

JANUARY 2

Read Genesis 4–6

CHAPTER 4

AND Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

8. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

9 ¶ And the LORD said unto Cain, Where *is* Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: *Am* I my brother's keeper?

10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

11 And now *art* thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

13. And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment *is* greater than I can bear.

14 Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a

vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, *that* every one that findeth me shall slay me.

15 And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

16 ¶ And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

17 And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.

18 And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael: and Mehujael begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech.

19 ¶ And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one *was* Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

20 And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and *of such as have* cattle.

21 And his brother's name *was* Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ.

22 And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every

artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubalcain *was* Naamah.

23. And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.

24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.

25 ¶ And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, *said she*, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.

26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.

CHAPTER 5

THIS is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;

2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

3 ¶ And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat *a son* in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

4 And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters:

5 And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.

6. And Seth lived an hundred and five years, and begat Enos:

7 And Seth lived after he begat Enos eight hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters:

8 And all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years: and he died.

9 ¶ And Enos lived ninety years, and begat Cainan:

10 And Enos lived after he begat Cainan eight hundred and fifteen years, and begat sons and daughters:

11 And all the days of Enos were nine hundred and five years: and he died.

12 ¶ And Cainan lived seventy years, and begat Mahalaleel:

13 And Cainan lived after he begat Mahalaleel eight hundred and forty years, and begat sons and daughters:

14 And all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years: and he died.

15 ¶ And Mahalaleel lived sixty and five years, and begat Jared:

16 And Mahalaleel lived after he begat Jared eight hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters:

17 And all the days of Mahalaleel were eight hundred ninety and five years: and he died.

18 ¶ And Jared lived an hundred sixty and two years, and he begat Enoch:

19 And Jared lived after he begat Enoch eight hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

20 And all the days of Jared were nine hundred sixty and two years: and he died.

21 ¶ And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:

22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

24 And Enoch walked with God: and he *was* not; for God took him.

25. And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Lamech:

26 And Methuselah lived after he begat Lamech seven hundred eighty and two years, and begat

sons and daughters:

27 And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.

28 ¶ And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son:

29 And he called his name Noah, saying, This *same* shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.

30 And Lamech lived after he begat Noah five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters:

31 And all the days of Lamech were seven hundred seventy and seven years: and he died.

32 And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

CHAPTER 6

AND it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they *were* fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

3. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his

days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

4. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare *children* to them, the same *became* mighty men which *were* of old, men of renown.

5 ¶ And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

6. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

9 ¶ These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* Noah walked with God.

10 And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

11. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled

with violence.

12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

13. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

14 ¶ Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

15 And this *is the fashion* which thou shalt make it *of*: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; *with* lower, second, and third *stories* shalt thou make it.

17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to

destroy all flesh, wherein *is* the breath of life, from under heaven; *and* every thing that *is* in the earth shall die.

18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every *sort* shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep *them* alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

20 Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every *sort* shall come unto thee, to keep *them* alive.

21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather *it* to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

22. Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

In chapter 3 we read of man sinning against God by disobeying His Word; in chapter 4 we read of man sinning against man. James 1:15 warns us that sin begins in a small way, but grows and leads to death. And so it was with Cain. There was disappointment, anger, jealousy, and, finally, murder.

Both Cain and Abel brought offerings to God. While Abel brought a blood offering, which was

acceptable to God, Cain brought a bloodless offering from the cursed earth. His offering may have been sincere, but it was not accepted.

We see in these verses the contrast between religion based on good works and self-righteousness, and the religion of grace which is through the blood of Jesus Christ. There are only two religions in the world today: that of Abel, that depends on the blood of Christ and His finished work on the cross; and that of Cain,

that depends on good works and man-pleasing religious ceremonies and programs. Abel's religion leads to heaven; Cain's religion leads to hell.

Chapter 6 deals with the flood and the faith of Noah. The fact of the flood is proved by the Genesis record, as well as by Christ (Matthew 24:37-39 and Luke 17:26), the prophets (Isaiah 54:9), and the apostles (I Peter 3:20). Man had become corrupt, the earth was filled with violence, and God had to destroy mankind. There must always be judgment and death before there can be a new beginning.

The ark is a wonderful picture of our salvation in Christ. The ark not only saved mankind, but also the creatures within it, just as Christ's death will one day deliver creation from the bondage of sin. The ark saved Noah and his family from judgment; Christ saves us from the wrath to come. There was only one way of salvation and that was through the door of the ark. Today there is only one way of salvation, and that is through Christ. Just as Noah went out of the ark, the head of a new creation with his family, Christ came out of the tomb, the Head of a New Creation, and the Father of a new family.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh" (Proverbs 3:25).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

For today's memory verses (Assignment 1), follow instructions on page 10.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

ROBBIE HOWARD

HYMN FOR TODAY

O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED **by John E. Bode, 1816-1874**

The beginning of the new year is usually a time of reflecting on and evaluating the past as well as for setting serious goals for the future. Because it is so easy to get caught up in a blur of daily sameness, special days and events are important in life. We need these highlights for our growth and development.

"O Jesus, I Have Promised" was written by an English clergyman on such a special day. It was penned especially for a confirmation service in which John Bode's own daughter and two sons were making their life's vows of commitment to God and His ser-

vice. He told his three children: "I have written a hymn containing all the important truths I want you to remember when you are fully confirmed."

Without doubt, the three children of John Bode never forgot that confirmation service and their father's concern for them as they sang these words throughout their lives:

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend:
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.*

*O let me feel Thee near me—the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear:
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but Jesus, draw Thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.*

*O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee,
that where Thou art in glory, there shall Thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.*

Do you need to stop today and do some reflecting and evaluating?

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1865

WILLIAM LYON PHELPS WAS BORN IN NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

From 1893 to 1933 he was a member of the English Department of Yale University. Theologian Wilbur Smith said of him, "Phelps said more things about the Bible worth saying, wrote in more interesting ways about the Word of God, and wore a more definite testimony to his faith in Christ than any other one famous professor in the United States of this century."

Pray today for college professors. Pray that God will give us more men like William Phelps. Then pray for the college students whom you know, from your family, from your church, or from your scope of friends.

1914

RACHAEL SAINT WAS BORN IN JENKINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA.

She was responsible for the conversion of Dayuma, the first Auca convert. She was a Wycliffe translator, who pioneered getting the Gospel translated into the Auca language. Her brother, Nate Saint, was

killed along with four others in early 1956 by these Auca Indians.

May we pause to thank God for Christian martyrs. Also let us pray today for missionaries. Pray for the ones whose names you know and whose faces come before your mind now.

1945

DEDANAYAGAM SAMUAL AZARIAH DIED IN DORNAKAL, INDIA.

This was a famous missionary to India, who in 1912, at the age of thirty-eight, was given a small diocese at Dornakal with six clergy and about eight thousand Christians. It is said that he was the first Indian bishop of the Anglican church in India. It is also said that he was a strong bishop, a man of faith, a good Bible student, a strong disciplinarian, and a devout and humble Christian. To say the least, upon his death thirty-three years later, he left a Christian community of more than 400,000.

1954

SAMUEL A. FULTON DIED IN WEST ALLIS, WISCONSIN.

Some have said that he was the most active Gideon in the history of this Bible-distributing organization. He served the Gideon organization for fifty years as president, vice president, trustee, chaplain, and treasurer, and was on their cabinet for twenty-nine years. Let us pray today for the work of the Gideons and their spreading of the Word of God.

1958

MRS. VIRGIL BROCK DIED AT WINONA LAKE, INDIANA.

Mrs. Brock composed many beautiful hymns. Among her compositions are "He's a Wonderful Saviour to Me," "If You Could Know," "Resting in His Love," and "Sing and Smile and Pray." Her most famous hymn, however, is "Beyond the Sunset." This song is engraved in a huge slab of stone by her grave in Warsaw, Indiana. Why not pause in your devotions to sing this song.

BEYOND THE SUNSET

*Beyond the sunset, O blissful morning,
When with our Saviour heav'n is begun.
Earth's toiling ended, O glorious dawning;
Beyond the sunset, when day is done.
Beyond the sunset, no clouds will gather,
No storms will threaten, no fears annoy;*

*O day of gladness, O day unending,
Beyond the sunset, eternal joy!*

*Beyond the sunset, a hand will guide me
To God, the Father, whom I adore;
His glorious presence, His words of welcome,
Will be my portion on that fair shore.*

*Beyond the sunset, O glad reunion,
With our dear loved ones who've gone before;
In that fair homeland we'll know no parting,
Beyond the sunset for ever more!*

1924

SABINE BARING-GOULD DIED.

Here is a former Church of England clergyman, well-known for his poems and hymns. Among the best known are "Now the Day Is Over" and the great song, "Onward, Christian Soldiers." Why not sing some of it now.

ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

*Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus going on before,
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle, see His banners go!*

Chorus:

*Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.*

*At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;
On, then Christian soldiers, on to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
Brothers, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.*

*Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading, where the saints have trod;
We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.
Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the church of Jesus constant will remain;
Gates of hell can never 'gainst the church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.*

*Onward, then ye people, join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song;
Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King,
This thro' countless ages men and angels sing.*

1788

GEORGIA WAS ADMITTED TO THE UNION.

Pray for the Christian friends and Gospel work in the great state of Georgia.

1942

THE DATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS PACT.

1863

THE BATTLE OF MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE, DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

Murfreesboro is the home of the fundamentalist newspaper, THE SWORD OF THE LORD, founded by evangelist John R. Rice.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1831

WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON BEGAN PUBLISHING *THE LIBERATOR*, AN ABOLITIONIST NEWSPAPER.

1872

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE MET.

John R Lynch was elected Speaker of the house at the age of twenty-four.

1800

ANTISLAVERY PETITION FROM FREE BLACKS OF PHILADELPHIA PRESENTED TO CONGRESS.

1915

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN, HISTORIAN, BORN.

1965

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE, led by Martin Luther King Jr., started in Selma, Alabama.

1970

UNITED STATES POPULATION: 213,200,000. BLACK POPULATION: 22,600,000 (11.1 per cent).

DR. BENJAMIN E. MAYS, president-emeritus, Morehouse College, named president of Atlanta Board of Education.

THE STORY OF THE PSALMS

Psalm 1

AUTHOR: Solomon

There is no definite evidence to his authorship of this Psalm, but there are strong grounds for suspicioning such. Even the casual reader will note a strong similarity between the Proverbs and the first Psalm.

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:

The father is talking to his son. Perhaps this father is Solomon. Perhaps the son is Rehoboam, who succeeded him on the throne. Solomon is teaching Rehoboam the way to blessedness and is warning him about the destruction of those who follow evil.

In some ways it may be regarded as a preface to the rest of the Psalms. Perhaps it is a summary of what is to come later, for is it not true that all of the Psalms teach us the blessedness of living a holy and righteous life and the danger of living a life for self and sin.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE:

The Jews used the first Psalm as instruction to children in family worship. It was memorized

by each child and quoted and sung over and over again. Wise parents teach this Psalm to their children unto this day. Fathers gather the family together and explain the beautiful recipe for success given in this Psalm, as follows: Walking not in the counsel of the ungodly, plus standing not in the way of sinners, plus sitting not in the seat of the scornful, plus delighting in the law of the Lord, plus meditating in the Word of God day and night equals success.

It is interesting to note that the word "blessed" in verse 1 is a plural word in the Hebrew language. It means that there are a multiplicity of blessings which rest upon the person who observes the five conditions for prosperity and success. The Psalm should be read with a mental picture of a father talking with his son, counseling with him and advising him about life. Emphasis should be placed upon seeking counsel only from the saved, running with the right crowd, not developing a critical tongue, enjoying the Word of God and meditating therein. Then, a warning should be given concerning the instability and tragic results of sin.

The Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

WHY MEMORIZE THE WORD?

(Assignment 1)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for the next seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning,” page XIII near the front of this book.)

A Command

() Deuteronomy 6:6

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

An Imperative

() Deuteronomy 11:18

Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

A Necessity

() Job 22:22

Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.

A Promise

() Proverbs 3:3-4

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.