

## **THE FIRST FAMILY**

During the month of February, we will conduct a Family Life Conference. During the 1970s, I traveled around the USA conducting a week long FLC. The FLC consisted of two bible studies. I would teach the Dating, Diamond, and Diapers series during the day to young people. The second study was the parenting series taught to adults usually during the evening.

This year I am in the process of printing the Dating, Diamond, and Diaper booklet to put in the hands of young people and parents by camp time. You can get a cliff-note version of it from our web-site (DDD). We already have printed the booklet on Parenting taken from the FLC that can be down loaded from our web-site.

The four lessons of this FLC are entirely different. The first two lessons of this FLC will show Satan's attack upon the family from the OUTSIDE. The last two lessons will show Satan's attack upon the family from the INSIDE (cosmos diabolicus).

When a person occupies the office of President of USA, his family holds the title of First Family. In today's lesson, God introduces us to the First Family of the human race in Genesis 4:1-5. It is interesting that God didn't sugar coat our introduction to the First Family. God allowed us to see the First Family's problems, shortcomings, failures, sins, and even evil.

Why would God reveal so much of it to us? You might wonder why God didn't intervene and prevent so much chaos. After all, God is El Shaddai (God Almighty). What are we to assume from all of this?

- What can we learn from the First Family's pain recorded in 1 John 3:12? "Not as Cain, **who was of the evil one**, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay his brother? Because **his deeds were evil**, and his brother's were righteous." Can you find a positive lesson in it?
- The positive lesson is found in James 4:7 – "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

**This lesson will study four aspects of the First Family of human history to help us get focused on Satan's attack upon the Christian family.**

### **1. The righteous family of Adam and Eve was still under attack from the outside by Satan. They had been attack from the outside by Satan earlier in their marriage (Gen.3) [Tree of Knowledge conflict].**

These parents circled the spiritual wagons around their children with the truth of God's word while rearing them. We know this because of the later conflict of offerings between the adult sons.

Yet the parents couldn't protect their adult children from Satan because of individual volition (DI#1). Each adult child must choose for himself to live righteously by the word of God – "But the righteous man shall live by faith." (Rom.1:17b; 10:17)

Mathematically the numbers didn't appear good regarding Adam and Eve's children (50%). Yet these numbers are better than in the parable of the Prodigal Sons (100%) (Luke 15:11-32). Jane and I are so grateful to God's grace for our four adult children and their mate's decisions to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

**2. Satan is at constant war against the five divine institutions established by God ever since the origin of the human race.**

We will list them in the order of their appearance in the Book of Genesis. Many of you have learned them as four. Please relearn this DIs as five rather than four.

- DI#1 – Freedom (free will / volition) (Gen.1:26-27; 2:17).
- DI#2 – Employment (Gen.1:26-28; 2:8, 15; 3:17-19)
- DI#3 – Marriage (Gen.2:18-25)
- DI#4 – **Family** (Gen.4:1-5)
- DI#5 – Nation (Gen.10-11)

As the First Family, Adam and Eve were the first to experience the first four divine institutions.

**3. The First Family came into existence as DI#4 after the fall of Adam (AOS) (Gen.3:10-19; 4:1-5).**

The divine chain of command established accountability with the First Family that still exist today with Christian families [God to Christ to parent to children] – “But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.” (1 Cor.11:3)

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” (Eph.6:1-2; Col.3:20; Ex.20:12)

“And father, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” (Eph.6:4)

“Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Prov.22:6)

You might ask, “what happened to Cain?”

**4. It was through the promised seed of the First Family that the Christ came to save the world from AOS**

“And I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman, and between your seed (sons of Satan) and her seed (Christ); He (Christ) shall bruise you (Satan) on the head, and you (Satan) shall bruise Him (Christ) on the heel.” (Gen.3:15)

“Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, ‘and to seeds,’ as referring to many, but rather to one, ‘and to your seed, that is, Christ.’ (Gal.3:16; Gen.12)

Note that there will be conflict between Christ and Satan until the end of human history when Christ will give Satan the fatal and final blow – “And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” (Rom.15:20)

As members of the human race, Cain and Able became targets in this conflict just like you and me.

- Able accepted the prophetic gospel of Christ and became a son of God (John 1:10-13).
- Cain rejected the prophetic gospel of Christ and became a son of Satan (Matt.13:37-38; John 8:41-47; 1 John 3:10-12).

Like Cain we are born into the First Family of human race by physical birth in need of grace salvation in Christ (Rom.5:12; 1 Cor.7:14). Like Able we can choose to be born again into the Royal Family of God by faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jews first and also to the Greek.” (Rom.1:16)