

=EVENTS FROM GENESIS=

Lesson 3

The First City

POINT OF CONTACT: Name some interesting cities which you have seen, and tell why they interest you. The first city mentioned in the Bible is called the city of Enoch. This was the city that led to the civilization that perished in the flood.

AIM: to teach my pupils the ingredients of the perishing civilization prior to the flood.

- I. THIS CIVILIZATION WAS BUILT UPON FALSE RELIGION. It was started by Cain and built by Enoch, Cain's son. Cain had been banished from the Garden of Eden and from the presence of the Lord and had dwelt in the land of Nod. This was because of his unwillingness to bring a blood sacrifice to God. Let us notice a few things about this false religion, as contrasted with God's plan.
 1. God had appointed a place for worship. Jamison, Faucett and Brown say that this was on the east of the Garden of Eden between the cherubim to keep the way open to the tree of life.
 2. God had appointed a time of worship. Genesis 4:3 says, "And in process of time...." The phrase, "in process of time," means "in the end of days." This perhaps signifies at the end of the week or the Sabbath Day.
 3. God had provided a means by which to worship. This was by sacrifice. No doubt Adam and Eve had taught their boys that God had said that they must have a sacrifice. The reason we know they had been taught by God this fact is that Hebrews 11:4a says, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice," and Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." So the Word of God had come to Abel and Cain telling them that God wanted them to bring a sacrifice and offer it on the east of the Garden of Eden on the Sabbath Day. This Abel did; Cain, however, refused to do so. Notice a few things about Cain's offering:
 - 1) It was a bloodless one. Read Hebrews 9:22.
 - 2) It was the fruit of his own toil.
 - 3) It was the fruit of the ground. In Genesis 3:17 we find the words, "cursed is the ground." The difference in the offerings that Cain and Abel brought did not lie in the difference between Cain and Abel, but in the difference between their sacrifices. Hebrews 11:4a says, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain." God does not say that Abel was a more excellent man, but that his offering was more excellent and was acceptable unto God. No civilization can be a right civilization and a lasting one that is built upon false religion.
- II. THIS WAS AN EDUCATED CITY. Read Genesis 4:17. The word "Enoch," which was the name of the city, means "teacher." Education and false religion do not bring success, but failure.
- III. THIS WAS A WEALTHY CITY. Genesis 4:20 says, "...and of such as have cattle."
- IV. IT WAS A CITY BUILT ON RELIGION, BUT NOT UPON THE RELIGION OF BLOOD SACRIFICE.
- V. IT WAS A CULTURED CITY. Genesis 4:21, "...he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ." Culture is good if it is built upon Christ. Modern culture, however, often is barbarism in a tuxedo. The common man has beer; the cultured man has cocktails. The common man attends the movie; the cultured man attends the theater. The common man uses poker chips; the cultured man attends a bingo party. The common man goes to the tavern; the cultured man goes to a package store. Culture without Christ has made liquor sociable and dancing acceptable!
- VI. IT WAS A MANUFACTURING CITY. Genesis 4:22, "...an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron...." In other words, this city was, as the Calumet area, a manufacturing area and an industrial center.
- VII. IT WAS A CITY OF PLEASURE. Notice Genesis 4:19.
- VIII. IT WAS A FASHIONABLE CITY AS FAR AS DRESS WAS CONCERNED. See Genesis 4:19. The word "Adah" means "a gorgeously adorned woman," and the word "Zillah" means "one whose approach

can be recognized at a distance by the jingling of her jewelry.” Hence, this city was a fashion center. There is nothing wrong with good clothes, but fashion without Christ leads to a downfall.

- IX. IT WAS AN ADULTEROUS CITY. Zillah gave birth to Naamah, as we learn in Genesis 4:22. The word “Naamah” means “a stunning or an exotic girl.” She, no doubt, was the type who, by the tempting lure of feminine charm, induced men to sin.
- X. IT WAS A WARRING CITY. Again, read Genesis 4:22. Tubal-cain was the son of Lamech. He was a caster of metal and sharpened the first sword. With this whetted sword in his hand, bragging Lamech boasted that he would kill all who came after him, either young or old. In other words, the city was a city of ruthless war. There was no peace here.
- XI. THE ABOVE THINGS COULD CERTAINLY BE COMPARED WITH THE CITIES OF TODAY. You would think that this was a picture of Chicago, New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dallas, Miami, Cincinnati, or any of hundreds of cities in America. We often think of things such as the aforementioned as being modern. They are as old as sin itself. People have always been proud of their clothing, their social standing, their culture, their refinement, etc. As long as there has been a man, there has been false religion. Hence, this city is typical of all cities that have followed it, and destruction will come unless there is a return to God!