

Sermon for Feb 28, 2021, “From Adam to Noah”

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 4:16-18, 5:1-5 ¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. ¹⁷ Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch; and he built a city, and named it Enoch after his son Enoch. ¹⁸ To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael the father of Methushael, and Methushael the father of Lamech. 5: ¹ This is the list of the descendants of Adam. When God created humankind, he made them in the likeness of God. ² Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them “Humankind” when they were created. ³ When Adam had lived one hundred thirty years, he became the father of a son in his likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth. ⁴ The days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were eight hundred years; and he had other sons and daughters. ⁵ Thus all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred thirty years; and he died.

Introduction: Genesis and Genealogy

Genealogy is highly valued in countries like Korea, China, and Japan that have strong East Asian Confucian traditions. Genealogy informs one's identity and strengthen the sense of unity and homogeneity in the family. Genealogy is also used as a tool to show how good one's family is. When I was a child I spent time with my father to study the genealogy of our family and learn about our roots.

Genesis is a book about the beginning. Genesis shows us the beginning of the world, the beginning of mankind, and the beginning of Israel. Genealogy is also a good indication of this beginning. When we look at genealogy, we can see where our roots originate. That's why genealogy comes out a lot in the Book of Genesis.

Today's text refers to Adam's genealogy and shows what happened to his descendants. Cain's genealogy comes first, and Adam's genealogy comes up later. This is due to the tradition of biblical writings that carry important information behind them. So in the Bible, Ishmael's genealogy comes before Isaac's genealogy. Also, the genealogy of Esau appears before the genealogy of Jacob.

Today I want to compare the genealogy of Cain and Adam. And I want to preach about the genealogy we must be contained by, and how we must strive to belong in that genealogy.

Body: Genealogy of Cain and Adam

1. Genealogy of Cain

Let's look at Genesis 4:16 in today's text. **“Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden.”**

In this verse, Cain kills his brother Abel and in so doing leaves the Lord. The name Nod is said to be outside of the presence or face of God. A Church Father Origen defined Nod as the land of trembling and wrote that it symbolizes the condition of all who forsake God. In other words, it refers to when we have left God's side to be by ourselves to live our own way.

Let's see Genesis 4:17. **“Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch.”**

In fact, the Lord promised to protect Cain despite the sin of Cain, who killed his younger brother. **(Genesis 4:15)** That is why Cain's genealogy is left in the Bible. However, Cain does not trust the Lord's promises to keep him, but builds a city to protect himself. He then names the city Enoch after his son. This shows us that Cain does not seek the Lord and reveals his name to the world for fame. In contrast, Adam's genealogy shows us that the Descendants of Adam called on the name of the Lord. **(Genesis 4:26)**

Now, let's see what kind of descendants appear in Cain's genealogy. The name Lamech is found in **Genesis 4:19**. **“And Lamech took two wives; the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.”**

In this verse, Lamech's two wives' names are Adah and Zillah. Ada means in Hebrew beautiful and adorable like ornaments. And Zillah refers in Hebrew to the mellow and soft voice of a woman. Lamech received a woman with a soft voice and a beautiful face as his wife. This shows us that Lamech was a man who had surrendered to desires of the flesh.

Now genealogy tells us the descendants of Lamech's two wives. Look at Genesis 4:20-21. **“Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have cattle.” (v.20) “His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.” (v.21)**

That Jabal became the father of livestock refers to the progress of commerce through trade. It also shows us that art and culture began to emerge through Jubal. Furthermore, **Genesis 4:22 says, “Zillah bore Tubal-Cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-Cain was Na'amah.”** It tells us that Tubal-Cain became the origin of metal processing.

We can see that Cain's descendants are filled with amazing abilities. Also, we can see that Cain's descendants have accomplished very creative and amazing things in trade, art, and production. However, the nature of Cain's descendants worsens over time.

Let's see Genesis 4:24. “If Cain is avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy-sevenfold” This verse is based on God's promise that those who kill Cain will be avenged sevenfold by the Lord, but Lamech said that those who kill Lamech will avenge seventy-sevenfold by himself. This verse shows the arrogance of Lamech before the Lord.

Cain's descendants are famous and successful people. But they have no godliness for God. They also reveal their names to the world, but they do not lift up God's name. So they contribute to the development of the world, but they are not used in the work of God's salvation. After all, Cain's descendants are those who cannot be a hope in a world that is getting worse and worse by sin.

2. Adam's genealogy

In Genesis, there is a genealogy different from that of Cain. That is Adam's genealogy. Adam's genealogy tells the specific age when he gave birth to children and when he died. This is to emphasize that it is a historical fact about real people.

Let's look at Genesis 5:1-2. “This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.” This verse summarizes the creation story of man and woman in Genesis. God made men and women in the image of God and blessed people, and the result of this blessing is Adam's genealogy.

Let's look at Genesis 5:3. “When Adam had lived a hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.” This verse shows that even after the fall of man, the image of God given to man is not lost by the fall of humans. If we look at Adam's genealogy, important events take place in Adam's grandson. **Let's see Genesis 4:26. “To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time men began to call upon the name of the LORD.”**

In this verse, when the men began to call upon the name of the LORD, humans begin to regularly worship the Lord. The Descendants of Adam did not try to reveal their name to the world like Cain, but thought, exalted, and praised the name of the Lord.

And when Adam's seventh generation is reached, Enoch arrives. Enoch shown here is the same name as Enoch son of Cain but a different person. Enoch in Genesis is a person who walked his whole life with the Lord. **(Genesis 5:21-24)** Enoch's walk with the Lord means that his life was a godly life in which he had a special communion with God.

When we arrive at Adam's tenth descendant, we can see one of the important leaders in Genesis. His name is Noah. The name of Noah means "rest" and "comfort" in Hebrew. Because the Lord cursed the earth, people wanted comfort from hard work through the name. Noah was a righteous and godly man walking with the Lord. **(Genesis 6:9)**

What we can see from Adam's genealogy is that Adam's descendants weren't creative or brilliant enough to reveal their names to the world. But Adam's descendants are reverent before God. They regularly worshiped the Lord and walked with Him. Also, they waited for the comfort of the Lord, not for the joys of the world. So they were used in the work of the Lord's salvation.

Conclusion: Those who are forgiven through the love of the Lord and have eternal life

Now let's summarize today's sermon. My beloved brothers and sisters! Who do you think Christians are? Christians have no reputation to boast of in the world, no power to dominate others, no pleasures in the world, but they are those who maintain a godly faith in the Lord.

Those godly ones are not those of Cain's descendants, but those of Adam's descendants. We are in the genealogy of God's children because of Jesus Christ. Although we are sinners, we are forgiven through the love of the cross and have eternal life.

That is why we must exalt the Lord's name, walk with Him, and live righteously and reverently. Then the grace of the Lord who put us in His genealogy will not be in vain. Also, we will be used for what the Lord wants to accomplish with us.