

# Two Streams of Humanity

## Lesson for Sunday, July 3, 2022

### INTRO:

- We live in a world that loves categories! It starts when we are young and is usually associated with either our peer groups or our interests. Example: The athletes, the nerds, the cool kids, etc.
- Group exercise: Which groups have you been associated with throughout the years? (You can have some fun with this as people reflect on their high school years.)
- Today we are grouped by things like economic levels, skin color, political parties, etc.
- Question: How does God see people? *Allow for some discussion...*
- While there is truth that God sees us individually, as we actually are, He also groups mankind into two main categories: saved and lost. We see this beginning in Genesis.

### REVIEW:

- Last week we looked at the line of Cain. We saw that it was a secular and ungodly line. Cain rejected the presence of God (4:16) and his descendants followed suit.
- Can you remember some of the qualities of Cain's line from last week's lesson?
  - Rootless & restless (4:16), self-focused (vs. 17, 23-24), increasingly immoral (vs. 19), and obsessed with fame, wealth, beauty and talent (vs. 19-22).
- Look up these verses for a biblical description of Cain's family tree: 1 John 3:12; Jude 11.

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. A Separate Seed (4:25ff)
  - a. In verse 25, the narrative goes back to Adam. We must remember that while Cain's line of the ungodly was growing, Adam's godly line was, too. Genesis 5 is a record of Adam's godly line (see 4:26 – "then began men to call upon the name of the Lord").
  - b. Have the class scan some of chapter 5, noticing the sequence of names. What differences do they see in the description of Cain's line in 4:19-23 and Adam's line in 5:6-14? *Allow time for the class to reflect and share observations...*
  - c. Difference #1: Adam's line seems routine. The author simply lists their names and the years that they lived. There is no mention of any significant accomplishments.
    - i. This saintly line was unsung by the world. As far as the world was concerned, they accomplished nothing.
    - ii. There were no earth-shattering inventions or no new art forms.
    - iii. They simply lived for God. They carried the torch of testimony for another generation, and then they died.
  - d. Difference #2: The lived. In each listing of names, it says that they "lived" twice. It does not mention that in Cain's line.
    - i. No doubt, the Cainites thought they lived! They had the world in their hands!
    - ii. They had social innovations, scientific developments, and secular advancements. We would say they lived the "good life."
    - iii. But God's Word doesn't say they lived at all. The New Testament comments that they were "dead in their trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1).
    - iv. The Sethites had none of these earthly things, but they had life (John 10:10).
  - e. Difference #3: It is recorded that the Sethites died. Again, the narrative in chapter four leaves this point out.
    - i. As far as the Cainites would go, Heaven had no interest in their deaths. They lived empty, hollow lives and their deaths were an everlasting shame.
    - ii. But over and over, the Bible records that Seth's descendants died.
    - iii. First, this proved the Devil a liar (Genesis 3:4).

- iv. Second, it reminds us that when death comes for the godly, death is not the end, but the beginning. Seth's tree had not lived for the world, but for *that* world.
2. A Separate Society (5:1)
    - a. Genesis 5 outlines how this godly seed continued. It runs from Seth through Noah, from the Fall to the Flood.
    - b. The first five names are of patriarchs (vs. 6-20).
      - i. Seth – “appointed” to take the place of martyred Abel.
      - ii. Enos – “mortal man,” was a reminder that for all of man's progress, man is weak and finite. Sooner or later, life on earth ends.
      - iii. Cainan – “a possession,” a Sethite protest against the growing materialism and militarism of the Cainite world.
      - iv. Mahaleel – “praising God,” in a day when men were praising self and each other, this saint poured out his life in praise of God.
      - v. Jared – “descent,” to remind men that although ages had come and gone, God's truth was marching on.
    - c. The next four were the prophets (5:21-32).
      - i. Enoch, the man who walked with God, witnessed to the presence of God.
      - ii. Methuselah witnessed to the patience of God. He lived longer than anyone else. Throughout his life the conditions on the earth went from bad to worse, but God still held His hand, for He is of great patience.
      - iii. Lamech witnessed the peace of God. His name means “powerful.” He was a power for God upon the earth.
      - iv. Noah witnessed the purposes of God. 2 Peter 2:5 describes Noah as a preacher of righteousness.

POINT: We must remember that both the ungodly line of Cain and the godly line of Seth coexisted simultaneously.

- Question #1: Which line are you following in? When your obituary is written, which line will you be associated with? How do you know? How confident are you?
- Question #2: What can we learn from Seth's line that applies to how we attempt to live godly lives in an ungodly culture?
- Question #3: What precautions can we place in our own lives to remind us of what it means to live for God in an ungodly world?

EXERCISE: Give the class five minutes to write their own obituary. How do they want to be remembered? What accomplishments will actually last past the grave? Before class, you write yours. Once the class has had time to write, begin by reading yours and discuss how that should impact how we live today.