

Introduction:

One would not normally place the three men together. However, all three lived early in the history of man, recorded in Genesis. Two tend to be more recognized than the other. But there are lessons we learn from each of these men.

I) Cain

“And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.” (Genesis 4:3)

1. He knew God- we are not told the specifics about the sacrifice. i.e. Day of the week, altar, frequency of the sacrifice, etc.
2. Abel also made sacrifice to God.

Genesis 4:4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

3. God rejected Cain's sacrifice.

Genesis 4:5a but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

4. God's words of encouragement to Cain.

Genesis 4:6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

B) Lessons for us.

1. Sin is always close by. Not some nebulous concept or something we can ignore.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except

such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

2. We are warned about not taking the threat of sin seriously.

1 Corinthians 10:12 *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*

3. Many a great man has fallen to sin.

- a. Moses – beating the rock
- b. David- adultery, murder, deception
- c. Peter, five of the 7 churches of Asia in Revelation had either fallen or were about to fall into sin.

4. Today we must be on guard to the devil and his devices.

1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

- a. Internet and computers makes sin one or two clicks away. Pornography, chatrooms has lead to all kinds of evil, marriages destroyed, in some cases Christians being imprisoned.
- b. Evil companions – what does an “evil companion look like?”

1 Corinthians 15:33 *Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."*

5. Flee – stay away from these things.

2 Timothy 2:22 *Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

II) Lamech

A) Lineage of Cain.

1. Took two wives.

Genesis 4:19 *Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah.*

- a. Being the first in anything tends to make it significant.
- b. Who first thought of eating mushrooms, or taking a coffee bean a cat eats and then goes to the bathroom and then making coffee out of it.

2. Lamech the first recorded case of a man taking two wives. Significant in his deviation from God's law.

Genesis 2:24 NKJV 24 *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

- a. Want to know how the world became so evil in Genesis 6, look at men like Lamech in Genesis 4.
- b. Also, deviation does not stop in just one area.

3. Lamech brags about his killing and revenge.

Genesis 4:23 *Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me. 24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."*

4. There is a difference between justice and vengeance.
 - a. Justice seeks to be fair and impartial.
 - b. Vengeance seeks to make others pay what they did to me as I determine.
5. Vengeance tends to not work out well for those seeking it.

- a. Joab kills Abner because as vengeance for the death of Asahel.

2 Samuel 2:22 *So Abner said again to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I face your brother Joab?"* **23** *However, he refused to turn aside. Therefore Abner struck him in the stomach with the blunt end of the spear, so that the spear came out of his back; and he fell down there and died on the spot. So it was that as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died, stood still.*

- b. Joab later kills Abner outside one of the cities of refuge. But how was this to turn out well for Joab? David later instructs Solomon to kill Joab for doing this.
- c. Absalom has Ammon killed for raping Tamar. **2 Samuel 13.23-29.**

B) Seeing people taking vengeance today.

1. People seeking to "right a wrong" gang or tribal warfare.
2. God's law defined justice.

Exodus 21:22 *"If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.* **23** *"But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, 24 "eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,*

3. Vengeance belongs to a just God.

Romans 12:19 *Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.*

III) Noah

A) Noah received God's grace.

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

1. God could have destroyed Noah with the rest of the world.
2. How was this grace exhibited?
 - a. Instructed Noah to build the ark.
 - b. After the ark was finished, Noah had to get into the ark.
3. Noah did all God said to do.

Genesis 6:22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Genesis 7:5 And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him.

4. Noah was saved by grace and faith.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

5. In the saving of Noah we see grace and faith working together.

B) Lessons for us today.

1. We have to do everything God says to do, not some, or part, or most, but all God says.
2. God has shown us grace today in sending His Son to die for us. We have found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

3. We are saved by grace and faith today.

Ephesians 2:8 ***For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,***

4. In order to be saved we must get inside the body of Christ.
5. In our salvation we have grace and faith working together.