

Genesis 4-5

November 28, 2010

God has created the world. He placed the first couple in the Garden of Eden. They disobeyed Him; therefore mankind and creation were now “cursed”.

- Read the passage. **Romans 8:20-22.** *20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. NLT*
- What do these verses tell us? These verses tell us that creation “groans” and “suffers” because of the curse.

Look at **Romans 8:23** and read the verse. *23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. NLT*

What does this verse tell us? Here it tells us that mankind “groans” awaiting his redemption.

Turn back to **Romans 3:23**. Read the verse. *23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. NLT*

- What does this verse say about men? (All have sinned)

Turn with me and let’s read **Romans 5:12-19.** *12 When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. 13 Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. 14 Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. 15 But there is a great difference between Adam’s sin and God’s gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. 16 And the result of God’s gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man’s sin. For Adam’s sin led to condemnation, but God’s free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. 17 For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. 18 Yes, Adam’s one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ’s one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. 19 Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous. [NLT] What do we learn from this scripture?*

- These verses compare the “first Adam” by whom we all became sinners and the “second Adam”, Jesus, through whom we regain our righteous standing before a holy God.
- As we learned last week, this is why Jesus had to be born of a virgin and have a heavenly father. If Jesus had an earthly father, He would have been born with a sin nature like us.
- **Revelation 22:3:** tells us that in heaven “there will no longer be any curse”.
- Beginning in **chapter 4 of Genesis**, we will discover how the “curse” has affected our world.

If you were going to try to convince someone that all men are born sinners, what would you say?

- You do not have to teach children to do the wrong thing (lie, steal, cheat, be selfish, hate, etc.); you have to teach them to do the right things.

4:1-5: What takes place in chapter 4 verses 1 to 5?

- Cain and Abel are born to Adam and Eve. Cain offered “crops” to God as an offering. Abel killed an animal for his offering. God accepted Abel’s offering but rejected Cain’s.

Why do you think that God rejected Cain’s offering?

- God is fair and just. It only makes sense that Cain was aware of the type of offering that God demanded. Remember that God slew an animal in Eden to cover Adam and Eve’s shame, nakedness, and sin (3:21). To give crops is to make a contribution; the plants will continue to produce. To lose an animal, though, is to make a sacrifice; you lose that animal *and* it’s capability of producing more animals.

How does Cain’s “offering” to God get repeated over and over in our day?

- A host of people in our day assumes that they can serve God on their own terms. They think that they can make up the rules for following and serving God. God tells us how to follow Him and what is required of us; we don’t get to make our own rules. There is only one-way to heaven: Jesus (John 14:6). There is only one-way to salvation: surrender (1 John 2:3-6). There is only one-way to serve God: doing what He says (Luke 6:46).

4:6-8: What takes place in verses 6 to 8?

- Cain is angry that his offering is rejected and he is jealous of his brother. God warns him to control his anger but Cain kills his brother Abel.

Notice **verse 7** where it says sin’s desire is for Cain. This is the same Hebrew word used in **3:16** where God told Eve that her desire would be for her husband. The word is about control. This sin (jealousy) wanted to control Cain. As a result of the curse, women want to control their husbands.

Today you will hear people talking about “following” their “hearts” (doing what they feel like doing). We are not to follow our desires; we are to tame them. Our “hearts” are “deceitful and desperately sick” (Jeremiah17: 9). We don’t follow our desires; we must master them. Cain didn’t do this, so he became the first murderer.

4:9-16: In verses 9 to 16 Cain, like Adam and Eve, discovered that choices have consequences. What were the consequences to his sin?

- The ground would be even more cursed for Cain; he would never be successful growing crops again. Remember that he was a farmer (4:2): Cain lost his career. Cain would be a wanderer. God put some “sign” on Cain so that no one would kill him (apparently many would want to kill him, thus the need for the sign and God’s protection). Cain also *went out from the presence of the Lord*.

Genesis is a book of “firsts”; what “first do we see in verse 9?

- Cain lies to God. You can’t get away with lying to an all-knowing God.

4:17: Where did Cain get his wife?

- The Bible does not say, but the obvious answer is that she was Cain’s sister (5:4). Adam and Eve were to “fill the earth” (1:28). Today there are physical problems that result when close kin bear children. God likely suspended those laws until the earth reached a certain population level.

4:23: What is so important about what Lamech claims to have done in verse 23?

- Lamech had apparently killed two people: a man who wounded him and a boy who struck him. Lamech is an example of why we are not to avenge ourselves. We never get even; we go after more “blood” than we lost. We “kill” over a wound. This is why the law of justice...*an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth*...was given: to keep men from over-avenging their hurts. Jesus tells us to forgive. See Matthew 6:12,14-15. See Romans 12:18-21.

Why do people want to avenge their hurts rather than trust God to do it?

- Usually, we just don’t actually believe the Bible so we don’t think God will actually avenge our hurts. Some avenge themselves because they don’t think God will “hurt” their enemy badly enough.

5:1-3: Look at chapter 5 verses 1 to 3. There is a very important distinction made in these verses; what is it?

- Adam was created in God’s image (1:26,27) and in God’s likeness (5:1). Adam’s children were born in Adam’s image and likeness. In other words, they were born sinners. We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners.

5:4-32: How do we explain the Bible teaching that these people lived such long lives?

- As we discussed when we studied chapter 1, a water canopy surrounded the earth. This canopy caused the entire planet to be tropical and it protected man and the earth from the damaging effects of the sun. It is also believed that the earth had a much greater density of oxygen because of the canopy. Today, you can go to a hospital and get into a hyperbaric chamber that will increase the oxygen level in that environment three times what is normal today. This increase in oxygen level expedites healing. Professional sports teams use these to heal their athletes more quickly.

5:24: What does verse 24 tell us about Enoch?

- Enoch walked with God and God “took” him. He was taken to heaven by God and never died.

Is there anyone else in Scripture who didn’t die, but was taken to heaven alive?

- **Elijah.** See 2 Kings 2:9-11.

What are two unique things we know about the man Methuselah (me-THEW-se-luh)?

- He lived longer than any other man or woman: 969 years. He was the grandfather of the next important character in the Bible: Noah.