

## THE EARLY HISTORY OF MANKIND

### Genesis 4:17 - 5:32

The human race continued to grow even after the death of Abel at the hand of his brother. Read below about some of the first inhabitants of the earth:

#### A. The Descendent of Cain: Read Genesis 4:17-24

1. What was Cain's main accomplishment after he left the presence of God? Genesis 4:17b

2. List the important descendants of Cain, and tell what each of them did:

**NOTE:** A descendant (de-SEN-dant) is one's offspring, near or remote; as, his child, grandchild, great-grandchild, etc.)

- a. Genesis 4:17 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Genesis 4:19, 23b \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Genesis 4:20 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Genesis 4:21 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Genesis 4:22a \_\_\_\_\_

Compare these activities with those of Seth's descendants listed below.

#### B. The Later Life of Adam: Read Genesis 4:25-5:5

1. What other son was later born to Adam? Genesis 4:25a
2. The name Seth means appointed or put. Why was this son given that name? Genesis 4:25b
3. How long did Adam live after Seth was born? Genesis 5:4a
4. What did he continue to do after this? Genesis 5:4b

**NOTE:** This verse probably answers the often-asked question, "Where did Cain get his wife?" No doubt Adam and Eve had many children, and Cain doubtless married one of his own sisters. This practice was common as late as the days of Abraham: (See Genesis 20:11b, 12). Because sin had not yet degraded the human body, no undesirable results occurred, such as those which are likely to occur today in similar cases.

#### C. The Descendants of Seth: Read Genesis 5:6-32

1. Fill in the following chart concerning Seth and his descendants:

<i>Age at which son was begotten:</i>	<i>Number of years he lived afterwards:</i>	<i>Total Age:</i>
a. Seth: Genesis 5:6 _____	Genesis 5:7 _____	Genesis 5:8 _____
b. Enos: Genesis 5:9 _____	Genesis 5:10 _____	Genesis 5:11 _____
c. Cainan: Genesis 5:12 _____	Genesis 5:13 _____	Genesis 5:14 _____
d. Mahalaleel: Genesis 5:15 _____	Genesis 5:16 _____	Genesis 5:17 _____
e. Jared: Genesis 5:18 _____	Genesis 5:19 _____	Genesis 5:20 _____
f. Enoch: Genesis 5:21 _____	Genesis 5:22 _____	Genesis 5:23 _____
g. Methuselah: Genesis 5:25 _____	Genesis 5:26 _____	Genesis 5:27 _____
h. Lamech: Genesis 5:28 _____	Genesis 5:30 _____	Genesis 5:31 _____

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2. What was the average age of these men when they died? (Exclude Enoch, since he did not die).

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**NOTE:** There are several possible explanations as to why these men lived so long: (1) Sin, which has a terrible physical effect upon the body, had only begun to take its toll; (2) the earth may have been more suited to long human life before the flood than it was afterward (notice the rapid decline in the average life span after the flood: Genesis 11:10-25); (3) it may be that God supernaturally preserved this godly line that it might replenish the earth according to God's plan as revealed in Genesis 1:28.

3. In spite of their long lives, what eventually happened to all but one of the above men? Genesis 5:5b, 8b, 11b, 14b, 17b, 20b, 27b, 31b

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4. During their lifetimes, for what were the following outstanding descendants of Seth noted?

a. Enosh: Genesis 4:26 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Enoch: Genesis 5:22, 24a \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 24b; Hebrews 11:5a \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 11:5b \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 11:6 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Noah: Genesis 6:9a (two items) \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 6:9b \_\_\_\_\_

5. How did these men obtain such a good report concerning themselves? (See Hebrews 11:1, 2)
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**D. Comparison of These Two Lines:**

1. Around whom did the lives of Seth's descendants center?

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2. By contrast, around whom did the lives of Cain's descendants seem to center?
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3. How long would that which each person did be of value to him?

a. Cain's descendants: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Seth's descendants: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Which line was more pleasing to God: Cain's, or Seth's?
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2. Which of these lines is my life most like? Am I noted for supernatural attainments, which will be of value not only on earth, but for all eternity? Or am I noted for mere earthly attainments, which will be of value only in this present life here on earth? Am I satisfied with my life as it is? Or could I make it more pleasing to God than it is?
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