Worship Servants:

This week: 5/21/23

Sermon:	Matt J	Sermon:
Preside:	Barry S, David D Phillip E, John A	Preside:
Opening Prayer:	Dylan N	Opening Prayer:
Closing Prayer:	James M	Closing Prayer:
Singing AM:	Doug M	Singing AM:
Singing PM:	Alex H	Singing PM:

Next week: 5/28/23

Matt J
James M, Don C, David H, Justin H
Ken R
David D
David D
Prayer Service

Sermon Notes:

Sunda	y:	Wednesday:
Bible Class Worship Worship	10 AM	Bible Class 6 PM
Danny Da		ers

David

David

Service Times

EIGCIG	
Dailey	205-799-091
Dailey	205-765-726
Harbin	205-292-351

Deacons John Sloan

James McDonald

Minister

Matt Jones 205-616-1165 EMAIL: matt65jones@gmail.com

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MERCEDES DRIVE CHURCH ot **CHRIST**

May 21, 2023

VOL. 16 NO. 21



UPCOMING EVENTS

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY | June 6th, 6:30pm MDCOC Fellowship Hall Held monthly on the first Tuesday.

SATURDAY SISTERS | June 10th, 9am Host - TBD Teacher - TBD

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY | June 13th, 6pm **MDCOC Fellowship Hall** Held monthly on the second Tuesday.

TEENS IN THE WORD | June 20th, 6pm At the Jones House

MEN'S BREAKFAST | May 28th, 7:45am At the building.

1ST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP | June 4th 9AM - Bible Class 10AM - Worship 3PM - Kids activities 5PM - Family Singing / Devotional

GIRLS FOR CHRIST | May 28th after services

LADIES REVELATION STUDY | 2nd & 4th Sundays 1PM at the building Taught by: Helen Mulaparthi

Check the bulletin in the foyer for more announcements and upcoming events.

Who did Cain marry? Jeff Miller

Skeptics argue that the Bible is a book of mythology, filled with inconsistencies and impossibilities. Clarence Darrow, the agnostic defense attorney in the famous Scopes Monkey Trial, scoffed at the Bible's account of Cain finding a wife, asking William Jennings Bryan, "Did you ever discover where Cain got his wife?"1 Writing in Biblical Archaeology Review, Marry Leith argued that the text implies there must have been "other people 'out there' when God created Adam and Eve" from whom Cain picked a wife.2 Genesis 3:20, however, indicates that "all living" descended from Eve. If God created only Adam and Eve, and all other humans came from them, and Eve had only birthed Cain and Abel by the time Abel was murdered, who was Cain's wife (Genesis 4:17)?

First, as discussed elsewhere, 3 Genesis 4 gives several indications that a significant amount of time likely passed between the birth of Cain and Abel and the murder of Abel. If humanity was being fruitful and multiplying as God commanded (Genesis 1:28), it is reasonable to assume that Adam and Eve were not waiting many years before conceiving their next child. Genesis 5:4 indicates that Adam and Eve did, in fact, have "other sons and daughters" which are not listed in the text. If they had a single child every two years (i.e., no twins), and their children began marrying at the age of 19 and immediately began having children as well, there would have been roughly 300 people on the Earth by the time Cain was 1004–a plausible age as to when Cain may have killed his brother.5 Cain likely married either a sister or niece.

Some see a problem with that explanation, as it implies that Cain (and many others) were forced to commit incest-an illicit union in God's sight. God's law concerning incest, however, was not instituted until the Law of Moses came into effect (Leviticus 18), likely at least 2,500 years after Creation. It is generally assumed that the reason God outlawed incest at that point was due to the state of the human aenome by the time of Moses. Incestuous relations significantly increase the likelihood of birth defects, as well as deleterious psychological problems.6 A child inherits 23 chromosomes from each of his parents. By having children with close relatives, many of those chromosomes are duplicated in the offspring-including those genes that are deleterious, rapidly increasing the odds of major physical problems.

When God created Adam and Eve, however, their genomes were pristine-without defect. Duplicate chromosomes would not have caused the defects observed today. After Adam and Eve were evicted from the Garden, denied the "healing effects" of the Tree of Life, and were subjected to the cursed Earth (Genesis 3:14-19), their bodies and genomes would have begun to suffer the effects of entropy in earnest. The Universe, and everything in it, is growing "old like a garment"-gradually decaying (Psalm 102:25-26). Ultraviolet and other forms of radiation (especially radiation from the Flood), as well as other mutagens and DNA replication errors have increased the accumulation of mutations in the genome. After over two millennia of genetic entropy, by the time of Moses the number of mutations within the human genome would have begun to make incest a dangerous practice.

Cain would have married a close relative. However, as would be predicted if the Bible is inspired by the God Who created the genome, and therefore knew of the growing dangers of incest long before humans had discovered the genome, God asserted Himself at the right time and prohibited the dangerous practice that He had previously sanctioned.

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- EDEN SHEPHERD, 3 years old, passed away
- **MEDIA SLOAN** and back troubles
- **OUR SENIORS** and their future plans
- AUDREY TIDWELL and her road to recovery
- **ANDY CADDELL and his foot problems**
- **BRIAN SIDES** is recovering from shoulder surgery
- Congrats to Tim and Kayla Banks on the birth of their baby girl "Violet Joanie Rose"
- **KEN AND BETTY RAMAY and health struggles**
- JACK ADKINS is having surgery May 24.
- ZACHARY DAVIS, friend of Jugnita, has had hospice called in.
- FAMILY OF MICHAEL EDMENDSON he passed away April 11th
- JENNIFER, Kayla Banks' friend, is needing prayers for her baby
- MARIE STRAIN in hospital for blood clots in her lungs
- **MISSION WORK IN INDIA**
- **BARBIE SMITH'S FATHER and all of health issues**
- LYN'D DUNNWOODY Debbie's Brother in Law's Daughter, has breast cancer
- JAMES HALL needing prayers and is needing encouragement.

ATTENDANCE

Worship A.M 72	
Worship P.M 53	
Wed P.M49	

CONTRIBUTION

Last Week......\$3,029.00 **BUDGET** Weekly......\$3,000.00

