

A Secular & Ungodly Society

Lesson for Sunday, June 26, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

- Last week we studied Cain's sin. This week we will see where it led – to the first secular & ungodly society. Not much has changed in all the years since. What characteristics define a secular society?
- IDEA: Group work!

BIBLE STUDY: Genesis 4:16-24

1. A secular society rejects the presence of God (v.16).
 - a. Note the phrase: "Cain went out from the presence of the Lord."
 - b. God had confronted Cain about his sin in murdering his brother, Abel. God had pronounced the judgment, but at the same time God had reached out in mercy to Cain, longing for him to cry out for mercy and to repent. What was Cain's response?
 - c. In obstinacy and hardness of heart, Cain turned and walked away from the presence of God. But this means far more than just *walking out* of the presence of God. The context of this passage shows that Cain was rejecting God Himself and all who stood for God.
 - d. Cain was leaving, forsaking, and getting as far away as he could: from the presence of God; from his godly parents, Adam and Eve; from the community and neighborhood of the godly (Adam and Eve had other children by this time); and from the place and altar where God was worshipped.
 - e. Simply stated, Cain was the first person who let sin rule and reign his life.
2. A secular society is rootless and restless (vs. 16).
 - a. Cain "dwelt in the land of Nod." The *land of Nod* actually means the land of wanderings, restlessness, rootlessness, quaking, trembling, shaking. The idea is that of being restless and rootless, of wandering and moving all about as though the earth itself was shaking and shoving a person all over the place.
 - b. Apparently, the land was later called this because of Cain and his restless and rootless spirit. God had condemned Cain to be possessed with a restless and rootless spirit because of his ungodly behavior.
 - c. The person or society that turns away from God will always be restless and rootless. No person or society will know true peace until it turns to God. How does our society today reflect this? Can you think of specific examples?
3. A secular society glorifies in themselves (vs. 17).
 - a. Cain and his wife had a son and named him Enoch. The name means beginner, dedicated, or initiated. Apparently, Cain was hoping that his son would give him a new beginning—a new start-in life. But note: the new beginning was not with God, but apart from God.
 - b. Cain became a builder and began building a city. He is seeking to settle down, to build roots—a fixed residence—right here on earth.
 - c. Cain gloried in his city and in his son. He named the city after his son wanting the name to be carried on forever. He was out to glorify the name and works of his family. He was now living for the honor of this world, not for the honor of God.
 - d. How much of our world lives only for this world? What did you do this past week that was for God and the sake of eternity?
4. A secular society grows increasingly immoral (vs. 19).
 - a. "Lamech took [married]... two wives." He was the first person to practice polygamy. The ungodly seed ignored and rebelled against God and His commandment for purity of life and marriage.
 - b. In Lamech the passion of society to seek after the cult of beauty and sex was launched. This is suggested in the names of Lamech's two wives.

- i. *Adah* means ornament, adorned, attractive, beauty, pleasure.
 - ii. *Zillah* means the shady or shadow, probably referring to the beautiful color and shadow of her hair or skin.
 - c. Lamech was attracted by the beauty and pleasure of the flesh, so much so that he let his passion run loose. They were consumed with the flesh and gave themselves completely over to the cult of beauty and immorality. They neither controlled their passion nor denied their immoral urges.
 - d. Rhetorical question: Any parallels in our society today?
5. A secular society is obsessed with fame, wealth and talent (vs. 20-22).
 - a. These descendants were a society of famous, wealthy, and culturally gifted people. This is seen in the children of Lamech.
 - b. There was Jabal:
 - i. He was a rancher who raised livestock such as cattle, camels and donkeys.
 - ii. He was also the discoverer of the nomadic tent.
 - iii. He was not only wealthy, but he became famous. He was known as the "father" of tentmakers and nomadic ranchers.
 - c. There was Jubal:
 - i. He was a musician who invented the harp (string instrument) and the flute (reed pipe) for music.
 - ii. Note that he invented the very first musical instruments upon earth. He was the first to develop the *cultured arts* for society.
 - d. There was Tubal-cain:
 - i. He was a metal-worker: he worked both with brass and iron.
 - ii. He was the first person ever known to take brass and iron and manufacture and craft all kinds of useful things.
 - e. There was Naamah: Her name means beautiful, attractive, pleasant. Apparently, Naamah's beauty was so striking that she caught everyone's attention, so much so that she was well known down through the ages for her beauty.
 - f. Note: there is nothing whatsoever, not even one word, mentioned about God in these names. The only things discussed are the things of the world: work and employment, wealth and possessions, culture and artistic interests, etc.
 - g. They were people who created a significant life on earth, but were destitute with God.
6. Secular society is focused on self (vs. 23-24).
 - a. This is the first poetry, so far as we know, ever spoken upon earth. Note that it is a song of vengeance and of war. The picture is that of Lamech taking into his hands a weapon with the intent to kill.
 - b. The point for us to see is the picture of society Lamech paints for us. Lamech and his ungodly forefathers had developed a society: that boasted in its own arm of strength; that prided itself in its weapons of murder and war; that sought revenge; and that declared its own self-sufficiency.
 - c. They had become lawless and without true justice and morality.
 - d. Sound familiar?

APPLICATION:

- The parallels from this ungodly culture in Genesis 5 and our modern day are sobering. Where is our hope?
- Read Matthew 24:37-39. Genesis 4-6 is a description of "the days of Noah." Jesus promised when those days arrive, look up! "So shall also the coming of the Son of Man be!"
- In light of this thought, how should we be living in light of His return?