

## CAIN, ABEL, and SETH

Adam and Eve had many sons and daughters. Eve gave birth to Cain, and to Abel. Cain became a farmer and he did not want to listen to the Lord. Abel became a keeper of sheep; he was righteous and loved the Lord.

You will remember that Adam and Eve were commanded to offer animals as sacrifices, to point them towards the sacrifice the Savior would make for them. Cain and Abel offered sacrifices, too. Abel brought the firstlings of his flock, and the Lord loved Abel and accepted his offering.

But Satan got Cain to offer instead only some grain and fruit he had grown. Is this what the Lord had commanded? No. So the Lord was not pleased with Cain's offering, and when Cain found this out, he became very angry. The Lord saw this, and He warned Cain. But this made Cain even angrier, and Cain openly began to listen to Satan. Finally, Satan and Cain formed a secret combination, the earth's first, and then Cain murdered Abel in the field.

Cain gloried in what he had done. But the Lord said, "Cain, what have you done? Where is Abel?"

Cain replied, "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

Of course, the Lord already knew what Cain had done, and He placed a curse on Cain, that he would not be able to grow food easily, and that he would be a fugitive on the earth. Cain was afraid that others (his brothers and sisters!) would kill HIM! So the Lord also placed a mark upon Cain, to warn others not to kill him unless the Lord would take vengeance upon them sevenfold.

Cain moved to the land of Nod, east of Eden, and had children and grandchildren. Among his descendants were Jabal, the ancestor of those who dwelt in tents and kept cattle; Jubal, the ancestor of those who made and played harps and organs; Tubal-cain, who taught others how to work in brass and iron; and Lamech, who continued Cain's works of murder and secret combinations. Sadly, these things were here to stay on earth among men.

This must have made Adam and Eve very sad. When Adam was 130 years old, they had another son, Seth, and he was a righteous man.

Adam was 130 when Seth was born, and died at age 930.

Seth was 105 when his son Enos was born, and he died at age 912.

Enos was 90 when Cainan was born, and he died at age 905.

Cainan was 70 when Mahaleel was born, and he died at age 910.

Mahaleel was 65 when Jared was born, and he lived 895 years.

Jared was 162 when Enoch was born, and he died at age 962.

Enoch was 65 when Methuselah was born, and he was on earth 430 years.

Methuselah was 187 when Lamech was born, and he was 969 when he died.

Lamech was 182 when Noah was born, and he lived 777 years.

Noah lived 950 years, 350 after the Flood.

Interestingly, Methuselah's name may mean "he dieth, and he sendeth out". What might this mean?

Of course, after the Flood, the only people left were Noah, his wife, his three sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their wives. They had to repopulate the whole earth!

We can trace some of the early civilizations of the world back to these three sons.

## Jacob in Egypt

Jacob and his family lived happily then, in Egypt. Jacob died there, and his body was embalmed, and then Joseph took him back to Canaan, the Promised Land, for burial. Joseph's brothers were sorry still that they had sold him, and were afraid, but Joseph said to them, "Ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good . . . To save much people alive."

Later, when he was 110, Joseph died. He had his relatives promise to take his bones back to Canaan some day.

The descendants of these twelve sons grew and multiplied and prospered. But eventually, a new pharaoh took over, who did not know Joseph, and who felt threatened by the large numbers of Israelites. The new pharaoh caused that the Israelites would be slaves, working to build treasures and cities for Pharaoh. But the harder Pharaoh made them work, the more the Israelites multiplied! God was blessing them even though they had to bear such a heavy burden.

Finally Pharaoh commanded the midwives (the women who delivered the Israelite babies) to kill all the newborn boy babies. The midwives secretly let the boys live, however, because they feared God. So then Pharaoh gave a general order that all the boy babies be tossed into the river.

## JUDGES

The years of the Judges continued. Sadly, the people of Israel were very wicked, constantly sinning and worshipping the false gods of the people around them. The Lord would allow them to be oppressed, by the Ammonites, the Moabites, or whoever, and finally the people would repent and beg to be delivered. The Lord raised up a number of strong people to lead them out of bondage or oppression in the years after Gideon, and sometimes these judges would even have success for a time, but these leaders were themselves very sinful and they and the people always fell into idolatry again. Men like Jephthah and Samson achieved temporary success, but Jephthah ended up killing his only daughter because of a foolish vow, and Samson's weakness for foreign women led to his betrayal and downfall, although in the end, he died taking a number of the enemy with him. But because of their many weaknesses, they are really not good for extended study.

## A NEW KING

Now, after Saul's disobedience and sins it was necessary to anoint a new king for Israel. Samuel asked the Lord what he should do, and the Lord sent him to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem. Jesse called seven of his fine, tall sons to pass by Samuel, but Samuel said "The Lord does not look on countenance, or height; He does not see as man does, but He looks in the heart. God has not chosen any of these. Do you have any other sons?"

Jesse admitted his youngest was in the fields with the shep. When this youngest, David, was brought to Samuel, the Lord told Samuel to anoint him, and he did. The Spirit of the Lord came upon David, and he was blessed.

## WHAT HAPPENED TO SOLOMON?

He had it all--great riches, great wisdom, many wives and concubines, a completed temple---how did it all go so wrong?

One problem was that he taxed the people severely for all of his building projects.

But the main problem was his wives. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines, many of them foreign, non-covenant women: Egyptians, Moabites, Edomites. These women brought their idolatrous gods with them---and Solomon let them. In time, he even built them places to worship their false gods!

Because of this, the Lord told Solomon that he would give most of the kingdom--10 tribes--to someone else, NOT one of Solomon's sons. He would allow Solomon's sons to keep Jerusalem and the tribe of Judah.

After a forty-year reign, Solomon died. His son Rehoboam ruled Jerusalem and Judah, but Solomon's former servant Jeroboam incited rebellion among the northern ten tribes, and they made Rehoboam king.