

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church
Date: November 3, 2021
Class: Genesis: From Paradise to Prison

The World's First False Religion (4:1-16)

1. The wide gate/broad road vs. The small gate/narrow road (Matt. 7:13-14). When were these two roads/gates constructed? Answer: _____.
2. This account can only be understood if two plausible assumptions are made:
 - A. An original _____ by God regarding the necessity of a substitutionary, blood sacrifice as the condition for atonement was made to Adam & Eve.
 - B. Adam & Eve instructed their two sons concerning this provision (3:21) and promise (3:15).
3. John Phillips: "There are only two ways to approach God. He can be approached the way of the _____, or He can be approached the way of _____. The one way leads straight to heaven, the other directly to _____." [Exploring Genesis. 1980]
4. The story of Cain (4:1-16) sets before us the start of the world's first false _____.

THE _____ OF CAIN'S RELIGION

Scripture teaches that there's only one way to be saved (Mt. 7:13-14; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Heb. 10:26). This one way involves all three persons of the Trinity and revolves around three focal points — the Word of God, the work of Christ, and the witness of the Spirit. Cain's religion found a substitute for all three.

1. A purely _____ scheme.
It was based not on divine revelation, but on human reasoning.
2. A purely human _____.
But there was not a single drop of shed blood anywhere (see Hebrews 9:22b).
3. A purely human _____.
Cain was satisfied, God was not. Cain did not have the approval from God that Abel had; namely, that his sacrifice was acceptable.

THE _____ OF CAIN'S RELIGION

1. _____ for the way of truth (3:8-9). Cain persecuted his brother, Abel. *Abel is the first in a long line of martyrs who have stood for God's truth (see 1 John 3:11-13).*
2. _____ from the presence of God (3:10-16).
Cain became "a restless wanderer on the earth" (4:12, 14) and he lived in the land of Nod (meaning "wandering"). Augustine of Hippo reflected the plight of Cain, and all unbelievers, when he said: "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee."

Living for God in a Pagan World (4:17-24)

1. Two ancestral lines are traced in Gen. 4 & 5. The line of Cain is described first (4:1-24). This is the line of the ungodly / the worldly. The line of Seth is described next (4:25-5:32). His is the godly line (the genealogical line that would eventually produce Noah, and would eventually produce Abraham, and would eventually produce the Messiah/Christ; see Gen. 3:15).
2. Our focus is on Cain following The Fall. The world's first false religion was est. by Adam & Eve's apostate son (4:1-16). See references to Cain in NT (Heb. 11:4; 1 John 3:12; Jude 1:11). In the remainder of chapter (4:17-24) we observe the birth of secular civilization. By the end of ch. 4 sin is no longer purely personal; it now infects human culture and all its various institutions.

THE BIRTH OF SECULAR CIVILIZATION (4:16-24)

1. _____ of a city (vss. 16-18). Why would Cain do this?
 - A. An act of _____ against God who sentenced him.
 - B. To _____ for what he had lost (i.e., paradise).
2. _____ (vs. 19).
An open attack on the institution of _____.
3. _____ (vss. 20-22).
 - A. From Jabal comes _____.
 - B. From Jubal comes the _____.
 - C. From Tubal-Cain the development of _____ and _____.
This also includes the development and use of weapons!
4. _____ (vss. 23-24).
Note the arrogance of Lamech's words, the total disdain for human life. This little ditty has been called the "Song of the Sword" because it glorifies human independence, power, & vengeance.

Don't miss the point here. On the one hand the line of Cain produces great cultural benefits & growing prosperity. Yet it is marred by self-indulgence, vanity, and unrestrained violence. Cain & his descendants gave us secular society and secular society eventually gave us Noah's flood. The followers of Cain built huge buildings, cities, & have made progress in many fields, but they leave God out of the picture. In all these thousands of years, the heart of man has not changed at all.

THE PRESERVATION OF A GODLY REMNANT (4:25-26)

These two verses help us to see how we should live in a culture that has largely turned its back on God. There are two ways we can fight back against the prevailing tide.

1. By building _____ (vs. 25)
2. By _____ God's name (vs. 26). Compare Hebrews 11:5; Jude 1:14-15.