

## Sermon Discussion

### 16 January 2022

Read Genesis 4:17-26

#### Dig Deeper

The narrative now traces the line of Cain to its full development. What becomes of a society that rebels against God and leaves the land of blessing in angry defiance of His laws and His sacrifices? In this case, it prospers. But the righteous should neither envy the wicked nor follow their way of life (*see Psalm 49; 73*). God allows them to prosper in their earthbound way. They produce music, weapons, agricultural devices, and cities, i.e., culture.

The seventh from Adam through Cain was **Lamech** (probably a contemporary of the righteous **Enoch**, also seventh from Adam, *see Genesis 5:3-21*).

Lamech (v. 19) was the first bigamist. Bigamy was common in the ancient Near East, but it was never God's desire (*see Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-5*). God permitted it, however, as He did many other customs of which He disapproved (e.g., divorce, marrying concubines, polygamy). That is, He allowed people who practiced them to continue to live.

Lamech boasted about the murder (the word *killed* in v. 23 is **harag**, "to slay, to slaughter," the same word used of Cain's murder of Abel, vv. 8, 25). Here is a picture of an affluent society defying God and His laws, seeking pleasure and self-indulgence. Into this world Israel (and later the church) would come as a kingdom of priests to proclaim God's righteousness.

**Seth's** name, from the Hebrew verb translated "granted" and meaning "to set or place," expresses Eve's faith that God would continue to provide seed despite death. The phrase "call on the name of the Lord" usually refers to proclamation in the Pentateuch. Here it probably refers to the beginning of public worship of Yahweh.

1. Go back to Genesis 3:15. Explain the promise God made and why it is important. What do you think Eve was thinking about Seth when she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him" (Genesis 4:25).
2. If things are going reasonably well for you, does this mean that God has put His stamp of approval on your actions? Read Matthew 5:45. Do you have God's approval on your actions? How do you know?
3. As the line of Cain grew, there was an advancement in technology and the arts, but man's rapid advancement did not mean he advanced spiritually. How do you view this today? Are there similarities?

4. Are you using your skills to advance the world or the Kingdom of God? What skills are you using for the Lord?
5. How would you determine if you are making progress in your relationship with God?

### **Application & Prayer**

- Be intentional this week to consider the affect technology has on you. Does it ever become a distraction or impediment to your faith? Ask God to give you discernment about how you might use technology differently moving forward.
- Take time assess how can we keep God at the centre of our lives in the midst of the pressures of our families, careers, etc.? Write down practical next steps to let God bring about change in your life.
- Reflect on the implications of Genesis 4:17-26 for your own life today. Consider what you have learned that might lead you to praise God, repent of sin, and trust in His gracious promises.