
Timeline of Truth

Sin Spreads, and God Continues His Plan to Rescue People and to Solve Sin (Genesis 4:17-26)

Review of Genesis 1-4 (Use as You Desire, or Use Your Own Review)

1. God Creates (1:1-32)
2. God Commands (2:1-17)
3. God Joins (2:18-25)
4. Adam Eats (3:1-7)
5. God Seeks (3:8-13)
6. God Punishes (3:14-20)
7. God Promises (3:15)
8. God Clothes (3:21)
9. God Expels (3:22-24)
10. Brothers Offer (4:1-7)
11. Cain Kills (4:8)
12. God Punishes (4:9-16)
13. Sin Spreads (4:17-24)
14. God Appoints (4:25-26)
15. Mankind Multiplies (5:1-32) – next week

There are many details in Genesis 4:17-26 that we are simply not focusing on at present (Cain's location, Cain's wife, his building of a city, the activities of his descendants). We will likely return and touch upon some of them later when they are more pertinent. For now, just focus on the two major points below.

SIN: The Problem Continues and Expands

1. ***Sin began in the garden. (Gen 3:1-7)***

Gen 2:16-17 – ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Gen 3:6-7 – ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and **he ate**. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

2. ***Sin passes on right away, as shown in the first son. (Gen 4:6-8)***

Gen 4:6-8 – ⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ "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." ⁸ 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.

Cain was a sinner because sin passed down from Adam, the first sinner.

Rom 5:12 – ¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Right away sin was fully present. People didn't need many generations or lots of time to grow sinful. They also didn't need bad teaching, a bad neighborhood, or anything else to make them sinful. Cain, because he was a sinner and refused God's help, was able to murder his brother, Abel. Sin damages our hearts (makes them sinful), and all sin comes out of our hearts (because we come from Adam).

Jer 17:9 – ⁹ "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

Matt 15:18-19 – ¹⁸ "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. ¹⁹ "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

3. ***Sin expands as time goes on. (Gen 4:17-24)***

As there are more people that are born on the earth (at least 7 generations now, counting Adam), all of those people have the same sin-infected hearts, and some sin terribly. One is a g-g-g-g grandson of Cain, called Lamech. He shows that sin is still alive and well by doing even worse, going even beyond what Cain had done. Lamech defies God's plan for marriage and marries two women, and he apparently kills two men. Sin doesn't go away. It spreads and gets worse as more and more people are born, and more and more reject God.

Gen 4:17-24 – ¹⁷ And 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. ¹⁸ To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech. ¹⁹ Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. ²⁰ And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹ His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute. ²² And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah. ²³ Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me. ²⁴ If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."

1st Generation – **Adam**

2nd Generation – **Cain**

3rd Generation – **Enoch**

4th Generation – **Irada**

5th Generation – **Mehujael**

5th Generation – **Methushael**

6th Generation – **Lamech**

[By the way, most likely all these generations were still alive, because they lived longer. We'll get into that later. It is not unlikely that Lamech knew Adam and Cain personally.]

SOLUTION: God Continues His Plan to Keep the Truth Going, and by Giving Those Who Believe and Follow Him (God Keeps His Plan and Team Going)

1. **God's Seed of Promise** (our first knowledge of God's plan to send a Savior)

Gen 3:15 – ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

2. **God's Sacrificial Payment** (the first picture of the Blood Sacrifice that would come)

Gen 3:21 – ²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

3. **Adam & Eve's Anticipated Savior**

CAIN – "**Acquired**." *It's possible that Adam and Eve thought of Cain as being the seed that would wound the serpent's head. When Cain was born, they called him "given" or "acquired," understanding that he was a gift from God, but possibly "the" gift promised in Genesis 3:15. Cain approached God on his own terms (his own works, his own way), not God's terms (by believing that he was a sinner and that God required a blood sacrifice).*

Gen 4:1 – Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

ABEL – "**Breath**" (or "nothing"). *Abel was the one who humbly approached God on God's terms, offering a blood sacrifice in faith. He believed in God and obeyed God. [It is impossible to know for sure, but Cain & Abel might have been twins. The text leaves it open.]*

Gen 4:2 – ² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

SETH – "**Appointed**." *Adam's naming of this third son seems to indicate that he knew that Cain was not to be God's representative (Cain had rebelled and refused to get right with God, and murdered his righteous brother).*

Gen 4:25-26 – ²⁵ And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." ²⁶ And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then *men* began to call on the name of the LORD.

God gave another son to carry on the righteous way. Seth is "appointed" by God to continue the line of the believing and righteous. God continued to provide a physical lineage from which Jesus the Savior would come, and also a "spiritual lineage" of those who, though sinners, believed in God's sacrifice and followed Him. Jesus eventually was born and died as God's sacrifice for all people. God continues to help those that believe in Him, even to this day.

It seems that through Seth and his son Enos, the people on the earth were encouraged to begin "calling on the name of the LORD." That phrase is tied into those that believe in God and are praying to Him. It indicates an ongoing relationship with God. God used Seth and Enos to help others know and walk with God.