

Genesis 4:15-26 Life in the Exile part 2
The Land and the Exile—2:25-4:26

- 1) Life in the Exile—4:1-26
 - a) The First Worship—4:1-8
 - b) Repentance—4:9-14
 - c) Divine Protection—4:15-24
 - i) Yahweh threatens severe punishment—4:15a
 - ii) Yahweh protects Cain with common grace apart from salvation—4:15b
 - iii) Cain's culture begins even further east—4:16-24
 - (1) Land of Nod (cf. 4:14 "vagabond")
 - (2) His wife was probably one of his sisters or a niece or grandniece (cf. 5:4)
 - (a) This is eventually forbidden under the Law (cf. Leviticus 18:9)
 - (3) Grandchildren and extended descendants through Cain—4:17-18
 - (a) Cain began building the first city mentioned in the Bible
 - (b) Is this an attempt to neutralize God's curse of wandering? (cf. 4:12) Or is this a kind of "city of refuge" to protect Cain? (cf. Numbers 35)
 - (4) Uniqueness of Lamech—4:19-24 (7th generation from Adam)
 - (a) Bigamy/polygamy—4:19
 - (b) Founders—4:20-22
 - (i) Adah's offspring: nomads with various livestock, musicians (stringed and wind instruments)—4:20-21
 - (ii) Zillah's offspring: metalwork with tools having a cutting edge—4:22
 - (iii) Are believers forbidden to use things invented by unbelievers?
 - (c) Arrogant, exaggerated violence—4:23-24
 - (i) "Lamech misses the point of God's merciful treatment of Cain. God was not establishing a principle of justice when he warned he would avenge Cain's murder. In fact he was trying to limit the shedding of blood, something Lamech wants to multiply instead." (NET Bible)
 - (ii) The first poetry in the Bible contains 3 couplets of parallels
 - d) God's Blessing—4:25-26 (returning to the theme of 4:1-2)
 - i) Continued play of word sounds for names (cf. *sheth* and *shith*)—4:24
 - Note which parent the second and third sons (cf. 4:1, 24)
 - Adam was 130 when Seth was born (cf. 5:3)
 - ii) Grandchildren through Seth—4:25
 - (1) Enosh (emphasis on frailty) is a synonym for "man" as is *adam* (1:26, etc.) and *ish* (2:23-24; 3:6, 16; 4:1, 23)
 - (2) "Call upon the name of Yahweh"
 - (a) A reference to praying to Yahweh (cf. Genesis 12:8; 26:25; 1st Kings 18:24; 2nd Kings 5:11; Psalm 116:4; Joel 2:32)
 - (b) A reference to the first recorded public worship (cf. Psalm 79:6; Jeremiah 10:25; Zephaniah 3:9).
- 2) Helpful quotes:
 - a) "Those who worship must have as their goal always to please God so that they will not allow sin (envy and hatred) to work its ruinous ways in their lives." (Ross, 161)
 - b) "In an affluent and self-indulgent society, the righteous must preserve the knowledge of the Lord." (Ross, 170)