

**Christ Community Covenant Church**  
**Beginnings: The Beginnings of Humanity**  
**The Fall outside 'The Garden'**  
**Pastor Dave Scherrer - April 17, 2016**

**What is with these genealogies!?!**

People in ancient Israel, indeed across the ancient Middle East, placed great importance on who their family's ancestors were. There are other great genealogies; The Hammurabi Dynasty and the Assyrian Kings list are two. When we do our own genealogy studies of our family lines, it is usually personal and historic (Scherrer family examples) but there are other ancient purposes – military, cultural, political. It would be possible to do three genealogies of a list of Kings and have them all be very different and all be accurate. That is why we can go to the two genealogies of Christ (Matthew and Luke) and not get angina because they are different.

Our tendency is to skip over these kinds of lists but we would be missing deep truths. Paul Tournier (my favorite French physician, psychologist, and theologian – smiley face!) writes in his book *A Doctor's casebook in the light of the Bible*,

*"The Bible is personal. Whole chapters are devoted to long genealogies. When I was young I used to think that they could well have dropped them from the canon. But I have since realized that these series of proper names bear witness to the fact that, in a biblical perspective, man is neither a thing nor an abstraction, neither a species nor an idea, that he is not a fraction of the mass, as the Marxists see him, but that he is a person that God sees and knows."*

Somewhere carefully celebrated in Heaven is another list of names, another family tree of sorts, the **Lamb's Book of Life**. We read about it in Revelation 20:

**Revelation 20:11-15**

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

These lists are important and this list in particular. The Bible states that the one who is victorious in their confession of Christ ". . . **will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels**" (Rev. 3:5). I adjure you, confess Christ and hold fast to that name so that he will in turn hold fast to your name when it matters most!

One last interesting observation. There are two primary family lines here; those of Cain and Seth - Eve's first and third children. In a moment we will look at why it is that we do not look at the family tree of her second son Able but careful study will show us that the **Cainite line** is a line of unrighteousness and the **Sethite line** is a line of righteousness.

**Cainite and Sethite; Unrighteous and Righteous**

Presumably Adam taught Godly truths and lessons to both his sons, Cain and Seth. But in chapter 4 we will see that Cain chooses and acts poorly and in chapter 5 as we look at his family line there is continued evil, a multiplying evil till we get this disappointing account of his great, great, great grandson Lamech (v23);

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.*  
<sup>24</sup> If Cain's revenge is sevenfold,  
 then *Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold.*”

Evil is winning and the consequence of sin is impacting all things, even the longevity of life.

**The consequence of sin in the longevity of life**

It seems it takes a while for immortality to wear off in the lives of the early patriarchs, but as God promised, all who sin will indeed die. We can easily see the downward trend in this chart:

Adam	930
Seth	912
Enosh	905
Jared	962
Enoch	365 Heb. 11:5 “E pleased God”
Methuselah	969
Noah	950
Shem	600
Shelah	433
Reu	239
Abram (Abraham)	175
Isaac	180

But in contrast as we look at the Sethite line (Gen. 5: and we see the patriarchs that Martin Luther called *“The greatest glory of the primitive world, that it had so many good, wise and holy men at the same time.*

<sup>25</sup> 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.” <sup>26</sup> 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.***

Leave it to the line of Seth to bring in a revival in the midst of a mostly perverse world that in a deteriorating spiral thanks to the descendants of his older brother. As we shall see in a bit, it is Seth’s family tree that gave humanity their diluvium savior Noah, and eventually we see this family tree give us the last and only hope for our fallen condition now that we all live East of Eden.

I want to make a case here that the source of this evil that is sweeping over the pre-flood world is the result of thinking wrongly about God and then as a result worshiping Him wrongly. As AW Tozer said ***“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”*** If we know Him poorly we will love Him poorly and from that eventually . . . very bad things happen!

**A Failure to Worship Rightly = The Increase of Evil**

### Genesis 4:2-10

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.<sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.<sup>4</sup> And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering,<sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?<sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

<sup>8</sup> Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

<sup>10</sup> The LORD said, “What have you done?”

This passage is about obedience and worship. You thought it was about murder, well that too. The Bible is filled with these seemingly dicey stories that actually are filled with deep spiritual truths. This one is about heartfelt and obedient worship.

### Heart felt and obedient worship

This is the first account of a sacrifice being offered to God. No such thing would have been required in the Garden but now east of Eden, Able and Cain bring offerings to God. In the first read it seems as if God is simply being random or capricious, simply choosing Abel’s offering rather than Cain’s and then disciplining Cain for coming up short. But there is more to the story.

### Genesis 4:3-4

<sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought **some of the fruits** of the soil as an offering to the LORD.<sup>4</sup> And Abel also brought an offering—**fat portions from some of the firstborn** of his flock.

Cain seemed to have a bad attitude all along in this act of sacrifice. Scholars note that Cain simply brought some fruit, not necessarily the best or first. Able on the other hand brings fat portions of the firstborn. Then we see how Cain reacts to the confrontation of God by becoming angry and sullen. Yet, God handles Cain with grace and mercy it seems to me . . .

<sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

God is asking us to search our hearts in worship too. I want to follow an important rabbit trail thought right here. We have said we are a Celebrating church – that is one of the five Core Values of 4Cs. By that we don’t merely mean that we have a smile on our faces and have a happy, light-hearted countenance. Those things may be true, but what we mean by being a celebrating church is that we love to celebrate Christ! We love to glorify his name and to worship Him rightly and whole heartedly in spirit and truth. We seek to be ever mindful of Him, to have a deep and true knowledge of Him so that we can then obey him with good deeds that also give glory to our Father who is in Heaven.

I asked Gloria to sing that last worship song for a specific reason. The author, Matt Redmond was worship pastor at the church Soul Survivor, in Watford, England. The senior pastor felt that the music was dominating the worship so he did a risky thing - they took a fast from all instruments and sang only acapella. Some months later, the church slowly began to reintroduce instruments back to the church and Matt wrote these words as the Spirit led him to respond to what he had been learning from God:

### [Heart of Worship]

I think that we sometimes come here to go to church rather than to gather to worship. We look, as Cain did, for what we can get out of it rather than to offer to the Lord our very best on a Sunday Sabbath. I’m generally

in favor of coming as you are to church – I would not go back to legalistic days of measuring a person's worth by their clothes. But sometimes I lament the loss of the idea of putting on our Sunday best as an honoring thing to do for our God. Mostly as we read this next account I want us to search our hearts for what may be a casual or indifferent or undisciplined approach to church that is guilty before the Lord as evidence that we, like the ancient church in Ephesus that John's revelations speaks of have "lost our first love." Let's go ahead and look at our next story and see if we find ourselves in it somewhere . . .

God is speaking of sin as though it is almost a living, predator-like being. And indeed remember Peter's words to the church; "**Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour**" (1 Peter 5:8). Sin has become a disease, a character disorder, a cultural influence, a bad family trait, the result of a poor upbringing or the disease of affluence. But we are to hate sin, not just other's sin but our own. We want to live upright lives and then celebrate this new transformed life that God has won for us. We must be a celebrating church, but we must celebrate the right things and with the right attitude! We make every effort to worship well here. But we have to buy in if we are all going to benefit from a lifestyle of celebrating.

#### **John 4:23**

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

#### **Revelation 14:7**

And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

#### **Ecclesiastes 5:1**

Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil.

Instead what we see is fratricide, unrighteous anger and the increase of sin.

#### **Fratricide, Unrighteous Anger and the Increase of sin**

Cain lures his trusting brother into the fields and kills him and then feigns ignorance with God, as though this ruse will fool God. Evil is growing and will continue to grow in the ancestors of Cain until we read in the few verses the polygamist Lamech crow out his new standard of justice based on himself being God.

Humankind has claimed the throne of their lives to be their own gods. Evil has spread like some kind of terrible infection of death and murder. The story of God seems to be a disaster but then we read those words of the descendants of Seth, "**At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.**" And we also know about another genealogy from Chapter 3 of Luke's gospel.

#### **Luke 3 Genealogy: Son of Adam, Son of God**

In Matthew we read of Mary's lineage all the way back through King David but here we read of our salvation that He comes from a lineage that is old as time itself. We read of the lineage of his legal earthly father Joseph here and at the end of the family tree we read that Jesus is the descendent of:

#### **Luke 3:38**

<sup>38</sup> the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

The word of God has completed the circle. Adam is the first son of God, Jesus now the second Adam, sent to redeem His people from their sin and to restore worship and obedience to its proper place in the Kingdom. We have been talking about finding our story in God's story and indeed that is a good practice. We can take heart. God sent his Son into our lives. We now have hope as we find God's story breaking into our story!

#### **Hope!!! Finding God's story in OUR story!**

Our God loves us too much to leave us here to die. He has broken through into your life. He has sent His Son to rescue and to reveal to us the will and nature of the Father. Halleluiah, Our Savior rules and reigns on high and by faith in Him we can be assured that our names are recorded in the Lamb's book of life. Now that is something to celebrate!

Amen!