

OT History for Juniors: Lesson 3, "THE GROWTH OF SIN"

**I. INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW**

**A. How did sin enter God's perfect world?**

1. The serpent came to Eve and she disobeyed God, by eating the forbidden fruit
2. Eve gave the fruit to Adam and he also disobeyed God

**B. What did God do because of sin?**

1. He punished the serpent, Eve, Adam. How? Death, loss of friendship.
2. What did God promise after the Fall into sin? The Seed of the woman. Who? Jesus.

**II. SIN CONTINUES IN THE FAMILY OF ADAM AND EVE**

**A. After Adam and Eve were sent out of the Garden of Eden, they started a family.**

1. **Their first son was called Cain**, and when he was born Eve was happy because she imagined that *this one* would be the Seed of the woman. She thought God's promise would happen quickly.
2. **Their second son was called Abel. The two sons grew up to be very different.**
  - a. **[Different jobs]:** Cain was a farmer; he worked hard in the ground to grow fruit and vegetables; but Abel was a shepherd; he looked after sheep.
  - b. **[Different in their relationship to God]:** Cain and Abel both knew about God. Adam and Eve had told them about the Creation, about the Fall into sin, and about the Promise. But Abel believed in God and in God's promised Seed, Cain did not. Abel loved God, but Cain hated God.
  - c. **[Shown in their offerings]:** Both Cain and Abel worshipped God, but they worshipped God in different ways. Cain brought fruit & vegetables to God which he had grown in his field. Abel killed a lamb of his flock and offered its blood and fat to God. *God accepted Abel's sacrifice and rejected Cain's.*
3. **Why did God only accept Abel's offering?**
  - a. **Abel offering was a picture of what Jesus would do** on the cross when He shed His blood. Abel believed in Jesus and God saw Abel's sins covered by Jesus. Abel did not trust his own works.
  - b. **Cain's offering was a picture of his own works**, of what his hands had done. He did not trust in the Seed of the woman, in Christ. He thought the fruit of his field was good enough.

**B. Because God rejected Cain's offering Cain was angry. He was not sorry for his sins, as he should have been; he was angry with God, who rejected his offering, and he was angry with Abel.**

1. **God came to Cain and spoke to him about his offering.**
  - a. God told Cain that he was wrong to be angry. He knew the way he must come to God, with a sacrifice like Abel's but, more important, with faith in his heart in the Promised Seed.
  - b. God warned Cain that sin was lying at his door and like a beast it would pounce on him.
2. **Did Cain listen to God? No!**
  - a. Cain looked for his brother Abel and when he found him he invited him to come to the field.
  - b. When Cain and Abel were alone in the field, Cain killed his brother! Abel was dead and Cain was the first murderer. Look at how terrible sin is, children!
  - c. Did Cain think that God would not know? How wrong he was. God knew and God called to Cain, "Where is Abel thy brother?" Cain answered: "I know not. Am I my brother's keeper?" (LIAR!).
3. **How did God punish Cain?**
  - a. He cursed Cain's work so the earth would not give him fruit and vegetables anymore.
  - b. He sent Cain away so that he would have to wander in the earth away from the blessing of God. Cain wandered off and he married, had a son, and built a city after the name of his son.

**C. How terrible for Adam and Eve**

1. Their first son was sent away because he was an evil murderer, and now their second son, Abel was dead. *How could God keep his promise to send the Seed of the woman now?*
2. **And why did Cain kill Abel?** Because Cain belonged to the Seed of the serpent, and the devil used Cain to destroy what he thought was the Seed of the woman. Cain hated Abel because Abel was righteous in God's eyes and he was not. Why was Abel righteous? Because God saw Abel in Christ!
3. **Was God's promise destroyed** because Abel was dead and Cain was the seed of the serpent? No. *God gave Adam and Eve another son called Seth*, and from his descendants the Seed of the woman would come.

**III. Cain's murder of Abel was the first battle of the Seed of the serpent against the Seed of the woman, but now the two seeds had to grow in the earth. Cain's family were wicked like he was, and Seth's family were God-fearing. Of Seth's family we read that they began to call on the name of the Lord (Gen. 4:26).**

**A. From Cain came a lot of wicked men. They followed their evil father in the ways of sin.**

- 1. Cain and his sons were mighty in the earth. They had great skills and were very smart.**
    - a. They used their powers to make the world a better place for themselves.
    - b. They built cities, they made things from metal which they dug from the earth; they became great farmers with cattle, and they even invented music.
  - 2. But although they were mighty, skillful and smart, they were wicked.**
    - a. Everything they did was in the service of sin, not to please God.
    - b. They also hated God's people and persecuted them.
    - c. Soon the world became filled with evil men; the seed of the serpent was growing and it was a difficult time for God's people, who belonged to the seed of the woman.
  - 3. The Bible gives us an example of a very wicked descendant of Cain called Lamech.**
    - a. Lamech took two wives. God only allows us to have one wife.
    - b. Lamech was a killer like Cain was, and he boasted about killing a man and even sang a song about it.
- B. God's people were found in the family of Seth.**
- 1. We do not read of Seth's family that they were mighty men but we read that they called on the name of the Lord, which means that they prayed to God and loved Him.**
  - 2. We read of one very godly man. His name was Enoch.**
    - a. Enoch walked with God. What does that mean?
    - b. Enoch warned the wicked about the coming of judgment and he even named his son Methuselah (who lived for 969 years!)
    - c. And Enoch did not die: the Lord took him one day right into heaven.
  - 3. But not all the family of Seth were godly.**
    - a. Many married daughters of Cain's family and stopped following the true God.
    - b. With that and the increasing wickedness in the earth the seed of the woman grew very small & it looked like the people of God would be destroyed.
    - c. But God had a way to save His people and keep His promise – He did so through Noah.