

At this point in the narrative, the line of Seth is clearly showing signs that they are offspring of the Serpent. What then of God's promise to Eve that a child will come from her offspring whom will defeat the serpent? Who are and where are the offspring of the woman from whom this promised one will come? Abel is dead and clearly the promise is not being fulfilled through the line of Cain! Now we read **Genesis 4:24**

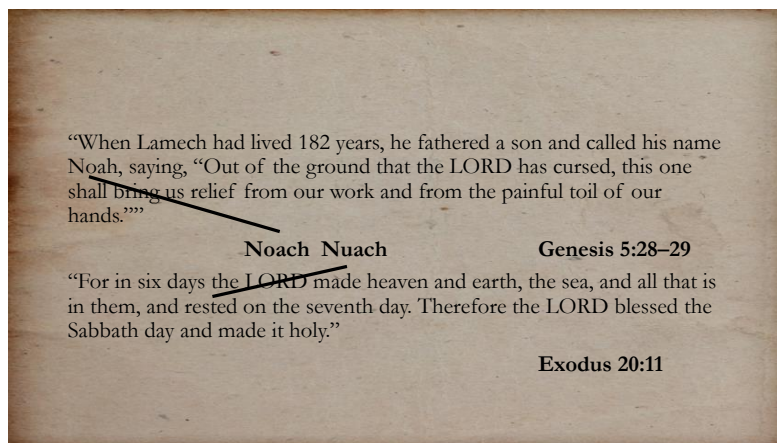
- **Genesis 4:25** – And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, “God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.”
 - Good news! Another child! Maybe this will be the one through whom the promise of Genesis 3:15 is fulfilled?
 - And then more good news in Genesis 4:26:
- **Genesis 4:26** – At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD
 - To “call upon the name of the LORD” appears in Gen. 12:8; 13:4; 21:33; 26:25 – where it is connected with altars and public worship.
 - Likely describes the origin of regular divine worship. Makes sense with population increase – begins to have more order to it.
 - Consider how this use of the word “name” contrasts to the line of Cain in 4:17
 - Here in the line of Seth we have a people that are beginning to trust in YHWH! Quite a different posture from that of the line of Cain.
- **Genealogies – Length of Time**
 - A fathered B – it is part of the conventions of genealogies to allow gaps of unspecified lengths. Other genealogies in the Bible show signs of being compressed.
 - If we use a biblical genealogy to compute a length of time, we are failing to cooperate with the kind of communicative act that these genealogies perform – to give the line of descent and emphasize historical continuity – they also serve to move the story line forward quickly, without stopping for details on particular figures. (Collins, Gen. 1-4, 207)
 - **What of the incredible ages given?**
 - *Sumerian King List*

- When kingship was lowered from heaven, kingship was first in Eridu. In eridu, A-lulim became king and ruled for 28,000 years. Alagar ruled 36,000 years...
- “We may be dealing with one [an epic element] here, for it is possible to see in this extreme longevity the reflex – in time – of a psychology still operative today, whereby bigness is equated with greatness.” -Thomas Hartman
- My opinion is that the large numbers are a literary feature of antiquity to signal we are talking about a royal lineage.
- This feature of “bigness” to refer to kings is depicted in ancient art and even the Hebrew bible when speaking of kings such as Saul (1 Sam. 9:2).
- In the Egyptian piece below, notice how big Pharaoh is represented compared to his foes and even the other Egyptians.



- Also notice the use of the number ten in the genealogies.
 - “Ten was in ancient times regarded as the number of completeness and the signature of the finished whole.” (Delitzsch. 59)
- **The Formula**
 - Age at birth of children
 - Kids
 - Length of subsequent life
 - Duration of whole life
 - “and then he died” (?)

- This last phrase is noticeably absent in other ancient genealogies. The point being: the spiritual separation that resulted from Genesis 3 results in bodily death. God did not lie – death was a result of eating of tree and its painfully obvious in these genealogies.
- Does this pattern continue with Noah in 5:32?
 - The genealogy cuts off and we don't get the last two elements for Noah until Genesis 9:28-29. Why? Because there is a big event that happens – the Flood. But before the flood the author is tracing the line from Adam to Noah – then after the flood from Noah to Abraham.
- Gen. 5:29 “and called his name Noah (Heb. *Noach*), saying, “Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.””
 - The name *noach* sounds like *nuach*, which means to rest – or to give rest. It's often associated with Sabbath – in Exodus 20:11 “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and *rested (nuach)* on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”



- Nuach is what you do to Sabbath – and it's what you give – to your animals, to your tools – give rest.
- And part of this is a move to enter to the Sabbath rest and enjoyment that God always had planned for His people – fully enjoying and resting in the fruits of one's labor and

creation. But there was frustration because of the curse – through Noah the curse is starting to be dealt with – the word “relief” – to give comfort. God’s compassion is coming through here – and his commitment to His plan at creation.

- Also notice that in Noah we will start to see a return to a positive relationship between the ground (Heb. *adamah*) and man (see notes below).

○ **Genealogies as an organizing principle for Genesis**

The title we use for the book of Genesis in English is based on the Greek word *genesis*, which means “lineage” or “genealogy.” This word appears 15 times in the Greek translation of Genesis in the Septuagint. In almost every occurrence, it translates the Hebrew word *toledot*, which means “generations”. Many have seen the lineages or genealogies in Genesis as providing an organizational structure to the book, as can be seen below:

2:4	These are the generations (<i>genesis</i>) of...	the heavens and the earth	2:4-4:26
5:1	These are the generations (<i>genesis</i>) of...	Adam	5:1-6:8
6:9	These are the generations (<i>genesis</i>) of...	Noah	6:9-9:29
10:1	These are the generations (<i>genesis</i>) of...	the sons of Noah	10:1-11:9
11:10	These are the generations (<i>genesis</i>) of...	Shem	11:10-26
11:27	These are the generations (<i>genesis</i>) of...	Terah	11:27-25:11
25:12	These are the generations (<i>genesis</i>) of...	Ishmael	25:12-18
25:19	These are the generations (<i>genesis</i>) of...	Isaac	25:19-35:29
36:1, 9	These are the generations (<i>genesis</i>) of...	Esau	36:1-37:1
37:2	These are the generations (<i>genesis</i>) of...	Jacob	37:2-50:26

Two observations:

- Once again we are dealing with the number 10. The book of Genesis then is meant to be understood as covering the history from the beginning of the world up to the Israelites being in Egypt, which is where the book of Exodus begins.
- When a non-elect line is dealt with, it precedes the elect line. So for example, Ishmael is before Isaac and Esau is before Jacob. This may inform how Genesis chapters 4-6 are operating structurally:
 - Genesis 4 gives us the genealogy of Cain (non-elect)

- Genesis 5 gives us the genealogy of Seth (elect)
- Genesis 6:1-4 picks back up with the genealogy of Cain, which has now become the dynasty of Cain. (non-elect)
- Genesis 6:8-9 picks back up the line of Seth with Noah. (elect)