

**"OUR AWESOME BIBLE"**

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**GENESIS 4-6 --CAIN & ABEL; THE PRE-FLOOD SOCIETY**

Once Adam and Eve are expelled from the garden of Eden, they have to settle down to a very different world—one of toil, sickness, and pain. The world was transformed to reflect “the law of the jungle” based on their decision to determine on their own what is good and evil—with the Devil’s deadly help. Truly, as Rev. 12:9 says about yesterday and today: “Satan...deceives the whole world.”

Was God unjust to punish mankind in this way? He had basically permitted all the liberty they wanted except for only one thing—not to eat of the fruit of one tree—but this is precisely what they robbed. God knew Adam and Eve were prototypes of what the rest of mankind would do. An analogy can help to better understand God’s decision to expel them. When an airplane designer wants to build a plane, he first tests his prototype in a **wind tunnel** to simulate the attitude and worthiness of the plane as it goes through the air. Then he knows how a full-fledged plane will perform. God also saw in this test the basic attitude of mankind toward temptation and sin. As the Bible says, “For **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). We read in Ecc. 7:29, “This...I have found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes [wrong things].”

Since the Bible affirms that God “has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth” (Acts 17:26), this means that through the genetic characteristics of Adam and Eve, **all of the races have sprung up**. God is the author of unity and diversity. He created the flowers of different colors, but they are all flowers. The same goes for the different races. Just as there are primary colors that can be mixed to produce the rest of the colors, so with the three basic colors of the races--black, white and yellow--all the other color tones are produced.

Regarding Eve, some recent studies analyzing the woman’s mitochondria dates her back to around 6000 years ago. In the article, “A Shrinking Date for ‘Eve,’” Carl Wieland notes, “According to one review of the data, these recent results would mean that mitochondrial Eve ‘lived about 6500 years ago’ – a figure clearly incompatible with current theories on human origins. The review in *Science’s* ‘Research News’ goes still further about Eve’s date,

saying that ‘using the new [rate of mutation] clock, she would be a mere **6000 years old**.’ (See A. Gibbons, ‘Calibrating the Mitochondrial Clock’ *Science*, 279 (5347):28-29, January 2, 1998).

Now, the habit of falling into temptation and sin is repeated with the first two sons, Cain and Abel. Genesis 5:4 mentions that Adam and Eve had many other sons and daughters, but only the first two are named in Scripture. Remember, the Bible only highlights the most important events considered by God. Hebrew tradition mentions Adam and Eve had **33 sons and 27 daughters**. Cain and Abel grew up among their younger brothers and sisters.

As the two older brothers matured, Cain became a farmer and Abel, the pastor of sheep. Both are honorable professions, but there was one problem—Cain’s growing envy of Abel’s righteousness. Abel was closer to God and had faith (Heb. 11:4), while Cain knew his attitude toward God was not correct. So instead of honoring or emulating Abel, Cain became more resentful and couldn’t stand being around him, for it exposed his evil works. As John 3:20 explains, “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Cain’s envy soon turned to hate. “And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering” (4:3-5). As Proverbs 22:27 explains, “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination, how much more when he brings it with wicked intent.”

The Bible continues: “And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the Lord said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry?...If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.’ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother, and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him” (Genesis 4:3-8).

John reveals Cain’s attitude: “For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we

should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous" (1 John 3:11). Abel's death soon became apparent and Cain was afraid for his life. He knew his brothers would avenge their dead brother. From the reckoning in the Bible, Adam must have been around 129 years when Abel was killed, for the son that replaced him, Seth, a name that means "substitute," was born a year later, when Adam was 130 year old (Gen. 5.3).

God punished Cain for this evil deed: "When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth" (4:12). Cain answered, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground, I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me." Then God replied, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him" (4:15). God had meted out the punishment, and no human should add to it.

What was Cain's mark? There is much speculation, but nothing has been clearly identified. The Hebrew term simply means a sign that identifies an object. Perhaps it was a talisman that originated the custom of hanging something around the neck for protection.

So Cain was banished to the land of Nod, that means "wandering." By now, since God had told mankind to replenish and fill the earth, the first families came from those born from Adam and Eve. Consequently, Cain married one of his sisters. He had a son, Enoch, that means "follower." Unfortunately, the Bible reveals Cain never truly repented from his sins, and began a corrupt system called "the way of Cain" (Jude 11). Sadly, most would prefer Cain's way of life instead of choosing righteous Abel's, which meant obeying God.

Josephus, the Jewish historian, mentions Cain became more corrupt and only desired worldly goods and power to satisfy his carnal lusts. He started robbing and was the leader of wicked men. To protect himself, he built a fortified city with walls. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* adds, "What becomes of a society that rebels against God

and leaves the land of blessing in angry defiance of His laws and His sacrifices? In this case it prospers. But the righteous should neither envy the wicked nor follow their way of life (Psalms 49; 73). God allows them to prosper in their earthbound way. They produce [worldly] music, [deadly] weapons, agricultural devices, and cities—an [ungodly] culture. It is their only recourse in a bitter, cursed world. Not so are the righteous. Some who traced their lineage to Seth, the replacement of Abel, began to make proclamation in the name of the Lord. These—and Noah, and Abram, among others—declared the truth to their generations."

To stress the corruption of Cain's lineage, the Bible records Lamech begins the way of polygamy by taking two wives and he also murders a man in a fight (4:23). But to offset the sad chronicle of Cain's descendants, the Bible also reveals Abel's righteous way is followed by some of the descendants of the brother who replaced him, Seth. Now, in chapter 5, Adam's ancestry through Seth is traced all the way down to Noah. Genealogies are important in the Bible, for they show these were authentic people with ancestors and descendants.

Why are the ages of these people so lengthy? Is there any evidence for this kind of longevity? Certainly, the Bible is not the only place to chronicle the longevity of man before the Flood. The Babylonians, Persians, Egyptians, Hindus, Greeks and others had the same tradition of great longevity for the earth's first inhabitants. "Berosus (300 BC), writing about Babylonian history and basing the most ancient parts on the archive in the Temple of Marduk, mentioned ten long-lived kings whose reigns were before the Flood, and after naming them, writes, 'And then the Flood overthrew the land.' The reigns of these kings, but with different names are also found in the Weld Prism and the Nippur tablets from the Sumerian civilization" (Halley's Bible Handbook).

There was much confusion about the ages of these kings given by Berosus, the Weld Prism and the Nippur Tablets. They went from an impossible 10,000 to 60,000 years of age. But recent research about the Babylonian numeric system has shed new light. Scientists have now discovered the true way to understand ancient Babylonian numerals. It is established on what they call the "system S," based on the number 60 (from where we still get our sixty

second minute and sixty minute hour). These researchers found that a Babylonian number previously written as 14,521 is really the equivalent of our 421. By dividing, we can see their 35 equals our 1. By revising the ages of the kings in the list, we see the following corrected ages:

#	Name	Place	Age	Revised Age
1	Alulim	Eridu	28,000	800
2	Alalmar	Eridu	36,000	1,028
3	Esenluanna	Badgur.	43,000	1,228
4	Kichunna	Larsa	43,000	1,228
5	Enmengalana	Badgur.	28,000	800
6	Dumuzi	Badgur.	36,000	1,028
7	Sibzianna	Larak	28,000	800
8	Emendurana	Sippar	21,000	600
9	Uburato	Shurupa.	18,000	514
10	Zinsuddu		64,000	1,828

We see that the corrected ages come out relatively close to the pre-Flood ages in the Bible:

#	Name	Age
1	Adam	930
2	Seth	912
3	Enosh	905
4	Cainan	910
5	Mahalalel	895
6	Jared	962
7	Enoch	365
8	Methuselah	969
9	Lamech	777
10	Noah	950

The figures are similar except for the last one, where Zinsuddu, also called Utnapishtim, is the Babylonian equivalent to Noah, for he weathered the Flood. Since Noah lived in the two worlds, pre-Flood and post-Flood, his figures as the great hero were exaggerated. Recent studies in genetics have shown that man could now live hundreds of years, if his genes didn't contain a type of "fuse" at the chromosome level that shortens with every cell reproduction. Eventually, around the fiftieth time, the fuse shortens to the point the cells can't reproduce anymore and death occurs. So at the

genetic level, there is nothing fantastic about man continuing to renew himself for centuries--if a type of countdown clock had not been inserted. God later said that man's life would be limited to 120 years (Gen. 6:3), and coincidentally, that is the longest a person can currently live.

In this genealogical list of Genesis 5, only two are said to walk with God—Enoch and Noah. What happened to Enoch? The Bible reveals Enoch, just as Noah, was a preacher of righteousness. We read in Jude 14: "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, 'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds... and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.'" Obviously, this type of preaching did not go over well with the corrupt pre-Flood inhabitants that followed Cain's way. Enoch was going to be martyred, but God intervened "By faith, Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death" (Heb. 11:5). So God hid him from mankind, and transported him just as He did Elijah to a hidden place. Enoch was not taken to heaven, for it says of him in Hebrews 11:13, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them." Also John wrote, "None has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven" (John 3:13).

Now, the scene focuses on righteous Noah and the last corrupt generation before the Flood. As Enoch had preached of punishment for the wickedness, so it happened. "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted [His] way on the earth" (Gen. 6:5, 12).

How did man get so corrupted? God explains: "Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful, and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the Lord said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his day shall be one hundred and twenty years'" (6:1-3).

The term “sons of God” can mean several things in the Bible. It is used of *people*, since Adam was a son of God (Lk. 3:38). Or it can also mean angels (Job 38:7). But in this context several points go against this referring to angels. (1) God says He will not strive *with man*. If the sons of God were angels, He would have striven with the angels, since they would then be responsible, but this is not the case. (2) The Bible reveals angels can’t marry or reproduce (Mt. 22:30; Mk. 12:25), so they could not have children from women.

Hence, in this context, “sons of God” means the followers of God (Dt. 14:1; John 1:12). They became corrupted by taking as wives the beautiful, unconverted daughters that followed, “the way of Cain.” We read in Genesis 5 of a lineage that brought forth righteous men such as Enoch and Noah, and says, “Then men began to call on the name of the Lord” (Gen. 4:26). The term means submitting to Him. But gradually, some yielded to their lower impulses and corrupted themselves. “What Genesis 6:1-4 records,” says Gleason Archer, “is the first occurrence of mixed marriages between believers and unbelievers, with the characteristic result of such unions: complete loss of testimony for the Lord and a total surrender of moral standards” (*Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*, p. 80).

Eventually, only Noah and his family were left that obeyed God. Like a barrel of rotten apples, humanity had totally corrupted themselves, and to save the only “good apples” left—Noah’s family—God had to clean out the barrel. It is a biblical principle that absolute power corrupts absolutely, and universal sin brings about universal destruction.

One factor that brought about more violence was the presence of giants, the *nephilim*. Vine explains, “The Nephilim...in Genesis 6:4, which indicates the existence of giants born in a manner contrary to nature (the word may be derived from the Hebrew verb *naphal*, to fall). These perished in the Flood with the rest of the race (except for Noah’s family), Genesis 7:21-23. The other passage, Numbers 13:33, indicates a similar kind of being identical with the Anakim. These are to be distinguished from those before the Flood. The records of the Canaanite nations suggest, however, that the existence of these beings indicates similar conditions contrary to nature, and not merely a race

of formidable persons of gigantic stature” (*Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*.” These impressive strong men ravaged the countryside, and their strength seemed almost supernatural. But this was not a unique situation, for Goliath was of the race of *nephilim*, and about nine feet tall. Eventually, since they did not reproduce as fast as the smaller and more nimble race, they were gradually killed off. Today we still have the Watusi race, blacks of great stature, and we also have the Pygmies, a race of tiny blacks, and yet nobody thinks much of this—but they do about these ancient giants. It is simply that in Bible times, a giant white race still existed until it became extinct.

When the Bible says “God was sorry that He had made man on the earth and He was grieved in His heart” it means He had not expected, by giving man free will that he would totally corrupt himself in this way. It hurts God to see violence and unhappiness, but it all is a result of following “Cain’s way.” He took three steps to remedy the situation. One was to limit man to 120 years. Before, violent men lived so long, they virtually had a perpetual terrorist organization. We can image in our days if Hitler or Stalin could live for 600 years—what a horrible world it would be! Thankfully, these men can only hold power for several decades before they die, and then their oppression can be eliminated.

The second thing God did was to give man about 100 years to repent before a great flood would come. Noah is called in the Bible, “a preacher of righteousness” (2 Peter 2:5). He bravely preached for a 100 years while he built the ark, for he was 500 years when he had his children and when God told him to build an ark (Gen. 5:32; 6:9-13). The Flood took place when Noah was 600 years old (Gen. 7:6). Unfortunately, he did not have one convert. The church of God was reduced to Noah meeting with his wife and children on the Sabbath. Noah kept the seven day week and the biblical food laws, as Genesis mentions on numerous occasions (Gen. 6:19-20; 7:2,4, 8-10; 8:10,12).

The third step God took was to save Noah and his family by building a giant ark. In the next presentation, we will study about the ark, its ship-worthiness, and the historical and the scientific evidence of the great Flood.