

Genesis 4:16-26 – Generational Corruption

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Poole, Henry, Whyttock, JFB, Delitzsch, Trapp, Armstrong, Sailhamer, Geneva, Barnes, Poole, Eclectic, Gill, INT, Calvin?
Beloved in the Lord: **It is rare to find an airplane crash when there was just one cause.**
Almost always, there are 3 or 4 mistakes, that if one were avoided, the plane and passengers would have landed safely.

Similarly, when a society falls, it is rarely one sin!

Today we will take an excursion in Cain's family tree to show how society fell.

Our headings are:

Separation from God and God's People—Church
Leads to Corruption of the Marriage Bed – Family
Leads to distortion of Civil Justice – Government
But there is hope in the coming Savior – Jesus Christ

Our goals are: That you will **see how the sins of the father pass on to his children** and that only with the **mercy of Christ are children rescued from perpetuating that sinful generational lifestyle.**

Separation from God and God's People

16 Then **Cain went out from the presence of the LORD** and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. 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. 18 To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech.

1. Cain went from the presence of God because he refused to repent and instead criticized God's punishment of him.

He rejected fellowship with God so he went to Nod to wander. "Nod" means to wander. **God did not chase him away.** God simply described what Cain would do!

There was only one church Cain knew of, and he left it.

2. Even in the Land of Nod Cain continued to show rebellion against God.

a. Wandering from God and his church, he built and settled in a city. Yet the noise of the construction could not drown out the sound of his conscience.

(Italians like to ring loud bells whenever there is a thunderstorm to drown out the noise. But ringing bells could never stop thunderstorms.)

Noise could not drown out guilt. High walls could not protect him from sin.

b. Cain and his family perpetuated rebellion against God in the naming of their children—giving them useless names.

There were a few that were interesting: Enoch – which means “initiated,” gave the idea that Cain was doing things by himself on his own initiative, rather than on God’s direction. (There was a good Enoch!)

He **named the city Enoch**, showing pride.

Irak means “fleet” or “townsman.”

Mehujael means “smitten by God.”

But was one possible good name: **Methushael - “champion of God,” though this name could signify victory over God!**

Methushael’s son was the most wicked Lamech. Lamech=Striker down, like Cain.

3. Lessons:

a. Augustine: “Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee.”

Do you find yourself wandering from God as Cain?

Do you find you are trying to survive by yourself?

Stay with Jesus! Rest in Jesus.

In heaven you will have perfect rest.

Philippians 3:20 **For our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

b. Let God’s law and God’s worship lead your life. There is no safer place!

The church is where you are prepared for life.

c. Why didn't God kill Cain for his murder when murder brings capital punishment? A court of law conviction requires 2-3 witnesses.

None of these was available.

More, there was no lawful authority to execute.

But don't think that Cain got off scot-free.

God even marked him for his sin!

God's mark on Cain was to warn the people of the consequences of sin.

He was like a billboard - like the **young man who was convicted of shoplifting** and the judge **required he stand at the major intersection of the city with a billboard** across his chest saying that he had stolen.

c. This beast's kingdom is pictured in Revelation. It is wild.

Look at those who separated themselves from the Savior.

Revelation 16: 10 Then the fifth angel poured out his **bowl on the throne of the beast**, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they **gnawed their tongues because of the pain**. 11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, **and did not repent of their deeds.**

Leads to Corruption of the marriage bed- Family

19 Then **Lamech** took for himself two wives: the name of one was **Adah**, and the name of the second was **Zillah**. 20 And Adah bore **Jabal**. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21 His brother's name was **Jubal**. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute. 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**.

1. Lamech, the great, great grandson of Cain then changed God's law on marriage – a law which clearly stated:

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall **leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife**, and they shall become one flesh.

2. Lamech decided on his own he wanted to multiply wives and married Adah and Zillah.

This was not surprising. **Lamech means “striker down” or “wild one.”** Maybe Lamech thought enjoying the pleasure of multiple wives would drown out the sound of his rebellion against God in his heart.

Adah means “beauty” or ornament.

Zillah means “Light (colored) one.” She was likely a singer.

There is implied lust in their names. They were only outwardly beautiful.

They rejected the principles of Scriptures!

1Peter 3: 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— **4** rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. **5** For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God **also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,**

3. Then Lamech named his children:

Jabal means “stream” implying wandering. He was the inventor of the art of keeping and managing cattle.

Jubal, which means “music,” suggesting entertainment. He built musical instruments.

Tubal Cain, who was the father of metallurgy. He developed the use of metal, even the mixture of metals (alloys).

Naamah—a daughter, means “beauty,” or charms.

There is nothing wrong with arts as long as they are for God’s glory, but Lamech cared nothing about the glory of God.

Scholars estimate there were more than 1,000,000 people in the world during the time of Lamech, mostly bad people.

4. Lessons:

a. There are only 2 types of people in the world, those who serve God through Christ and those who do not!

There are no half-good people in God's eyes!

b. Let your marriage be pure.

Live clean lives **before marriage.**

Live clean lives **after marriage.**

Nothing destroys the church and society faster than mixed marriages.

Marriage is not to ever to be used to escape a home or escape poverty.

Marriage must be pure for the married persons to work together for the glory of God.

Polygamous marriages are harmful. Remember Solomon!

No family that is outside of one man one woman in submission to God can be a stable family.

c. Wealth, as Cain's family accumulated, was not a symbol of God's blessings.

So don't equate Western prosperity with the approbation of God.

Wealth could sometimes be the reflection of corruption and abuse.

d. Don't let entertainment take your heart away from God. Enjoy art and music, but **don't make them gods.**

Leads to Distortion of Justice (Civil Government)

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.

1. Lamech followed the way of Cain – the killer of his brother – and he too murdered the innocent.

Jude 1:11 - Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

2. And he wrote a song to celebrate his murder!

Adam sang a song to Eve with hope and expectation, but Cain's line sang a song of revenge, cruelty, and vain boasting.

But this was more serious than it appears. **Lamech murdered a man for mere injury.**

According to Jewish history, this young man Lamech mentioned was **a young kid who accidentally hit him with a stone.** So see the savagery of Lamech.

Lamech was worse than Cain. He took justice into his own hands!

24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."

3. And then Lamech demanded from God (or he is willing to do it himself) 11X the revenge God promised Cain for anyone who tried to kill him, if anyone tried to kill him.

Lamech was claiming to be innocent – to be better than Cain – so in his mind, God was bound to protect him.

He argued since he had some injury from the kid, he was justified in killing the boy, more than Cain had for killing Abel.

What mocking of God!

4. This act of taking justice into his own hands was distorting civil justice – without which anarchy reigns.

That is what started to happen then.

5. Lessons:

a. When civil justice goes, everything goes. Society, unsurprisingly, collapses. This is what we are seeing in North America.

Justice has become a joke.

Innocent babies are carved with an abortionist's knife.

Murderers are coddled.

Victims of thieves are victimized twice by even having to care for their robbers.

Hurting people's feelings can put you in prison if Bill C63 passes.
An old lady just had a stroke while in solitary confinement for protesting abortions.

Arsonists are described as mostly peaceful people.
The US just passed a bill that would criminalize anyone who said the Jews killed Jesus. The Jews killed Jesus!!!

b. The solution is to fix the cause, which means the church must be strong, which means the Gospel must be preached, which means we need more faithful churches and preachers.

c. The celebration of wickedness in our society will bring God's judgment, unless there is revival.

And don't expect you will escape the effects of this judgment, even as a Christian.

It is time to wake up.

But there is hope in the coming Savior – Jesus Christ

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." 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.**

1. Even in the midst of this rebellion in the church, family, and state, God still kept his people, as he promised.

The Seed of the woman had to come. The promise of redemption had to be fulfilled. So God gave Adam and Eve another son, Seth, whose name meant "appointed." Eve was still hoping this one would be the Savior to come.

She even mentioned the fact of this being the "seed." **And she uses the singular form, as the Apostle Paul later did.**

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

2. While Seth was not the one to crush Satan's head, he was a godly man who continued the godly line.

The most distinguishing act of a godly line was worship – and **Seth's family started to worship God.**

3. Lessons:

a. God always keeps his promise.

b. As dire as the situation is today in Canada, it is not without hope.

God can yet bring revival. Don't look with your eyes. You will lose hope.

Look at the Word of God! Look at God's promises. Have hope!

c. Wherever the godly are, there is always worship! This was characteristic of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This continues to be true for God's people now!

Conclusion:

When there is a bad father, it is likely the sins will continue with the children, who can add to those sins, and so did the children of Cain! (But not all bad children have bad parents, so don't conclude that! Some children are rebels.)

And yet, there was the promise of hope. The generational curse could be broken through Christ.

So beloved in the Lord:

1. You live in a world that is increasingly evil. But God's mercy is greater than all your sins. So there is hope. The hope is in Eve's Seed, Jesus Christ.

2. Bring your children to him and nurse them with the Word. Don't let them wander away.

Bring the lost to the Seed of Promise, the Savior.

This is their only way of hope. He will break the curse. All who come to him he will never turn away.

3. When they come, the songs of their lips will be changed.

They won't sing of corrupting the family and about vigilante justice and of promoting injustice, but will sing of the joy of Jesus and of his sacrifice for sinners.

Finally, if you aren't a Christian, the Devil is your father. He will bribe you to think the whole world is about "now" – eating and drinking and entertainment and money...or he will threaten you if you don't believe him!

It is time to abandon his family and embrace Jesus. You will get a Father who truly cares...and a new family.