

## **Motherhood and the Generations of Adam in the Godly Line of Seth**

by Ronald W. Kirk

At the Fall, God told the serpent what Eve must have heard: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15). Many expositors believe that Eve thought Cain to be that Seed. She was dead wrong of course. Adam and Eve had no idea how to rear a sinful child! Cain grew spoiled, selfish, and remained entirely childish. He held no rein over his sinful passions at all. He held no capacity for repentance, but could only make excuse and ultimately whine about his punishment at the murder of his brother, though the punishment was merciful and much less severe than he deserved.

In Genesis 5, the names of the patriarchs in the genealogy of the godly line through Seth reveals the progress of family training and motherhood in a fallen world:

In Verse 6, Enosh, the son of Seth, bears the meaning *mortal*. It is with sadness that mankind realizes the wages of sin.

Next, in Verse 9, Cainan came into life. His name means *nest*. The family is beginning to realize the need for nurture and training!

In Verse 12, Cainan becomes father to Mahalalel—*the praise of God!* Seeking God by faith, this branch of the family of Adam comes to know God's grace in a sinful life. Parenting and motherhood have born fruit. Here is a man of God and associated with His praise!

Next came Jared in Verse 15. Jared means *to go downward*. The rest of mankind is spiraling out of control in sin. (The Nordskog Publishing's novel *Another World* pointedly treats this horrible era.) The Adam-Seth family is alone in a wicked world. Perhaps Jared himself came under the world's influence. Yet the family pushes on...

In Verse 18, Jared fathers Enoch. Now the godly lineage of mankind is really getting the idea! Enoch means *dedicate or train up*. As in Proverbs 22:6, the Hebrew term means to articulate, deriving from a root that means to choke to death. The training of the child is crucial to the race! Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn aside! Here the godly line of man begins fully to understand the place of motherhood and fatherhood. Enoch so walked with God that he did not die, but God translated him to heaven (Verse 24; Hebrews 11:5).

Grand old Methuselah comes along in Verse 22. The etymology of Methuselah seems to have been a warrior. His name implies he was a man of the spear, as a weapon. How tough must have Methuselah had to have been in order to live in such a despicably evil world as the time just before the Flood. Methuselah reminds me that mothers and fathers must train the good boys to be at least as tough as the bad boys.

Next comes Lamech, son of Methuselah (Verse 26). The meaning of Lamech's name is uncertain, coming from an unused Hebrew root. As men become so evil that God must destroy the earth, the uncertainty of Lamech's name is appropriate. It must certainly have appeared as a painfully grotesque and uncertain time.

Then, finally, comes Noah, the son of Lamech. Here is another tough man, fathering a family capable of entering the harsh new world to come. Noah means quiet or rest of God. Lamech said, "This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed (Verse 29).

Noah is thus the culmination of the first generations of godly men. These clung to God by faith, and the mothers learned and grew in wisdom, nurturing and training their sons, unto the deliverance of mankind in Noah.

The rest of the Scriptures are full of stories of the great mothers of the faith. Now it is our time. May the Christian mothers of this generation, with the gift of the Holy Spirit, be found the appropriate pro-creators of the next generation of godly men unto the coming of Christ's kingdom, His will done on earth as it is in heaven.

[The Hebrew meanings of the names of the sons of Adam through Seth are taken from *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*.]

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