

# GENESIS 4:14 – 5:32

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## *MORE MURDER AND THE ROOTS OF OUR FAMILY TREE*

Last week we left off with Cain complaining to God that his punishment was too much for him to bear. We too, often feel that when we are caught in a transgression that we are being punished too harshly. It is part of our Adamic nature. It is a way to deflect responsibility. It is a sign of being self-centered. It is a sign that we are not looking at our sin as God does. Instead of repenting we long to get out of the consequences.

Today we will continue with the saga of Cain. We will take back up with his conversation with God.

***Gen 4:14*** *Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me."*

***Gen 4:15*** *And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.*

We have to realize that to even suggest that God is unjust is a sin and a slap in the face of the creator of the universe.

Cain has done what his mother and father did, that is that they misjudged the character of God. How do we do this? How do we misjudge someone? We do it when we speak of someone that we do not truly know.

Cain's problem, at its root was that he did not have a relationship with God. When we fail, it is for the same reason. We are not walking with God daily as we should.

We turn our focus inward and we become the center of our own little universe instead of taking part in the universe that God created as He would have us do. Instead of focusing on God, who in turn redirects our focus to others, we slowly begin to retreat inward and become self-absorbed. We are watching it happen right in front of us here.

However, God is not interested in having Cain killed. He has attempted to work with Cain to convict him of his sin. Now Cain must pay the piper. God places some sort of mark on him so that no one will kill him.

In the next verse Cain leaves to begin his sentence.

**Gen 4:16** *Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.*

**Gen 4:17** *And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—Enoch.*

**Gen 4:18** *To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methusael, and Methusael begot Lamech.*

Cain headed east to a land known as Nod.

He had a son and then built a city named for his son, Enoch. Not the same Enoch listed later. (Built was allowed to settle in the city in his old age. *Jasher*)

To have a city you must have a viable population.

This means that the earth's population is growing fairly rapidly.

How? Longer lives = more kids

And where did Cain get his wife? (Genetic load and inbreeding, the Law)

Between verses 18 and 19 we span 5 generations.

Lamech is something of a rebel.

**Gen 4:19** *Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah.*

**Gen 4:20** *And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock.*

**Gen 4:21** *His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute.*

**Gen 4:22** *And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.*

Lamech takes 2 wives. This is the first account of bigamy. The Bible does not condone this. It just states it as a fact.

Jesus made it clear that this was not the way it was intended to be.

***Mat 19:4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,'***

***Mat 19:5 and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH' ?***

***Mat 19:6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."***

The ***TWO*** shall become ***ONE***. Not more than two shall become one.

We see more and more of this as we go deeper into the Bible. What started here with one man was a slippery slope that would engulf entire cultures so that by the time Israel gets a king, it was commonplace.

**By the time Lamech has his sons, we see that technology is flourishing.**

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Jabal - father of nomads, practiced animal husbandry

Jubal - music, taught as a science. Flutes and harps, not drums

Tubal-Cain - father of craftsman in bronze and iron.

Agriculture, arts and industry

Lamech – the second murderer

**Gen 4:23** *Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me.*

**Gen 4:24** *If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."*

Some think that he is scared. Others think he is bragging.

(According to the book of Jasher, Lamech was old and didn't see too well. He was walking through the fields with this son, Tubal-Cain when the boy saw what he thought was a wild animal approaching. Lamech killed the "animal" with his arrows and discovered it was Cain when they approached him. Lamech then accidentally killed tubal-Cain when he clapped his hands together in grief at discovering he had killed Cain.)

In any case, it is placed here in the narrative to show us the moral condition of the world at the time. It does not take long for evil to take root and begin to multiply like a plague in the population.

Now the story returns to Adam and Eve.

**Gen 4:25** *And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed."*

**Gen 4:26** *And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD.*

Adam and Eve have another son named Seth. His name means *substitute*. It's through Seth's lineage that Jesus would eventually come. Jesus is our substitute.

Substitutionary atonement. He paid what we could not.

At any rate, another life, another "seed" has been added to the "Seed War." And for that reason we see Seth's name listed in the genealogy in chapter five.

Also notice the last portion of verse 26.

"Then men began to call on the name of the LORD."

This verse has traditionally been interpreted two different ways. One is in the positive and the other is in the negative, where men began to call on themselves as

in the name of the Lord. It is possible that it is at this time that rampant paganism began to spread on the earth. I believe you can actually combine these two interpretations. The rampant spread of Paganism could have spurred a revival among true believers. We see this happen all the time. In fact we need a revival now!

Up until now worship was done in a more solitary setting. We know that a sacrificial system was in place from the story of Cain and Abel. We do not have many details, but there was a system in place. Now men are calling on the name of the Lord. A more public form of worship seems to be coming about.

This was probably brought on by the moral degeneration we read of on one hand, and also by the progress made through technology on the other.

## Genesis 5

In Genesis chapter 5 we come to the infamous “begats” of the Bible. Many people make the mistake of reading through these quickly or skipping them altogether. This is a mistake. Though some parts of the Bible are more exciting than others, we must remember that it is all God’s word. Everything is in there for a reason. When we come to grips with this fact we open ourselves up to a whole new realm of Bible study.

The first thing that tends to stick out to the first-time reader is the longevity of people prior to the flood. The reason for this as discussed in chapter 1 is that atmospheric conditions prior to the flood were much different from the present. The long life spans of the *antediluvians* seem to wreak havoc on the belief system of some people. For this reason, the credibility of the Old Testament genealogies has been called into question. We should however, take the Bible as a whole, comparing all of primeval history with the entire body of evidence to see if it plausible. To the Biblicist, the longevity of the antediluvians isn’t hard to swallow. As has been said regarding the miracles of Jesus, once you accept the resurrection, everything else is just a sideshow. Once again, if the world was as chapter 1 said it was, then it is perfectly plausible that people once lived much longer. In fact anthropology tells us just that. The Assyrians, Egyptians, Chinese, Greeks and Romans also have lists of kings that lived exceptionally long lives.

We should also ask ourselves why we shouldn't accept the genealogies as fact. To answer this question we need to take into account how important these genealogies were/ are to the Jewish people. It was, and still is very important for Israelites to be able to trace their ancestry. In fact, this is important to most tribal peoples. When Israel took possession of the Promised Land, the land was divided up according to tribes. The laws of Israel were set up to insure that no matter what happened, the land would stay within that tribe. You were only eligible to be a priest if you were born into the tribe of Levi. Therefore being able to trace your lineage was a very important part of being an Israelite.

We should also take into account that God is putting together the annals of history for us. Why would He put false information into His Word? Why would He try to confuse us through the very vehicle He has chosen to teach us? These 2 questions tend to bring something else to the surface. Those that don't believe we should trust the genealogies, also tend to question the inspiration of the Bible. Many of them hold that while portions of the Bible are inspired others are not. Who gets to determine what is and what is not inspired, fallen man? Therefore our view of scripture and its inspiration determines how we look at this chapter of God's Word.

We have already discussed the term *toledoth*. It is in effect a signature. We first saw this in Genesis 2:4. We see it again here in Genesis 5:1.

***Genesis 5:1 ( KJV ) <sup>1</sup>This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;***

The phrase, " book of the generations of Adam," is the toledoth. It is here that the record of Adam and his family is handed over to Noah. The next toledoth is seen in Genesis 6:9. Adam, or some trusted family member, possibly Seth, kept this information and handed it over to Noah who would have brought it through the

flood on the ark. Eventually these records were given to Moses and put in the book of Genesis.

***Genesis 5:2 ( KJV ) <sup>2</sup>Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.***

In this verse we see the word *Adam* used in the plural. The Hebrew word *Adawm* means man. It is also used as the name of the first man, Adam. Now we see how Adam's family tree is recorded.

***Genesis 5:3-5 ( KJV ) <sup>3</sup>And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth: <sup>4</sup>And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters: <sup>5</sup>And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.***

At this point we begin to see a pattern that will continue throughout the duration of the chapter. Notice that Seth is the first recorded son of Adam. Cain and Abel are not mentioned at all. This is because Seth is the son from which the seed line from Adam to Jesus will be traced. The term *begat* means to bear young. We can, because of the structure of the verses determine the length of time between Adam, the beginning of the world and certain events and peoples in the Bible.

***Genesis 5:6-17 ( KJV ) <sup>6</sup>And Seth lived an hundred and five years, and begat Enos: <sup>7</sup>And Seth lived after he begat Enos eight hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters: <sup>8</sup>And all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years: and he died. <sup>9</sup>And Enos lived ninety years, and begat Cainan: <sup>10</sup>And Enos lived after he begat Cainan eight hundred and fifteen years, and begat sons and daughters: <sup>11</sup>And all the days of Enos were nine hundred and five years: and he died. <sup>12</sup>And Cainan lived seventy years, and begat Mahalaleel: <sup>13</sup>And Cainan lived after he begat Mahalaleel eight hundred and***

*forty years, and begat sons and daughters: <sup>14</sup>And all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years: and he died. <sup>15</sup>And Mahalaleel lived sixty and five years, and begat Jared: <sup>16</sup>And Mahalaleel lived after he begat Jared eight hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters: <sup>17</sup>And all the days of Mahalaleel were eight hundred ninety and five years: and he died.*

Once again the pattern is obvious. Also note that the youngest recorded age at which a man fathers a child is 65. This doesn't necessarily mean that children weren't born to men at an earlier age, but it does set a precedent which infers that the maturation process of man at that time was much slower. This was confirmed by the findings of the orthodontist Jack Cuzzo as he studied the skulls of Neanderthals (1).

Now we read about one of the most famous and intriguing people in the Bible.

*Genesis 5:18-24 ( KJV ) <sup>18</sup>And Jared lived an hundred sixty and two years, and he begat Enoch: <sup>19</sup>And Jared lived after he begat Enoch eight hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: <sup>20</sup>And all the days of Jared were nine hundred sixty and two years: and he died.*

*<sup>21</sup>And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: <sup>22</sup>And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: <sup>23</sup>And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: <sup>24</sup>And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.*

Enoch's time on earth was one of the shortest on record in the book of Genesis, excluding Abel of course. He walked this earth for only 365 years and then he wasn't, for God took him. Enoch is mentioned elsewhere in the Bible. In the Gospel of Luke 3:37, he is mentioned in the very genealogy we're studying now. In this case you have the New Testament confirming the Old. We also know that Enoch was a man of faith from Hebrews 11:5.

***Hebrews 11:5 ( KJV ) <sup>5</sup>By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.***

Enoch was translated, meaning to transfer or transport. God “raptured” him in a sense. This is a precedent for the rapture of the church. Enoch is also quoted in the New Testament:

***Jude 1:14-16 ( KJV ) <sup>14</sup>And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,***

***<sup>15</sup>To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. <sup>16</sup>These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men’s persons in admiration because of advantage.***

These verses from the book of Jude are quotations from the book of Enoch. They also give us an idea of the state of mankind at the time Enoch was here. According to ancient writings such as the book of Enoch as well as the book of Jasher, (also quoted in the Bible), Enoch was an anointed teacher of God. He was reported to have kept to himself for extended periods of time until God told him to teach all men the statutes of God. It is said that kings from all over came to hear him. Many think there is some significance to him being taken at the age of 365. Since he was said to have the secrets of the stars, some scholars believe his age is linked to the duration of the solar year. At any rate God took him and his son is said to have taken over as a great leader at Enoch’s death.

***Genesis 5:25-32 ( KJV ) <sup>25</sup>And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Lamech: <sup>26</sup>And Methuselah lived after he begat Lamech seven***

*hundred eighty and two years, and begat sons and daughters: <sup>27</sup>And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.*

*<sup>28</sup>And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son: <sup>29</sup>And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.*

*<sup>30</sup>And Lamech lived after he begat Noah five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters: <sup>31</sup>And all the days of Lamech were seven hundred seventy and seven years: and he died. <sup>32</sup>And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

Methuselah has the distinction of being the oldest man to live and die being 969. Technically, Enoch never died and so would be still “ringing in the years.” Eventually we get to Noah and his three sons in verse 32. The family of Noah takes center stage for the next few chapters.

It has been constantly stressed throughout this study that we should pay close attention to the proper nouns in the Bible, especially the Old Testament. This is especially important in the genealogy here in Genesis chapter 5. If we look closely *at the root of each of the Hebrew names* in this genealogy we find that God has placed a message there for us. These messages are there for us to find. They show us that our Bible has a super-natural origin. This separates the Bible from other so-called religious writings. Take a look at the list of names and the meanings of their roots to see the Gospel in the Old Testament.

- **Adam: (adomah) “man**
- **Seth: “appointed” (Genesis 4:25)**
- **Enosh: (from roots anash, “to be incurable”) “mortal,” “frail,” “miserable”**
- **Kenan: “sorrow,” “dirge,” “elegy”**
- **Mahalal’el: “the blessed God” – (mahalal) “blessed”; (El) the name for God**
- **Jared: (from the verb yaradh) “shall come down”**

- Enoch “commencement “ or “teaching”
- Methuselah: “his death shall bring” –muth, a root that means “death”; shalach means “bring” or “send forth”
- Lamech: “despairing” (from which we get “lament” of “lamentation”)
- Noah: (derived from nacham) “comfort” or “rest” (Genesis 5:29)

Now, if we put these all together we get a statement telling us God’s plan:

*“Man [is] appointed mortal sorrow; [but] the blessed God shall come down teaching [that His] death shall bring [the] despairing rest.”*

We can study the Word of God forever and still not plumb the depths of all that God has told us in it. (2)

#### POINTS:

1. We need to know God personally.
2. We need to know His character. This will help us in many ways. Especially doctrinally.
3. We need to take note of how easily a habit or a practice (bigamy) can infiltrate our culture and our lives.
4. We need to see that man was not backwards.
5. We need to know Jesus as our substitutionary atonement.
6. We need to know Him personally, not just on the intellectual level.
7. We need to plumb the depths of God’s Word and our relationship with Him.