

Genesis 4

Verses 1 - 2

Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have obtained a male *child* with *the help* of the Lord." ² And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a cultivator of the ground.

Keeper of the sheep ... tiller of the ground

Cain became a farmer and his brother Abel was a keeper of sheep

It's interesting how fast men began to specialize in a given occupation

But it may not have happened as quickly as one might think

Cain and Abel were not the first two sons of Adam and Eve

How do we know this to be true?

Because Cain was afraid that he would be killed, following the murder of his brother

See Verse 14

Who was going to kill him?

It had to be one of his brothers that was born before him

After Cain killed Abel, Eve gave birth to Seth

Seth was born when Adam and Eve were 230 years old

Since Adam and Eve were created as adults

They could have had many children in the 230 years prior to the birth of Seth

These pre-Cain sons and daughters got married and moved away

These were the people Cain was concerned about

Verses 3-5

³ So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord from the fruit of the ground. ⁴ Abel, on his part also brought *an offering*, from the firstborn of his flock and from their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering; ⁵ but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his face was gloomy.

So it came about in the course of time

How long a time period is this? We have no idea

Cain brought an offering to the Lord from the fruit of the ground

Abel, brought *an offering* from the firstborn of his flock and from their fat portions

Both boys gave back to God of their income

What they brought was determined by their occupation

But for Cain and his offering He had no regard

Why did God not respect the offering of Cain?

The N.T. states that Abel's sacrifice was offered by faith

See Hebrews 11:4

Cain could not please God, because he was not a person of faith

See Hebrews 11:6

So Cain became very angry and his face was gloomy.

Cain had a visible reaction to his sacrifice being rejected

Cain became jealous of his Brother Abel and hated him

Jealousy and hate seem to go hand in hand

Verse 6

Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why is your face gloomy?”

Interesting how God starts a conversation by asking a question

It seems that Cain failed to answer Him

Cain had offered a sacrifice and it was rejected

There were two ways to respond to this problem

1. Get angry with God for rejecting it **or**
2. Ask God why he didn't accept it

Some people think Cain should have offered an animal sacrifice

Others think his offering was not in keeping with his income

All of this is speculation

Verse 7

⁷ If you do well, will *your face* not be cheerful? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

If you do well, will *your face* not be cheerful?

God just used another question

But He was also saying to Cain; Do what is right, and I will accept your sacrifice

And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

God tells Cain to resist sin, because that is the only way to overcome it

Verse 8

⁸ Cain talked to his brother Abel; and it happened that when they were in the field Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him

This was the first recorded murder in the history of mankind

And why did Cain hate his brother?

See 1 John 3:11-12

Because his actions were evil and his brother was righteous

Ok, Joke time

How long did Cain hate his brother?

As long as he was able

Verse 9

⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

And he said I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

Did you notice how many times the word brother was used in these two verses

Jesus taught us to pray, Our Father who is in heaven!

All of mankind is a family

It is our responsibility to be concerned for the well-being of others

See 1John 3:15 - 17

Many people reject this responsibility, but it is still true

Verse 10

¹⁰ Then He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying out to Me from the ground.

Then He said, “What have you done?

Where have we heard this before?

See Genesis 3:13

The voice of your brother's blood is crying out to Me

God sees everything, knows everything and judges everything

Verses 11 - 12

¹¹ Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a wanderer and a drifter on the earth.”

When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you;

This was in addition to the cursing of the ground for Adam's sake

This was a severe judgment because this was how he made his living

You will be a wanderer and a drifter on the earth

Cain is later represented as going out and building a city

See verse 17

So the part about being him being a wanderer seems a bit unclear

However, maybe Cain repented and God lifted the judgment from Cain

Or is there something else that can explain this enigma?

Verses 13 - 15

13 Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is too great to endure! 14 Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and I will be hidden from Your face, and I will be a wanderer and a drifter on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” 15 So the Lord said to him, “Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him seven times *as much*.” And the Lord placed a mark on Cain, so that no one finding him would kill him.

My punishment is too great to endure

Cain gives 3 reasons why the punishment was so severe

I will be hidden from Your face

I will be a wanderer and a drifter on the earth

Whoever finds me will kill me

However, the first two punishments were not set in stone

God’s mercy was still available if he decided to repent of his sin

And concerning the 3rd issue, God will soon guarantee his safety from an avenger

So the Lord said to him, “Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him seven times *as much*.” And the Lord placed a mark on Cain, so that no one finding him would kill him.

We have no clue what this mark was, but God is quite creative in what he does

After God made this promise, Cain felt safe enough that he built a city

Verse 16

Then Cain left the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

There is no map presented here because any map of the pre-flood world is more speculation than fact

Verse 17

Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and Cain built a city, and named the city Enoch, after the name of his son.

We don't know how big this city was or it's population

But there are enough descendants of Adam and Eve to build a city

Verse 18

Now to Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech.

From Enoch to Lamech was 4 generations

So how long a period was this?

Well, 4 generations in the line of Seth was 687 years

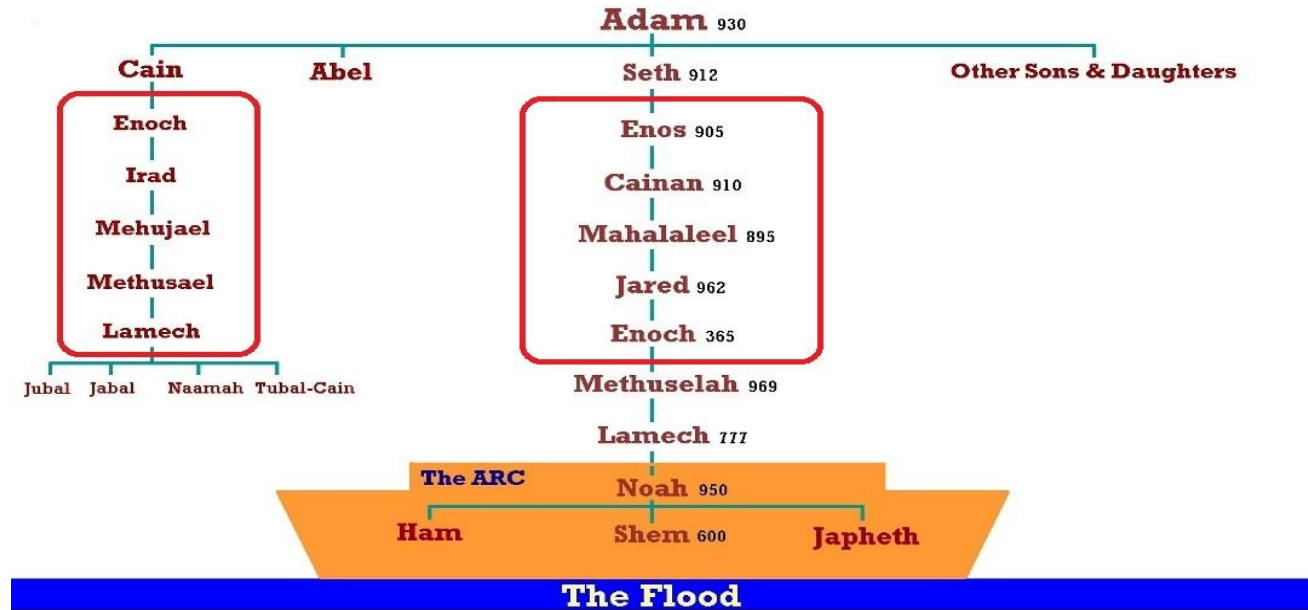
See chart 405 below

	Father	born	son	died	age
1	ADAM	5340	230	4410	930
2	SETH	5110	205	4198	912
3	ENOSH	4905	190	4000	905
4	CAINAN	4715	170	3805	910
5	MAHALALEL	4545	165	3650	895
6	JARED	4380	162	3418	962
7	ENOCK	4218	165	3853	365
8	METHUSELAH	4053	167	3084	969
9	LAMESH	3886	188	3133	753
10	NOAH	3698	502	2748	950
11	SHEM	3196	100	2596	600
	Flood	3098			

So the 4 generations of Cain probably covered about the same amount of time

See chart 410

The Geneology of Adam



Verse 19

¹⁹ **Lamech took two wives for himself: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah.**

Lamech was the first polygamist

The first to break the original intent of marriage

So far we have had a number of firsts in Genesis 3 & 4

The first sin

The beginning of sacrifice

The first murder

The first city

The first act of polygamy

Verse 20

²⁰ **Adah gave birth to Jubal; he was the father of those who live in tents and have livestock.**

Jabal became the founder of a tent-dwelling population

Interesting that a city was built 6 generations before man lived in tents

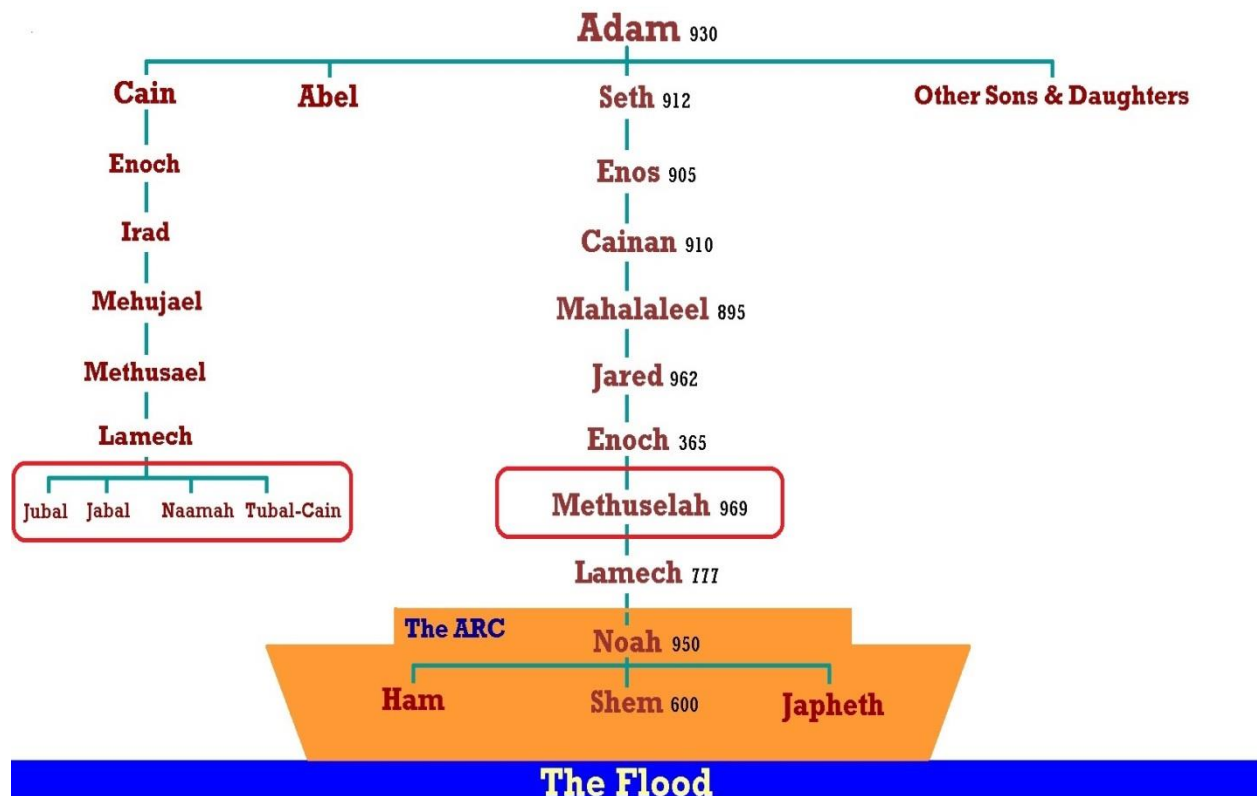
Livestock may indicate something other than sheep or goats

Verses 21 - 22

"And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of such as handle the harp and the pipe." "And Zillah, she bare Tubal-cain, the forger of every cutting instrument of brass and iron: and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah."

Jabal, Jubal and Tubal-cain lived during the time of Methuselah

See chart 415



The technical skills of mankind progressed during this time

With the making of musical instruments and metal cutting instruments

Like many inventions of humanity, the cutting tools were both a blessing and a curse.

They aided man in cultivation, building homes, and food preparation

But this was also the origin of the sword and the dagger

Verses 23-24

**"And Lamech said to his wives:
Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
You wives of Lamech, listen to my speech:
For I have slain a man for wounding me,
And a young man for bruising me:
If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,
Truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold."**

**If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,
Truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold."**

God had promised to avenge any slayer of Cain sevenfold

Lamech will execute his own vengeance

And on a scale ten times that of God

Maybe these new weapons that his son invented went to his head

But give Lamech credit for knowing his history

How many people today know what happened 1100 years ago?

Verse 25

**"And Adam knew his wife again; and she bore a son and called his name Seth:
For, she said, God has appointed me another seed instead of Abel; for Cain slew
him. And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name
Enosh. Then began men to call upon the name of Jehovah."**

"And Adam knew his wife again; and she bore a son and called his name Seth:

Now we jump back in time to 5110 BC

230 years after Adam and Eve were created

God has appointed me another seed instead of Abel

Seth was the next male child born to Eve after Cain

The evil line of mankind was charted in the descendants of Cain

Seth is a continuation of the spiritual line of mankind

And to Seth was born a son; and he called his name Enosh

Enosh was born in 4905 BC when Seth is 205

Then began men to call upon the name of Jehovah

This is now 435 years after the creation

But what does this phrase mean?

Cain and Abel offered sacrifices to God during their lives

So calling on the name of God must refer to something more than worship

Is this when man first began to seek salvation from the Lord?