

Giants in the land

After Abel dies and Cain departs for the land of Nod, Adam and Eve have a son named Seth.

Gen. 4:25 – “And Adam again had relations with his wife, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying. ‘God has granted me another seed in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.’”

Jesus was a descendent of David who was a descendant of Seth. Have you ever thought of the messianic line going through Seth?

Gen. 6:4 – “There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.” The giants were the Nephilim, mighty men who were unique in size – fallen angels. Have you thought of what man was like then?

Sin and the return of chaos

Cain’s descendants dominate the world at the time of Noah.

Gen. 6:5 – “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” This means a retelling of the story of the fall of man and the murder of Abel. Man rejecting the fundamental order, accept vengeance and exploitation of others, and reject God. Can you see this in the world of today?

Thus begins the Noah story. God has no choice but to destroy the world he has created. He sees no hope in mankind because there is no hope for mankind during this time. Free will has created a world of selfishness and evil. How do you see this time in history?

Why had the spirit of Cain come to rule the world?

Salvation by the wise and the reestablishment of the world

Noah was a just man and walked with God. “A man aiming at what is highest and concentrating on the truth, instead of focusing on and promoting his own self-centered interest lacks self-consciousness because what he is attending to is not about him – at least not as an isolated being, trapped in the carnal now. He is doing something other than following the instinctual and immediate dictates of his impulsive and narcissistic self-interest. That latter tactic insures only the emergence of involuntary self-reflection and painful self-consciousness, as we have seen: “Am I making the impact I want and need so desperately to make? Am I impressing those whom I am parading myself in front of? Am I winning this argument? Am I emerging as the victor in this contest of status? Am I successfully insisting on my publicly displayed moral virtue?” The alternative is to “walk (unselfconsciously) with God.”

What does this mean to you?

“A society that retains enough of the proper covenant so that a few or even one still dare speak freely within its confines can be protected from utter cataclysm by that faith and courage. This is part of the reason why protection of free speech is not so much a right, and certainly not one granted benevolently by the state, but the pillar upon which a stable and yet dynamically adaptive society is predicated and founded. “Criticism, correction, and resurrection” – relies on free speech. What does this mean?

Noah had no doubt in his mission and what God wanted him to do. How was he able to be so strong in his will?

The faithless son doomed to enslavement

Gen. 9:22 – “And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brethren without”

What did Ham do that was wrong in the site of God? What did this say about Ham’s heart?

“It is for such reasons that Ham is regarded by tradition as the progeniture of the Canaanites – the descendants of Cain, the eternally idolatrous and morally corrupt people and the people whom God grants the Israelites dominion over.”

The older brothers of Ham were Shem and Japheth. They reacted to opposite way of Ham to the nakedness of their father Noah.

What does this tell you of the hearts of Shem and Japheth?

Where else in the Bible do we see the hiding of nakedness and what does this represent with regard to God and our relationship?

Gen. 9:24-26 – “And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.”

Why is the name Canaan used here?

How do we see this played out in modern times?

Noah lived to be 950 years old.

The heirs of Shem and Japheth go forth to other lands and populate the earth with many nations. They are known as seafaring people and were able to disseminate effectively while the children of Ham are held to those “who occupy the second place.”

What does this tell us about the need for God in our lives?