

**Bible Study 3**  
**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**  
**Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas**

**(1) Genesis 4**

- (a) Cain and Abel
- (b) Cain's name means "acquired"... Eve said, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man."
- (c) Abel was a shepherd, Cain was a farmer
  - (i) The Hebrew people before settling in Israel where nomadic shepherds
- (d) Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. 4:2-5
  - (i) Cain brought some... Abel brought the firstborn. The commentary is that one was more devoted to God... the shepherd.
- (e) God tries to calm Cain down.
  - (i) Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." 4:6-7
  - (ii) God does care, God calls for some self-awareness and a higher Emotional Quotient (EQ)
  - (iii) Cain ignores God's advice and kills his brother out of jealousy.
- (f) The rest of the chapter deals with the how the descendants of Adam and Eve became different peoples of the world.

**(2) Genesis 5**

- (a) Genealogies
- (b) This is the only reference to Methuselah who lived to be 969 (as in, "That person is older than Methuselah.")<sup>0</sup>

**(3) Genesis 6, 7 and 8**

- (a) A nod to the Greek Pantheon of gods and demi-gods?
- (b) When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years." The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. 6:1-4

- (c) God hatches a plan... BTW many ancient middle eastern cultures had a flood story.
  - (i) The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the Lord said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. 6:5-8
  - (ii) Noah builds an ark in dry weather.
  - (iii) Gathers the animals
  - (iv) It rains for 40 days non stop
  - (v) Water on the earth for 150 days
  - (vi) The wind comes and the water recedes
  - (vii) But we will see that sin still exists.

#### **(4) Genesis 9**

- (a) God establishes a covenant with Noah and his family
- (b) Also...we are first introduced to the sanctity of blood (earliest kosher law)
  - (i) But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. Genesis 9:4
- (c) Early Law before the Law of Moses: No Murder—you will be held accountable
  - (i) Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. Genesis 9:6
- (d) And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. 9:12-15
- (e) Evilness conquered? Not so much
  - (i) Noah gets naked and drunk
  - (ii) Ham (Canaan) sees it... he is cursed. Huh.
  - (iii) The other sons (Hebrews) are praised.
  - (iv) Story makes a point about who is good and who is bad.
  - (v) Sin still exists... even if we were put in a room and locked in and prevented from doing anything sinful... there would still be sin... because it is a condition of the soul and not just an action.

#### **(5) Genesis 10**

- (a) The breakdown of tribes and nations
- (b) Identifying who is who