



LIFE FROM CHAOS: GENESIS

STUDY 4: LIFE IN CHAOS

Genesis 4:1-26 + Genesis 5



Key Idea

Having seen what we've seen in Genesis so far, where is our hope for things to get better? Genesis 4 shows us that real hope is not found in backing ourselves but in calling on God to act.



Listen

This study is written to be used together with the sermon preached at Trinity Church which you can find on our church website.

www.trinitybay.church/sermon-archive/



Talk About

1. The 2020 Mission Australia Youth Survey found that about half of young Australians are hopeful about the future.* Do you think the world will improve in the next 50 years? Think too about your friends and those you interact with, how do you think they would answer the question? What reason do you think they would give for their answer?

2. Here's a challenge for you. In 20 words or less, how would you summarise the message of Genesis so far? If you're brave, share your answers with your group.

*<https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/publications/youth-survey/1717-mission-australia-youth-survey-report-2020/file>

Explore

Read Genesis 4:1-16

3. What's your first impression of Cain and Abel? What jumps to you from the story?

4. In verses 2-5, Abel's sacrifice is accepted and Cain's is not. What do you think is wrong with Cain's sacrifice?

5. Why do you think Cain fails to listen to God's warning in verses 6 and 7?

6. What are the results of Cain's sin? Is there any sign of God's mercy?

Read Genesis 4:17-24

7. What do you notice about Cain's line? Are there any signs of the world getting better? What's the overall trajectory?

A Little Bit Extra

The Ages in Gen 5

As you flip through Genesis 5 you'll notice all the big numbers! People seemed to live a long time back in these days. What's with that?

Some think time was measured differently back in these ancient writings, but the math on this doesn't really check out. (To hold the theory you'd have to conclude that people like Seth were becoming parents while still young children).

Some point to Genesis 6:3 (where God speaks about human life being limited to 120 years) as the point where things change, but the change seems gradual not instant, and I think this verse is talking about the upcoming flood.

Some say the ages are not meant to be read historical-scientifically, but show signs of pattern and representing other things. I do think there are some hints of other significance in the numbers, so maybe.

Overall we don't really know, but I do think there's an obvious reason why the author of Genesis wants to give us the big numbers - to give us the response of Jacob (Gen 47:9) - we should grieve that we don't live as long as those who came before us.



Read Genesis 4:25-26 & Genesis 5 (Or at least read Genesis 5:29)

8. These verses describe Abel's line (now Seth's line). What picture do you get of this line? Are there signs of brokenness? Are there signs of hope?



Action

9. What about Cain's attitude should we avoid? What about Abel's attitude should we immitate?

10. Where should a Christian look to for hope that things will get better?

11. Do you think Christians believe that sin is dangerous, as it is described in verse 7? How can Christians fight against sin?

