



NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF AMERICA, INC.

## The Origin of Culture

### The Biblical Basis of Culture

*“Because man is God's creature, some of his culture is rich in beauty and goodness. Because he is fallen, all of it is tainted with sin and some of it is demonic.”*

**God created mankind** – male and female in his own likeness by endowing them with distinctive human faculties— rational, moral, social, creative and spiritual. He also told them to have children, to fill the earth and to subdue it (Genesis 1:26-28). These divine commands are the origin of human culture. For basic to culture is our control of nature (that is, our environment) and our development of forms of social organization. Insofar as we use our creative powers to obey God's commands, we glorify God, serve others and fulfill an important part of our destiny on earth. *Male and female created He them, ... it is not good for man to be alone ...* in so doing, God created a perfect world and provided mankind for a structure of family that would be his own, separate but not apart from God.

### Now however, we are fallen

All our work is accompanied by sweat and struggle (Genesis 3:17-19), and is disfigured by selfishness. So none of our culture is perfect in truth, beauty or goodness. At the heart of every culture—whether we identify this heart as religion or world-view—is an element of self-centeredness, of man's worship of himself.

### Therefore a culture cannot be brought under the Lordship of Christ without a radical change of allegiance.

For all that, the affirmation that we are made in God's image still stands (Genesis 9:6; James 3:9), though the divine likeness has been distorted by sin. And still God expects us to exercise stewardship of the earth and of its creatures (Genesis 9:1-3, 7), and in his common grace makes all persons inventive, resourceful and fruitful in their endeavors. Thus, although Genesis 3 records the fall of humanity, and Genesis 4 Cain's murder of Abel, it is Cain's descendants who are described as the cultural innovators, building cities, breeding livestock, and making musical instruments and metal tools (Genesis 4:17-22).

**Many Christians have in the past been too negative towards culture.** We do not forget the human fallenness and lostness which call for salvation in Christ. Yet we wish to have a positive affirmation of human dignity and human cultural achievement. Wherever human beings develop their social organization, art and science, agriculture and technology, their creativity reflects that of their Creator.

## Chapter 4

V 1 Daughters were born before; special emphasis upon getting a man-child

V 2 Abel was a shepherd and Cain was a farmer

V 3 In time they were responsible for acting in personal faith - the fruits of the ground were accepted as tithes and offerings but not for atonement - no blood

V 4 Abel's offerings were accepted because of faith and the right kind of sacrifice

V 5 The wrong sacrifice in self-will: 1st instance of man's wrath was over religion.

V 6 Cain's wrath was w/o excuse, & God still offered to accept the right sacrifice.

V 7 A sin offering was at the door of the tabernacle. Cain was told to offer it.

V 8 Religion has always been the greatest cause of wars and bloodshed & the first murder took place in the open field and in private, & it was premeditated.

V 9 Most likely the same day. ... Am I my brother's keeper? ... Yes!

V 10 Drops of blood. In murder, one not only sins against God & the man he kills (Genesis 9:6), but also against the murdered man's posterity for eternal generations.

to shriek, cry out in anguish and fear - Cain showed no concern or remorse.

V 11 There was no death penalty here, there was no law against murder yet.

A further curse seems to have been placed on the ground and Cain's occupation became harder (Genesis 4:2).

V 12 To waver, go to and fro. to flee, wander

V 13 Perverseness, "Is mine iniquity too great to be forgiven?"

V 14 By now Adam had been on earth about 130 years. At a moderate rate of increase there could have been 500,000 people by this time. Cain himself built a city, requiring many people (Genesis 4:17). Every man had sons and daughters and started branches of the race (Genesis 4:15-24; 5:1-32; 6:1-2).

V 15 God gave him a pledge that vengeance would be taken sevenfold on anyone who became his murderer. It was not a change of color from white to black. The black race did not begin with Cain whose line perished in the flood (Genesis 6:8,18; 7:1). All races as we know them now began after Noah (Genesis 10).

V 16 God already had a place of meeting with men where He blessed worshipers wandering. Nod - wanderings. Cain, supposedly alone, was joined by many.

V 17 The first city on earth since the recreation. These people built fortified cities; invented musical instruments; made songs; danced; forged weapons from brass and iron; set boundaries around lands; and invented weights and measures. However, they also lived wicked, licentious lives until judgment had to come. Cain's leadership as "mayor" of the first city reveals the wickedness of the times.

Enoch was not of Seth's line who was the seventh from Adam. This Enoch was third from Adam in Cain's line.

V 19 The seventh from Adam in Cain's line became the first polygamist and the second murderer – but apparently in self defense.

V 20 An idiom for originator of anything new. Houses originated earlier than tents  
Tents were a special invention for the cattle trade which made it necessary to travel  
in search of the best grass. Nomadic lifestyle of cattle farmers – livestock

V 21 Inventor and teacher of musical instruments. manipulate, wield, take hold harp  
– twang: organ- a breathing or reed instrument

V 22 flowing from Cain, showing that Cain had children named after him.

Tubal-cain invented and taught metal arts. Means to hammer out an edge, sharpen,  
whet. He was a fabricator, a mechanic.

V 23 Literally, I have slain a man who wounded me, and a young man who hurt me.  
If God would judge Cain, surely He'll judge me. Notice the illogic of worldly  
judgement. Self condemnation instead of understanding self defense.

V 25 Seth means substituted. Enos means mortal, frail. More religions developed is  
what this means. It doesn't mean people called on the true God.

### **The Line of Seth**

It is generally believed there were only two branches of the race: a godly line  
through Seth and an ungodly line through Cain. However, this is contrary to both  
Scripture and history. All the sons and daughters of Adam and others throughout the  
time before Noah's flood period started branches of the race. There were also giants  
(Genesis 6:3), the offspring of the sons of God and daughters of men.

### **There were millions of people during this period**

It would be impossible to divide the race into only two families. Cain's line is  
mentioned only to the seventh generation (Genesis 4:16-24). Seth's is the only  
entire line given in this period, the purpose being to record the line of the Messiah  
from Adam to Christ (Genesis 4:25; 5:32; Luke 3:23-38).

### **Seth's line was just as ungodly as all others.**

Abel, Enoch and Noah were the only godly people mentioned in this period.

Apostasy began in Seth's line with his firstborn. Genesis 4:26 literally reads, "then  
men began to call themselves by the name of Jehovah," or "call upon their gods  
(idols) by the name of Jehovah." If true worship began here then what kind of  
worship was that of Adam, Abel, Seth and others up to this time (Genesis 3:21;  
4:1-15; Hebrews 11:4)? Seth's line and others were so ungodly at the time of Enoch  
that he prophesied their destruction (Jude 1:14). He also foretold the flood, because  
he called his son Methuselah meaning, "when he is dead it (the flood) shall come."

Where were all the many so-called "sons of God" from Seth's line during those last  
six hundred years? God told Noah that he was the only righteous one in the earth  
(Genesis 7:1). All flesh was corrupt, hence, the judgment upon all flesh except eight  
persons. If Seth's line hadn't failed, God wouldn't have destroyed them along with  
the ungodly. Even Noah's family wasn't saved because they were godly, but because  
they were pure Adamite stock (see pt. (7) under pt. 6 of Giants and the Sons of God.

## Chapter 5

V 1 This is the family history of the first man of this race, Adam, showing the line through whom the second Adam, the Seed of the woman, should come.

V 3 God's likeness was perfect; Adam's was imperfect and depraved, with the law of sin and death working in and bringing it to ruin.

V 4 If Adam had sons & daughters after Seth, he also had them after Cain & Abel

V 7 These generations following Seth were perhaps firstborn sons.

V 12 The Hebrew word means "fixed, possessor".

V 15 The Hebrew means "praise of God"

V 18 His name could be prophetic of the overthrow of the race by the flood. It is significant that his name was the first after the middle of ten names from Adam to Noah. In the day of his son Enoch, God foretold the flood as a judgment upon the apostate and corrupt race.

V 21 Enoch - means "initiated" or "dedicated." Enoch was the only one godly in Seth's line except Noah. He was a prophet (Jude 1:14), and was translated by faith (Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:5). His experience parallels that of Elijah (2 Kings 2). Both were taken to heaven bodily without dying; both were prophets of judgment; both fought idolatry and apostasy; both knew the time and purpose of their "translation". Hebrews 9:27 Couldn't two prophets live in heaven all these millennia?

V 22 To walk up and down, be conversant: Enoch and Noah were the only pre-flood people who walked with God. Abel, Enoch and Noah are the only ones referred to as godly during this age. This walk with God might have been as literal as with Adam. Something may have turned him to God at this time. He did get revelation from God, because he named his son Methuselah, which means "when he is dead it (the flood) shall come." He also foretold the second coming of Christ to destroy the ungodly (Jude 1:14).

V 23 That is, all his days on earth at that time. He lived 365 years on earth, & he will return as one of the two witnesses of Revelation 11. It is said of each of the others in this chapter that "he died" but of Enoch, "he was not, for God took him".

V 24 The history of 365 years, 300 of which were spent believing, being humble and holy, walking with God.

V 25 The longest earthly life on record.

V 28 Hebrew means destroyer. The ninth from Adam in Seth's line,

V 29 Rest, comfort. The ark-builder - to sigh, avenge, pity, console

V 31 He died five years before the flood.

V 32 Five hundred years old, for Noah was six hundred years old when the flood came (Genesis 7:6); and his son Shem was only a hundred years old two years after the flood (Genesis 11:10). Methuselah begat Lamech at 187, then 182 years later, Lamech begat Noah. Noah was 600 when the flood came.  $187 + 182$  equals 369. Add Noah for 600 years old when the flood came. Methuselah died in the flood. His name means after him, it shall come.

