

## The Bible Vindicated! - 9

The book of Genesis is organized in a unique way. Ten sections are marked by the expression, “these are the generations”. There is a theme that runs through these sections which can help the reader to appreciate how Moses could have written everything in it.

The SECOND SECTION concerns “the generations of Adam,” the early descent of mankind. In the case of Adam’s sons Cain and Abel we have a record of one being accepted by God while the other is rejected. The true character of human nature - Jeremiah 17:9 - is demonstrated in the murder of Abel, whose position was replaced by Seth who “called on the name of the Lord” - Genesis 4:26.

In this section we see life going well in the line of the murderer Cain - “Jabal...was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock,” “Jubal...was the father of all those who play the harp and flute” and Tubal-Cain was “an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron.”

But the fame of Lamech was in his boastful attitude towards the murder he had committed, in keeping with the performance of his ancestor Cain. But when we come to “the book of the genealogy of Adam” neither the name of Cain nor any of his descendants are included, being rejected by God -

“And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth” - Genesis 5:3. And so the descent follows through Seth’s line, accepted by God, down to Noah.

There was no unfairness here, because these were the ones, including Enoch, who “called on the name of the Lord” - 4:26. “And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him” - 5:24. Jude shows the reason for what happened to Enoch - he spoke out boldly against the ungodly of his times, and was evidently threatened with death for his effort -

14 “Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him’.”

The NEXT SECTION, “the generations of Noah” runs from 6:9 to 9:29 and depicts the vast majority of mankind at that time as morally depraved and disposed to serious and wilful, cruel and harmful, acts of lawlessness. The consequences were, “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence” - 6:11.

But God was in control, announcing to Noah, “I Myself am bringing the flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; and everything that is on the earth shall die,” including all the rejected, whose way of life was ungodly.

But of Noah God declared, “I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark ...Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation” - the few accepted were saved from destruction.

The NEXT SECTION, from 10:1 to 11:9 is “the generations of the sons of Noah.” There is no chronological genealogy, only a list of the nations who descended from Noah’s sons, settling in their lands, cities and kingdoms.

The moral condition of mankind evidently was slipping back into a hopeless condition, because there was an early effort to “build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven” - Genesis 11:4. The tower is reminiscent of ziggurats, on top of which were built temples for the worship of the sun, moon and stars - see Deuteronomy 4:19.