah trusted the Lord and built the Ark as God commanded.
  - c) Noah was known as the preacher of God’s righteousness in 2 Peter 2:5. He was not just an ark builder who spent many years building the ark but he also had to preach to those who asked him what he was building. The Ark was like an attraction or pulpit for Noah to attract the attention of the people so that he could warn them. God warned them for so many years before finally sending the Flood.

Five commonly asked questions about the Ark:

1. How was it possible to flood the whole world with just 40 days and 40 nights of rain? Genesis 7:11 says the following:
  - a) The windows of heaven were broken. Before the Flood at the time of creation, there was a canopy of water over the Earth. When this canopy broke, it was like a broken dam and water just poured down like a huge waterfall. So, it was not the normal rain we see today.
  - b) The fountains of the great deep were also broken. Underneath the Earth, there is a lot of water, probably more than the sea itself.
2. How could the whole Earth (including Mount Everest which is 29,000 feet) be covered? Though the Earth at that time had high hills and mountains (see Genesis 7:19-20, the Earth was much flatter before the Great Flood. It was the movement of the tectonic plates that caused very high mountains and deep valleys to be formed.
3. How could the Ark hold so many animals?
  - a) The size of the Ark was 300 cubits (length) by 50 cubits (width) and 30 cubits (height). It is interesting to note that even modern ships are built in similar ratios to be able to float.

- b) Hence the Ark could hold 70,000 animals of average size.
  - c) Noah could have brought in baby dinosaurs instead of fully grown dinosaurs. While these huge dinosaurs lived very long to grow to such huge sizes, their young were relatively small.
4. How many species of animals did Noah bring into the Ark?
- a) We are not talking about species here but kinds. Each kind of animals (as in “after its own kind” which is a repeated phrase in Genesis Chapter 1) can have many species.
  - b) Noah only needed to bring the original genes of the animals of each kind. After the Flood, they could subsequently reproduce to form different species within their kind.
5. How could the Ark keep so much food?
- The answer is that most animals can hibernate and do not need much food when hibernating.

What happened after the Great Flood in Genesis Chapter 7?

1. The Flood lasted for 1 year and 10 days as it started in Genesis 7:11 and ended in Genesis 8:14.
2. What does the Ark itself signify?  
The Ark had 3 floors but only one door. The number 3 is the number of God. The one door signifies that there is only one way to God as in John 14:6 which says Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.
3. There were new rules for the world after the Great Flood in Genesis Chapter 9.
  - a) Genesis 9:2. Fear of man was put into every animal. Before that, all the animals including the lions, were pets of man. Now animals run away from man unless they are cornered or starving.
  - b) Genesis 9:3. Animals became a source of food for man. Before that, man only ate vegetation. As in Genesis 1:29-30, man did not kill animals for food.
  - c) Genesis 9:4-6. Man was explicitly told by God that they cannot eat blood. This means that animals should be killed to drain out the blood first before their flesh can be eaten. This is because life of the flesh is in the blood as in Leviticus 17:11. Blood is sacred, and the blood of Christ cleanses us, and blood speaks of the Cross.
4. Genesis 9:20-23. Noah failed after the Flood. He became drunk from wine after he grew grapes. He was naked in his tent. Even the most righteous man can and will fail.
5. Genesis 10. Then the world was filled by the 3 sons of Noah.
  - a) Shem became the father of the Semitic tribes or Jews.
  - b) Japheth’s descendants populated Europe.
  - c) Ham’s descendants were listed in verse 17. The “Sinite” here refers to the ancestors of the Sino people or the Chinese.

It should be noted that skin colour is only a tiny part of our DNA that results in different races. Hence, there is no reason to think that the white race is more superior to the black.

6. Genesis 11:1-9. Nimrod, a descendant of Ham was a mighty hunter (see Genesis 10:8-12) and he discovered how to make bricks. Nimrod gathered the people together to build the Tower of Babel so as to prevent people from scattering. This was against God's plan of scattering them to populate the world. Nimrod wanted to be God himself. God scattered them by causing them to speak in different tongues (or languages) to populate the world as per God's plan.
7. Genesis 11:27. Abram (or Abraham) came into the picture. The Bible now began to only focus on this man, Abraham and his family.