

## 'IN THE BEGINNING'

### *(The Origins of All Things Coming to Pass in These Last Days)*

#### Studies in Genesis 1-11

#### The Family Tree

Having been banished from the Garden of Eden, and its two trees – *tree of life* and *tree of the knowledge of good and evil*, the main tree left standing was mankind's *family tree*. The roots of the human race from *the fall* to *the flood* go back to Adam and Eve.

About 1500 years elapsed during that period of time, forming two branches of humanity's family tree – the Cain branch and the Abel branch through his brother Seth after his decease. Abel's branch apparently stayed planted close to *Eden*, but Cain's branch meandered further and further away somewhere *east of Eden*. **Genesis Chapter 4 and 5** are the official pre-flood *family tree* report of Scripture.

Certainly, many amazing things were accomplished during those 1500 years of population explosion on earth, but from God's view, the only things worth remembering from before the global judgment of God were the passing fabrications of Cain compared with the spiritual endeavors of Abel's family branch. Many valuable lessons can be learned about life choices, priorities, and eternal consequences in **Genesis 4 & 5**.

#### The Pre-Flood Family Trees

*(‘Knowledge of Evil / ‘Cain Tree’)*

**Genesis 4:16-24**

#### Cain's Wayward Lineage

*“Woe! They've gone the way of Cain”*  
(Jude 11)

*‘away from God's presence’ (4:16)*

*‘built a city in son's name’ (15)*

*‘polygamy; 2 wife marriage’ (19)*

*‘nomadic people’ / wanderers (20)*

*‘secular music / entertainment’ (21)*

*‘secular work / tools, weapons’ (22)*

*‘secular government & politics’ (23-24)*

None said to have ‘lived or died’

*(‘Knowledge of Good / ‘Abel Tree’)*

**Genesis 4:25-5:32**

#### Abel's Right Way Lineage

*“By faith ... Abel was righteous”*  
(Hebrews 11:4)

*‘out of the Garden, by Eden’ (3:23)*

*‘son (Seth) born; replace Abel’ (4:25)*

*‘monogamy; heterosexual marriage’ (5:1-5)*

*‘agrarian and shepherd’ (stabilized) (3:23)*

*spiritual awakening (4:25-26)*

*‘likeness of God’ discipleship (5:1)*

*godly sons & daughters (5:7, 10)*

All ‘lived’ and ‘died’ (5:1-32)

*Man's fabricated ‘earthly paradise’*    or    *God's favor & ‘eternal Paradise’*

## Discussion Questions:

Once people, like Cain, refuse to repent and turn to the Lord Jesus (*God's only acceptable sacrifice for sin*), their hearts harden and they wander further and further from God. At first, they gradually drift away from spiritual things thinking they might come back someday, but usually never return (*2 Peter 2:20-22*).

Those apart from God fabricate their own amusement park of alternative distractions. It is secular humanity's imitation 'paradise' full of comfortable religion, moral compromise, a job for money to spend in this 'fool's paradise' for a while here and now.

- **Discuss the choice everyone has to make** – live for this world and lose eternal spiritual blessings, or forsake the world's facades for spiritual and eternal reward (*Mark 8:34-38*).
- Notice that the righteous lineage of Abel doesn't list a lot of temporal accomplishments like Cain's descendants.
  - Isn't it probable, that because people who accomplish things of note, and worthy of reward from God, don't have time, energy, resources or interest in frivolous activity?
  - Remember how much time the Thessalonians had for spiritual growth and outreach to their community?
  - What does it take to live like 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12?  
(*See Hebrews 11:4*)
- What do you hope your descendants will remember and admire about you and your faith?  
(*See Hebrews 11:4*)

**Note:** Although people of the godly line of Seth no doubt had some great accomplishments before the flood, to God only the spiritual activities of those who lived for the Lord are worth noting and remembering:

*Seth's son*

**Enosh**

**(4:26)**

**Enoch**

**(5:21-24, Jude 14-15)**

**Methuselah**

*(his name/ 'when he dies, it (judgment) comes'*

**5:25-27)**

**and Noah**

**(5:29, 2 Peter 2:5)**