



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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The Journey 2018

In the Beginning

- Genesis 4:15 So Cain left the Lord's presence and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. 17 Cain had sexual relations with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain founded a city, which he named Enoch, after his son. 18 Enoch had a son named Irad. Irad became the father of Mehujael. Mehujael became the father of Methushael. Methushael became the father of Lamech. 19 Lamech married two women. The first was named Adah, and the second was Zillah. 20 Adah gave birth to Jabal, who was the first of those who raise livestock and live in tents. 21 His brother's name was Jubal, the first of all who play the harp and flute.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 4:22 Lamech's other wife, Zillah, gave birth to a son named Tubal-cain. He became an expert in forging tools of bronze and iron. Tubal-cain had a sister named Naamah. 23 One day Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; listen to me, you wives of Lamech. I have killed a man who attacked me, a young man who wounded me. 24 If someone who kills Cain is punished seven times, then the one who kills me will be punished seventy-seven times!"



In the Beginning

- Society begins to bloom – what we see happening even in a sin cursed world is what theologians began to call “common grace” in the early 20th century.
- Common grace is the term used to state that God has been, and is, good to all people of all times, and in all places.
- Fresh water to drink, warm sunshine on a cold day, laughter, friendship, creativity, and similar things have been mostly available to all people just because they are alive.



In the Beginning

- God has given mankind, saved and lost alike, this wonderful home called earth that is absolutely filled to the brim with all sorts of enjoyable and necessary things.
- Think of all of the metal that has come out of earth for millenniums and continues to come forth. Gold, silver, copper, zinc, iron and so forth.
- God placed all of those there for us to employ and to enjoy.



In the Beginning

- And then think about all of the sources there are for energy on and in the earth – wood, coal, oil, natural gas, and uranium.
- Early civilizations did not use natural gas and uranium, but they certainly used wood for fire, and then around 1500 B.C. coal began to be used in what we now call China.
- Just think of the provision for mankind – current estimates show there are 2400 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the USA alone that will last about another 100 years.



In the Beginning

- Now Adam, Noah, Moses, David, and Paul never heard of natural gas and never used it – because they would never need it.
- But we do need it and the fact that it is there for us to use as an energy source was planned by God and placed in the ground by God in Genesis 1 for when we would need it.
- Has not God been good to us and to all of mankind – you need not be saved to enjoy what God gives, you just have to be alive.



In the Beginning

- And yet mankind does not see all that God provided as coming from Him despite the mountains of evidence attesting to it.
- And why are men blinded to the goodness of God? Because of sin, they will not see.
- Today's society reveres "mother earth" as though all that we enjoy in nature has come to us from some amorphous power, or just by sheer happenstance!



In the Beginning

- Cain was a rebellious sinner, but look at the grace that God showed to him even in that state.
- He and his descendants learned to farm and they had livestock – although it was really hard for Cain to scratch out a living, it was not impossible.
- Cain's great, great, great, grandson, Jubal, was a musician and he played the harp and the flute – wonder where the instruments came from?



In the Beginning

- The instruments? These early people were no dummies – they invented their own music and designed and built their own instruments.
- What does this say about the mental faculties of those in the early years? (unsaved, but not without common grace)
- I think it says they were extremely bright to accomplish so much – in our day we build from generation to generation on the work of those before us – not so in the early days.



In the Beginning

- Cain founded his own city and named it “Enoch” in the land of Nod – in order to have a city we have to have government, or at least city leaders to preserve order.
- Another of Cain’s great, great, great, grandsons learned how to forge metal and build things – his name was Tubal-cain.
- From what I can tell, Tubal-cain means to carry on the work of Cain – sadly, while all of Cain’s descendants received God’s common grace, there is little evidence they enjoyed His saving grace.



In the Beginning

- Lamech seems to be an interesting character – he becomes the first polygamist by marrying two wives.
- And then he murders a young man, probably for a light offense and then writes a poem to his wives asserting how important he is.
- The wording of “a young man who wounded me” is such that, not even under and “eye for an eye” would have called for him to kill the young man who “wounded” him – he killed because he could.



In the Beginning

- Lamech's poem tries to romanticize how important Lamech thought he was – in effect he is saying, “I am so tough I don't have to take any stuff from anyone”.
- And then in his poem he writes that if his great, great, grandfather would be avenged 7 times if anyone touched him, then God would avenge anyone who touches him 77 times.
- What a blowhard he was – what a braggart, but wait, that's right Lamech is a sinner so what else would we expect?



In the Beginning

- Some say that the fact that Lamech wrote a poem is evidence that this early society was advanced linguistically.
- To write poetry one needs skill and command of a language in order to write rhythmically and concisely.
- So if a big bag of wind like Lamech can write in poetic form, then yes this society was rather sophisticated.



In the Beginning

- When you see verbiage in scripture offset like we have here, it is often a poem or a song.

¹⁹Lamech married two women. The first was named Adah, and the second was Zillah. ²⁰Adah gave birth to Jabal, who was the first of those who raise livestock and live in tents. ²¹His brother's name was Jubal, the first of all who play the harp and flute. ²²Lamech's other wife, Zillah, gave birth to a son named Tubal-cain. He became an expert in forging tools of bronze and iron. Tubal-cain had a sister named Naamah. ²³One day Lamech said to his wives,

Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
listen to me, you wives of Lamech.
I have killed a man who attacked me,
a young man who wounded me.
²⁴ If someone who kills Cain is punished seven times,
then the one who kills me will be punished seventy-seven
times!"



In the Beginning

- Genesis 4:25 Adam had sexual relations with his wife again, and she gave birth to another son. She named him Seth, for she said, “God has granted me another son in place of Abel, whom Cain killed.” 26 When Seth grew up, he had a son and named him Enosh. At that time people first began to worship the Lord by name.



In the Beginning

- Society was developing and advancing, and as sure as night follows day you can bet that so was sin developing and advancing.
- Seth is born as Abel's replacement, and Eve states, "God has granted me another son in place of Abel, whom Cain killed."
- It is all but certain that Seth was not their 3rd son, but he was the third one identified, and revealed to Eve as Abel's replacement.



In the Beginning

- One has to believe that Adam and Eve were ever cognizant of God's promise around the "the seed of the woman".
- It wasn't Cain – he is a rebel and even if it was going to be Abel, it wasn't now – so who then?
- God identifies Seth as Abel's replacement to Eve and she names him accordingly. (appointed one)



In the Beginning

- “At that time people first began to worship the Lord by name” – what is meant by this?
- Most commentators agree that it has something to do with worship becoming more organized, more public, and more specific as to Who is being worshipped.
- Some even think that the verse is better translated as “people began to be called by Jehovah’s name” meaning that they were now identified as God’s people.



In the Beginning

- I happen to believe that given what is going on in the unbelieving parts of the world through Cain and his descendants that the verse speaks of a moving of God in reviving His people.
- Romans 5:20 “But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more” – this is how God works.
- He does not shrink back from the sin in the world, He works to overcome it with the thing that works – grace.



In the Beginning

- Now we come to chapter 5 and we see the genealogy of Adam to Noah and on to the flood which proves out to 1,656 years.
- The years and names given here in chapter 5 further underscore that evolution is a hoax – in the evolutionists most aggressive models, 1,656 years do not allow for much.
- Again, God is way ahead of the curve – knowing that one day evolutionists will teach nonsense, He provides information to refute their claims.



In the Beginning

- Given the ages of the people who lived in the antediluvian age, it is estimated that as many as 7-10 billion people could have been alive when the flood came.
- This is possible over 1600 years because not only were people reproducing themselves, but they were not dying off for hundreds of years.
- Today we hope to see our grandchildren grow up and marry – in the pre-flood era one could see their great, great, great, great, great, great, etc ... children grow up and marry.



In the Beginning

- The chapter contains the phrase, “and then he died” eight times to remind us that even though most lived many years, death still reigned.
- Think about this – Adam lived 200 years after the birth of Methuselah. They probably knew each other.
- Methuselah lived 600 years into Noah’s life – they probably knew each other.



In the Beginning

- So why would we care about Adam knowing Methuselah and Methuselah knowing Noah?
- Because God was intentional about the transfer of the O.T. gospel that He would send a Redeemer.
- When Methuselah could get the word from Adam, and Noah could get the word from Methuselah, the message of salvation was unlikely to be diluted by passing through many hands.



In the Beginning

- The accuracy of the bible was not totally dependent on oral tradition, but by overlapping of lives so that each generation got nearly a first hand account.
- Think about the weight we assign to scripture and think about the eternal issues we commit to what the bible says.
- Does it not make sense that God would protect the book that we rely on for truth and salvation?



In the Beginning

- Another thing we learn from the biblical genealogies is that Shem outlived Abraham and they too would have known each other.
- Shem would have been able to give Abraham a first hand account of the flood.
- Shem may well have met and known Isaac and Jacob as well – so in the span of Adam, Methuselah, Noah, and Shem we get all the way from the garden to the formation of Israel.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 5:1 “This is the written account of the descendants of Adam”.
- Is it possible that Noah was the writer and took what he wrote on the ark? We know, or at least believe, that Moses wrote the Torah – since he says “this is the written account” could he have been copying a genealogy that Noah wrote?
- No way to know for sure, but it is interesting.



In the Beginning

- Genesis 5:23-24 Enoch lived 365 years, walking in close fellowship with God. *Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.*
- The first shadow of a rapture?
- Not to be lost here – Enoch is living in a world where sin is proliferating, he is living before believers were indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and he was so close to God that God “took” him!



In the Beginning

- Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
- I wonder if God is still the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”? 😊





— Genesis 8:4 —

Questions

