

Genesis, part 10 – A Tale of Two Families

“So and so begat so and so begat so and so . . .”

“ALL Scripture is profitable . . .” 2 Timothy 3:16

*In Genesis chapters 4 and 5, we see the development of two branches of human society: one branch with **Cain** as its patriarch and the other branch with **Seth** as its patriarch.*

“Then Cain had relations with his wife and she became pregnant and gave birth.” Genesis 4:17

Question: *“Where did Cain get his wife?”*

Answer: *“In over 100 years, Adam and Eve certainly had borne more children than just Cain and Abel – and Cain married one of them.”*

With Lamech, we begin to see the true spiritual condition of Cain’s “family” really coming out.

“Lamech married two women . . .” Genesis 4:19

“A man shall leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife – and the two of them shall become one flesh.” Genesis 2:24

What Lamech being a bigamist tells us is that he had no regard for God’s authority in his life.

“Lamech said to his wives, ‘I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech shall be avenged seventy-seven times.’” Genesis 4:23

*Lamech boasts that he has already killed one young man to **prove** that he means business.*

“When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, after his own image: and he named him Seth.” Genesis 5:3

*When the Bible says that Seth was “in his [Adam’s] own likeness,” the Bible is talking about Seth’s **spiritual condition** – i.e., he was a godly man.*

“Then [in Seth’s family] men began to call upon the name of the LORD.” Genesis 4:26

In contrast to Cain’s family, Seth’s extended family was characterized by humility and reliance on God and obedience to God.

“When Enoch [Seth’s great-great-great grandson] had lived 65 years, he begat Methuselah.” Genesis 5:21

“And after he begat Methuselah, Enoch walked with God for 300 years and begat other sons and daughters.” Genesis 5:22

“Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years and Enoch walked with God; then Enoch was no more, for the LORD took him.” Genesis 5:23

“By faith, Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death and he was not found because God took him up; for before he was taken up, he had obtained witness that he was pleasing to God.” Hebrews 11:5

Seth – 912

Enosh – 905

Kenan – 910
Mahalalel – 895
Jared – 962
Enoch – 365
Methuselah - 969

“And Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.” Genesis 6:8

Spiritual formation takes spiritual intentionality.

“Enoch was 65 when he begat Methuselah.” Genesis 5:21
65 years old ÷ 12 = 5 ½ years old

The Babylonian King List confirms that even in pagan tradition, there is clear testimony to the biblical record that, before Noah’s Flood, people had enormously long life spans.

Adam and Seth alone provided 1712 years of continuous godly influence on their family.

“Seth’s family” was dominated by these godly men from the time of Creation to the time of Noah.

And look at the result: a group of godly fathers/grandfathers/great grandfathers produced an amazing society of godly people by their steady, godly influence.

What we see here in Genesis chapters 4 and 5 is the tale of two “families” – each one reflecting the spiritual character and the spiritual dynamic of their “parents.”

So What?

“A righteous man who walks in his integrity, how blessed are his children after him.” Proverbs 20:7
“How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights in His commandments; His descendants will be mighty on the earth.” Psalm 112:1, 2

*The issue God is addressing in these two verses is the ongoing **spiritual impact** that our spiritual lives have on our descendants.*

*Cain’s spiritual condition didn’t just affect his children – it permeated the **ten generations** that followed him.*

*When it comes to our influence as parents/grandparents/future parents – I want to urge us to think in terms of the **ten generations** who will come after our children and grandchildren.*

*I want to urge us to look at ourselves as the “**Patriarch/Matriarch**” of the many generations that will follow us: and who will be **shaped** by the spiritual condition and spiritual example of our lives.*

The Great Awakening (1730 – 1770) was a massive revival that swept the 13 colonies and brought thousands of colonists to church.

1799 – Yale graduated only **five** people who confessed Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior
1800 – The number dropped to **one!**

- **March 1802** – first student confessed Christ
- **April 1802** – second student confessed Christ

- **Graduation 1802** – 50 students confessed Christ
- **1806** – 50% of graduating class confessed Christ

This trend kept going – with Yale’s graduates literally turning America around for Christ in the early 1800’s.

Here we see four generations of “influencers” for Christ – all flowing out of one godly man: Solomon Stoddard!

Solomon Stoddard did not just raise godly children.

He established an **entire line of godly people** whose impact for Jesus Christ is still going on, over 200 years later, today.

Suggestion #1 – Be unashamedly passionate about your spiritual life

It’s when our children can see our passion for Christ, that they’ll absorb it, and carry it forward to the next generation, who will carry it to the next generation, and so forth!

I challenge you to be the Solomon Stoddard in your family.

Suggestion #2 – Inculcate God’s Word into your children’s lives with abandon.

“Train up a child in the way he/she should go, and when they get old, they will not depart from it.”
Proverbs 22:6

Spiritual formation takes spiritual intentionality.

If we’re serious about it, the spiritual formation of our children cannot be haphazard – it must be deliberate, intentional and consistent.

Suggestion #3 – Pray Futuristically

Don’t just pray like a “parent” – pray like a “Patriarch/Matriarch”!

*Ask God to give you a spiritual heritage that goes on for **multiple generations!***