**3.b “BETWEEN THE FALL AND ABRAHAM”**

**Section II:** THE PLAN REVISED

**Biblical Basis:** Genesis 4 – 11

**Objective:** That each class members become familiar with the content and theological implications of Genesis 4 – 11.

**INTRODUCTION**

From the time of Adam and Eve’s expulsion from the Garden of Eden, history flows on. In this segment, God deals with all of humanity, and yet, already we sense that humanity is divided into people who serve the Lord and those who are disobedient. Notice the emphasis on the genealogies; there is a Godly line through which God will redeem a fallen humanity.

**I. THE TWO HUMANITIES Genesis 4 – 5**

 A. The two sacrifices.

 1. Review once again Genesis 3:15. In light of Hebrews 11:4-6 reflect on the phrase: “Your offspring and hers.” What do these verses tell us about the division in humanity?

 2. Compare Genesis 3:7 with 3:21 as to the meaning of the two suits of clothes. What does God dramatically emphasize to Adam and Eve concerning their sin?

 3. Read Genesis 4:1-7. Why do you suppose God accepted Abel’s offering and rejected Cain’s? (Heb 11:4)

 4. How are people today still doing what Cain did?

 B. The two resulting humanities.

 1. What kind of humanity do we read about in Genesis 4:11-24? What key point does Genesis 4:16 make?

 2. In contrast to the children of Cain we read about Seth, another child in place of Abel, and his line in Genesis 4:25 – 5:32. What key point does Genesis 4:26 make?

 Since the time of Cain and Abel, every person in history either stands in the place of Cain or in the place of Abel. There are two humanities. The one says “there is no God,” makes its own gods, or tries to come to the true God in their own way. The other comes to God by God’s revealed way. There is no neutral ground. God’s call to us is “be ye separate.” We must come to God His way (John 1:12), or don’t come at all!

**II. GOD’S RESPONSE TO MAN’S REBELLION Genesis 6:1 – 8:19**

 A. The basis for judgment. (Gen 6:1-10)

 1. What possible explanation can you give to explain Genesis 6:1-2?

 (Also read: Ezra 9:2; II Peter 2:4-5; and Jude 6-7)

 2. What is the extent of wickedness as described in Genesis 6:5,11?

 3. What was the only ray of hope existing for humanity? (Gen 6:8)

 B. The compassion in the midst of judgment. (Gen 6:11 – 7:10)

 1. How do you see the compassion of God evidenced in spite of His anger?

 2. How is Noah and the Ark a type of Christ? (I Pet 3:18-22)

 C. The consummation of judgment. (Gen 7:11 – 24)

 1. The flood. It is interesting to note that among the myths in the world’s history, no other myth is so wide spread as the story of the Flood. From China to the American Indians and even pre-Columbian Indians, there are strange stories of a great flood.

 2. How does the New Testament use the account of Noah and the Flood to warn us of God’s impending judgment? (Matt 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27; II Pet 3:4-14)

**III. MAN’S NEW BEGINNING Genesis 8:20 – 11:32)**

 A. God’s covenant after the Flood. (Gen 8:20 – 9:19)

 1. What is the first thing Noah does after coming out of the Ark?

 2. What covenant does God make with humanity? (Gen 9:11-17)

 B. Noah’s prophecy of blessings and curses. (Gen 9:20-29)

 1. How do you understand Noah’s reaction to Ham?

 2. In Genesis 9:26-27, the promise that was first given to all men (Gen 3:15) narrowed to come through Seth, is now narrowed further to come through the Semitic people. How do you see these prophecies of Noah fulfilled?

 C. Nations dispersed through confusion of tongues. (Gen 10:1 – 11:32)

 1. Genesis 10 deals with genealogies, not chronology. God is saying, “Do you want to know the flow of history?” Gomer, Magog, Tubal – these are descendants of Japheth who became founders of countries and nations. A man brings forth peoples who settle in specific areas. Later, these places take on the names of the principal pioneer who settled that area. In Genesis 10:7 these names become places.

 2. What reason is given in Genesis 11:4-6 for the dispersion of the human race?

 The basic division among people is not color of skin, race or nation, but language. Thus another division has emerged – not just one between God and man, man and himself, man and man, and man and nature – but also between peoples of the earth in their people groups and cultures. All of these are rooted in the same source – the sin of man! Here at the tower, man seeks to be autonomous from God.

 3. In Genesis 10 – 11 the Bible carries us further in redemptive history to the very family through which God would bring salvation to the whole world. On whom is the spotlight? (Gen 11:31-32)

**CONCLUSION**

In Chapter 7, we read that “God shut the door.” What warning is that for people regarding salvation? (Heb 2:3) Please notice the parallel between the judgment upon men in Noah’s day and the judgment that is yet to come. (Matt 24:37-41; Rev 20:11-15) What lessons will you apply to your life?