



## Genesis – Chapter 4:17-5:32 The Line of Cain and the Line of Seth (Lesson #10)

17 Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. 18 To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. 19 ¶ And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. 20 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 lyre and pipe. 22 Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. 23 ¶ Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. 24 If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold." 25 ¶ And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him." 26 To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

Vs 17 - So Cain had relationship with his wife, she got pregnant, and she bore Enoch.  
Cain = "possession."

The only source for a wife for Cain would have been one of his sisters. We have no idea how many children Adam and Eve had, only that they had them (Gen 5:3-5).

It appears the Cain then worked to build a city and named that city after his son Enoch.

Vs 18 - Here the writer outlines multiple males who descended from Enoch, we would rightly assume there were multiple girls as well.

Enoch = "dedicated."

Irada = "fleet."

Mehujael = "smitten by God."

Methusael = "who is God."

Lamech = "powerful."

Why Moses chooses to capture Cain descendants, we cannot be sure. But it would seem the natural conclusion is that this section was originally written by Adam and handed down to Moses and thus we might conclude that even with his son banished, Adam still loved him and kept track of what was happening in his life. **It is a sad testimony to the destructiveness of sin!**

It does also highlight these two growing cultures, there two competing world views that are beginning to cover the globe. The seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent.

Vs 19 - Here, we are introduced to one of the sons of Methushael, his name was Lamech.

Lamech- His name means "powerful" or "conqueror."

Wife Adah = "ornament."

Wife Zillah = "shade."

Here we see the sons of the serpent doing things their own way, and now marriage created in the garden, is **upended by the descendants of Cain.**

Here for the first time, the line that has moved away from God, the line that is doing things its own way. A member of this line, Lamech corrupts the marriage union and marries two women, the first example of polygamy in the Bible.

This happens in the seventh generation. Tuck that away, we will make a comparison later.

**Vs 20-21** - Here once again, not all of the children are discussed, but instead select ones who we will trace the lineage of the expansion of the sons of Cain.

Adah (wife of Lamech) bore **Jabal (stream of water)** he was the father of nomadic herdsmen. She also bore his brother **Jubal (stream)**.

It appears that Jabal was a man who was somewhat nomadic and who had “livestock.” We assume these were for clothing and for beasts of burden.

His brother Jubal (likely twins) was the father of those who played music with instruments. It appears that he created both the string instrument (harp) and the wind instrument (flute).

As you consider ancient man, you should understand early man was anything but **primitive**. Instead, early man was very creative and intelligent. Here we have the first person who takes an interest in music and apparently creating instruments to play music on.

**Vs 22** - So we traced Adah’s two sons, we are now told about one of Zillah’s sons and his sister. The first child mentioned is a male, **Tubalcain (brought of Cain)** and a daughter, **Naamah (loveliness)**.

Tubul-Cain was a metalworker. Again, consider what we are reading about men just eight generations from when God created Adam, and we are reading about a person who “forged” instruments of bronze and iron.

Again, early man, was anything but primitive. At this point it is clear that the descendants of Cain were extremely **industrious** and **intelligent**. This would have been around 3900 BC!

Here we are told about a single sister of Tubul-Cain, her name was **Naamah**, it means (loveliness). She is mentioned in passing and that is all we know.

**But we must admit, through the disobedient line of Cain emerges some significant discoveries!**

**Vs 23** - So Lamech has a conversation with his two wives.

He says to his two wives: I killed a man for wounding me, in fact a young man who struck me.

This is the first place in the Hebrew Bible this word (translated wounding) is used, but it is the word that generally means to lightly wound or to bruise:

*“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.” (Pr 27:6 ESV)*

It seems that what Lamech is saying is that a young man somehow bruised him, we do not know the details, and Lamech killed him!

**Here we see the anger and indifference to human life that was found in Cain, is also in his great, great, great grandson Lamech.**

So, a young man bruised Lamech, possibly accidentally, we do not know, and Lamech killed him!

You should have in your mind two lineages. The ungodly lineage of Cain, moving away from God, and those who are connected with Adam and Eve and their son Seth. **Our hearts are hoping for better things in this line!**

**Vs 24** - This seems to be stated with indifference, almost bragging. If Cain was somebody and revenge was declared on his behalf, how much more me!

Here Lamech is saying if God issued a “sevenfold” decree of vengeance for anyone killing Cain, then he should enact a “seventyfold” vengeance for anyone killing me.

You should picture the pre-flood world (at least at this point) much like the wild-west. Men doing anything they wanted to do, or at least that they had the power to do.

The only restraint appears to be someone with more power. **We leave the descendants of Cain, right here...**

In the descendants of Cain, we read about human accomplishments, about polygamy, and about violence.

We read about all these accomplishments of man, with not even a hint of God unless, it is Lamech using God’s curse on Cain as a joke, indicating how bad of a guy he really was.

Now before go to the next verse (25) which flashes back to the line of Adam and Seth, I want to provide a synopsis of the Line of Cain from the **New Testament**:

**Cain** – Is mentioned three times in New Testament (Heb 11:4, I Jo 3:12, Jud 1:11). Let’s take a quick look at those references:

*“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.” (Heb 11:4 ESV)*

*“We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous.” (I Jo 3:12 ESV)*

*“Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam’s error and perished in Korah’s rebellion.” (Jude 1:11 ESV)*

**Enoch** – This Enoch is not mentioned.

**Irad** – Is not mentioned.

**Mahujael** – Is not mentioned.

**Methusael** – Is not mentioned.

**Lamech** – This Lamech is not mentioned.

**Adah** – Is not mentioned.

**Jabal** – Is not mentioned.

**Jubal** – Is not mentioned.

**Zillah** – Is not mentioned.

**Tubalcain** – Is not mentioned.

**Naamah** – Is not mentioned.

Let’s look at a quick overview of the other line:

**Adam** – (man, or man from red earth) (6 times) (Luk 3:38 – lineage of Jesus, Rom 5:14; I Cor 15:22; I Cor 15:45; I Tim 2:13; Jud 14).

**Seth** – (appointed or substitute) (1 time) (Luk 3:38 – lineage of Jesus).

**Enosh** – (frail or mortal) (1 time) (Luk 3:38 – lineage of Jesus).

**Kenan** – (acquire) (1 time) (Luk 3:37 – lineage of Jesus).

**Mahalalel** – (Praise of God) (1 time) (Luk 3:37 – lineage of Jesus).

**Jared** – (descent) (1 time) (Luk 3:37 – lineage of Jesus).

**Enoch** – (dedication) (3 times) (Luk 3:37 – lineage of Jesus; Heb 11:5 - hall of faith; Jud 14 – he was a prophet).

**Methuselah** – (when he dies it comes) (1 time) (Luk 3:37 – lineage of Jesus).

**Lamech** – (conqueror) (1 time) (Luk 3:37 – lineage of Jesus).

**Noah** – (rest) (7 times) (Luk 3:37 – lineage of Jesus; Mat 24:37-38, Luk 17:26-26 - days of Noah like coming of Son of Man; Heb 11:7 -hall of faith; I Pet 3:20 - days of Noah, II Pet 2:5 - Noah a herald of righteousness).

**Shem** – (name) (1 time) (Luk 3:36 – lineage of Jesus).

**Ham** – (hot) – is not mentioned.

**Japheth** – (opened) – is not mentioned.

**Vs 25** - As quickly as the writer had snapped to Cain, Moses now snaps back to Adam and Eve, back to those who are in the presence of Yahweh, to pick the story back up.

Adam had sexual relations with his wife (knew) (again what a beautiful description of the intimate relationship) and Eve again bore another son, this was following the death of Abel and the expulsion of Cain.

It is likely that other children were born during the years between Abel and Seth.

Following the murder of Abel and the banishment of Cain, God provides another male offspring. She named this boy Seth, meaning “**appointed**” or “**substitution.**” Did she see him as the **replacement** for Abel and possibly even Cain.

I suspect she hoped and prayed that he was the one, who was coming who would crush the head of Satan.

**For sin has wreaked havoc in her home.** One son dead, the other a fugitive on the run and living away from the presence of Yahweh!

Do you think Eve was learning, really learning how much she hated what Satan had done?

*“I will put enmity between you and the woman...” (Ge 3:15a ESV)*

**Vs 26** - Here we are tracking the lineage through a designated patriarch, through a selected son, and we are told about Enosh, who was born to Seth.

Enosh, means “**mortal**” or “**frail.**”

Now catch something that is said here, for there is widespread disagreement on what it means: **At that time, when Seth was born, “people began to call upon the name of the Lord.”**

This is a little confusing, on the face, for we would imagine that Adam and Eve were “seeking” God and Abel was clearly seeking God.

Although theologians are divided on what is being said here. **There are three explanations:**

- 1) Men began to corporately seek God (public worship).
- 2) Men began to be called by God’s name.
- 3) Men began to profane the name of the Lord.

What I believe we are being told is that it was at this time, when Enosh was born, men corporately (on the Seth) side of the equation, began to call on the name of the Lord. This was also the time where they began to identify themselves as Yahweh’s people.

Not all men, some men. Some seeking God.

The pre-flood world is being populated by two people groups, **the Cainites**, known for the **intellect, industry, pride, and violence.**

The **Sethites**, the people who are **collectively call upon the name of the Lord**, and who likely begin to **call themselves by the name of the Lord!**

We are hoping for great things on the Seth side.

Although, we are worried this will end up like Israel and Judah.as we read about in I Kings!

Here in Genesis 5 we have the **ten antediluvian patriarchs** and there are lessons we should learn:

- 1) God is **preserving** and **protecting**, he is **nurturing** and recording for future posterity the “**seed of the woman.**”
  - 2) God’s command to be fruitful and multiply is being fulfilled, and it will become even clearer next week.
  - 3) God’s curse is in effect, thus we see **death reigning.**
  - 4) The warning that there would be enmity between the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman is growing clearer by the second.
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Observations From the **Longevity Chart:**

- 1) **Adam** lived to see **eight generations**, from Seth to Lamech.
- 2) **Adam** was alive when **Lamech**, Noah's father, was born.
- 3) **Adam died** just 126 years before **Noah** was born.
- 4) **Methuselah** lived longer than anyone else recorded in the Bible: **969 years.**
- 5) **Methuselah** died the same year of the global deluge.
- 6) **Methuselah’s** name means: **When he dies it comes.**
- 7) **Noah** is the first person (listed) who is born after the **death of Adam.**
- 8) **Both Enoch and Lamech** were outlived by their fathers.
- 9) When **Enoch** was taken from the earth, his ancestors from six generations back were still alive (father, grandfather, great grandfather, etc.).
- 10) For some reason Lamech only lived 777 years (short by comparison).
- 11) Lamech died approximately 5 years before the flood.
- 12) God wrapped up all the patriarchs (Seth line) prior to the flood, with the exception of Noah.
- 13) The average lifespan of the patriarchs from Adam to Noah was 912.2 years old.
- 14) The period of viability was likely pretty long. Two of the patriarchs (**Mahalaleel and Enoch**) were recorded having a child at 65, and some could have had children sooner.
- 15) There was likely many children born to each couple.
- 16) Average life spans drop off significantly following Noah, to a lifespan that is similar to what we see today.
- 17) This means things changed during and following the flood that had a significant impact on human lifespans.
- 18) When we get to the flood, which is right around the corner, the **world** will be repopulated only with **Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth (along with their wives).**
- 19) This means that all the **human genetic diversity** is contained within this group of **8 (4 men and 4 women).**
- 20) **Notice the age of the last patriarch, down to less than 120 years.** This is an important point!

**Vs 5:1-2** Here the writer is telling us that this is the book of the **תולדה** (towl’dah) to-led-aw’, (the history of, the genealogies of Adam.

This covered all the way to the birth of Enos, which clearly Adam was alive for and could have easily written about.

The first **תולדה** (towl’dah) covered only the **creation week:**

*“These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.” (Ge 2:4 ESV)*

This **תולדה** (towl'dah) covers from Adam to Enos and marks the break of a new section, **when a new Patricarch will pick up the torch** to record history that Moses will use to compile Genesis.

If a subscript, **this was the history of Adam** (thus likely written by Adam) when **God created man**, in the **likeness of God**.

**Vs 2** - God made them male and female and God blessed them. He named them: “man.” Here we see the generic use of **אדם** (‘adam). As I told you this word can be used for the **individual Adam**, it can be used for **human males**, it can be used for **humans**.

Here it is being used for humans and Moses is about to provide us a running record from Adam to Moses.

**Vs 3-5** - We see this again, God created Adam, in his own image. Adam lived 130 years and fathered Seth.

Adam had at least two children before the recording of the Patriarch of the lineage. So for sure Cain and Able were born before Seth, and it is possible that girls were born too.

When Adam was 130, he Fathered Seth, the next patriarch. Notice Seth was a son, in his own likeness, after his image. Named **Seth** = “**appointed**” or “**substitute**.”

Did Adam and Eve see Seth as the promised substitute for the loss of Cain and Abel?

The days after the fathering of the patriarch Seth were 800 years, during which time **other sons and daughters** were born. Thus, in total **Adam lived 930 years**.

**Vs 6-8** - The second Patriarch, Seth lives 105 years and he fathers Enosh. His name = “**frail**” or “**mortal**.”

Seth lived beyond when he fathered Enosh, 807 years, during this time he had other **sons and daughters**. In total Seth lived a total of **912 years**.

**Vs 9-11** - The **third patriarch** Enosh lived 90 years and he fathered the next patriarch Kenan.

**Kenan** = “**acquire**.” Enosh lived another 815 years after fathering Kenan and had other sons and daughters. All the days of Enosh were 905 years and he died.

**Vs 12-14** - Kenan (the **fourth** patriarch) lived for seventy years when he fathered the **fifth** patriarch Mahalalel. Mahalalel = “**praise of God**.”

Kenan lived an additional 840 years and had other sons and daughters. In total Kenan lived 910 years.

**Vs 15-17** – The (fifth patriarch is Mahalalel, he lived for 65 years when he fathered the **sixth** patriarch Jared.

Jared = “**descent**.” Mahalalel lived an additional 830 years and had other sons and daughters. In total Mahalalel lived **895** years and he died.

**Vs 18-20** - Jared (the **sixth** patriarch) lived for 162 years where he fathered the **seventh** patriarch Enoch.

Enoch = “**dedication**.” Jared lived an additional **800 years** and had other sons and daughters. In total Jared lived **962** years.

Now apart from the **very long lives**, something else should be **growing apparent**. What is becoming obvious is the curse, **death**.

Each Patriarch returns to the dust from which they were taken! **Death** is a result of the **fall**, I do not believe that death was part of God's initial good creation.

**Guess what, one day it will no longer be so:**

*"3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Re 21:3-4 ESV)*

**Vs 21-24** - In Genesis 4, we learned about the seventh from Adam on Cain's side, a very wicked guy named Lamech (same name that will be given to the man who ends up being Noah's father).

Here in Genesis 5, we learn about the seventh from Adam on Seth's side, a man who was righteous. This Enoch is an amazing man who lived a life of faith!

Enoch (the **seventh** patriarch) lived for 65 years where he fathered the **eight** patriarch Methuselah.

**Methuselah = "He dies and it is sent."** Enoch lived an additional 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

But we are given a really interesting piece of information about Enoch. We are told that he walked with God and God took him! Specifically, that he walked with **Elohim** after he fathered Methuselah for the additional 300 years. In total Enoch lived **365** years.

This too **captures out attention** for it is so much shorter than the other patriarchs.

**Vs 24 – Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.** The idea of "**walking with God**" is used in other places to convey **intimacy**, and a **closeness with God** (Gen 6:9, 17:1, etc.).

**APPLICATION:** You and I should be focused on a life that can be summarized under the heading: "**He or she walked with God!**"

*"If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit." (Ga 5:25 ESV)*

*"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." (Ga 5:16 ESV)*

**\*\* Could our lives be summarized like this? If not, why not? \*\***

So, it seems on the face. That God simply **raptured Enoch away**, because he was walking so closely with God. This reminds us of Elijah, another man who was supernaturally carried to heaven and did not see death (II Ki 2:11).

Outside of the lineage of Jesus, Enoch is mentioned two additional times in the New Testament.

**First, he shows up in the hall of faith:**

*"By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God." (Heb 11:5 ESV)*

**Second, Jude tells us something else about him:**

*"14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones, 15 ¶ to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." (Jude 1:14-15 ESV)*

Now, let this second quote from **Jude sink in**. Enoch, according to Jude, was prophesying during a time of widespread apostasy.

He was prophesying to those who lived before the flood, that there was a day coming, a day when God would come with ten thousand of his saints, to execute judgment on all the ungodly.

Even though the singular seed of the woman had not come, he had not yet crushed the head of the serpent, Enoch was prophesying of His second coming. The one that you and I are waiting for!

**Vs 25-27** - Methuselah (the **eighth** patriarch) lived for **187 years** when he fathered the **ninth** patriarch Lamech.

Methuselah lived an additional **782** years and had other sons and daughters. In total Methuselah lived **969** years. **Now this captures out attention for it is the longest of all the patriarchs. But he too, died.**

**Think:** This guy given the name **“when he dies it comes”** and he lives longer than any other person recorded in the Bible. What does this tell you about our God? What does that tell you about the times?

Notice that Methuselah died, the same year as the flood. He died in **1656** years after the creation.

Was Enoch a prophet who was told of God when God would come in judgment upon the pre-flood world and he was told the year his son (Methuselah) died, it would come.

**Vs 28-31** Lamech (the **ninth** patriarch) lived for 182 years when he fathered a son, and called his name Noah.

We notice how the description of Noah changes from all those who have gone before him. **Tuck that away... It will come back around namely in Gen 6:9.** Noah = **“rest.”**

Here we have again additional commentary: **“Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.”**

So he was named “rest” because through Noah God would bring “rest.” We wonder how this might happen. **How did Lamech know this?** Was Lamech also a prophet?

Lamech lived 595 years after fathering Noah and he too had other sons and daughters. In total Lamech lived 777 years.

Not counting Enoch (for God took him), Lamech lived a much shorter life than all the other patriarchs. If we look at our timeline and do the math we will find that Lamech died around 1,651 years after creation and thus 5 years before the flood.

Look at what God has done. He has wrapped up all the patriarchs and their lives with the exception of Noah.

He is the patriarch (along with his sons) who will go through the flood.

**Vs 32** - Chapter 5 ends here with Noah being 500 years old when he fathers (likely) Shem, although Ham, and Japheth are named also:

**Shem** = **“name.”** Just in passing, it is the line of Shem that will trace to the promised Messiah!

**Ham** = **“hot.”**

**Japheth** = **“opened.”**

We are now prepared; the population is **growing rapidly**. Man is **multiplying on the face of the Earth**. We wonder, will this be like Israel and Judah, or will this be different?

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