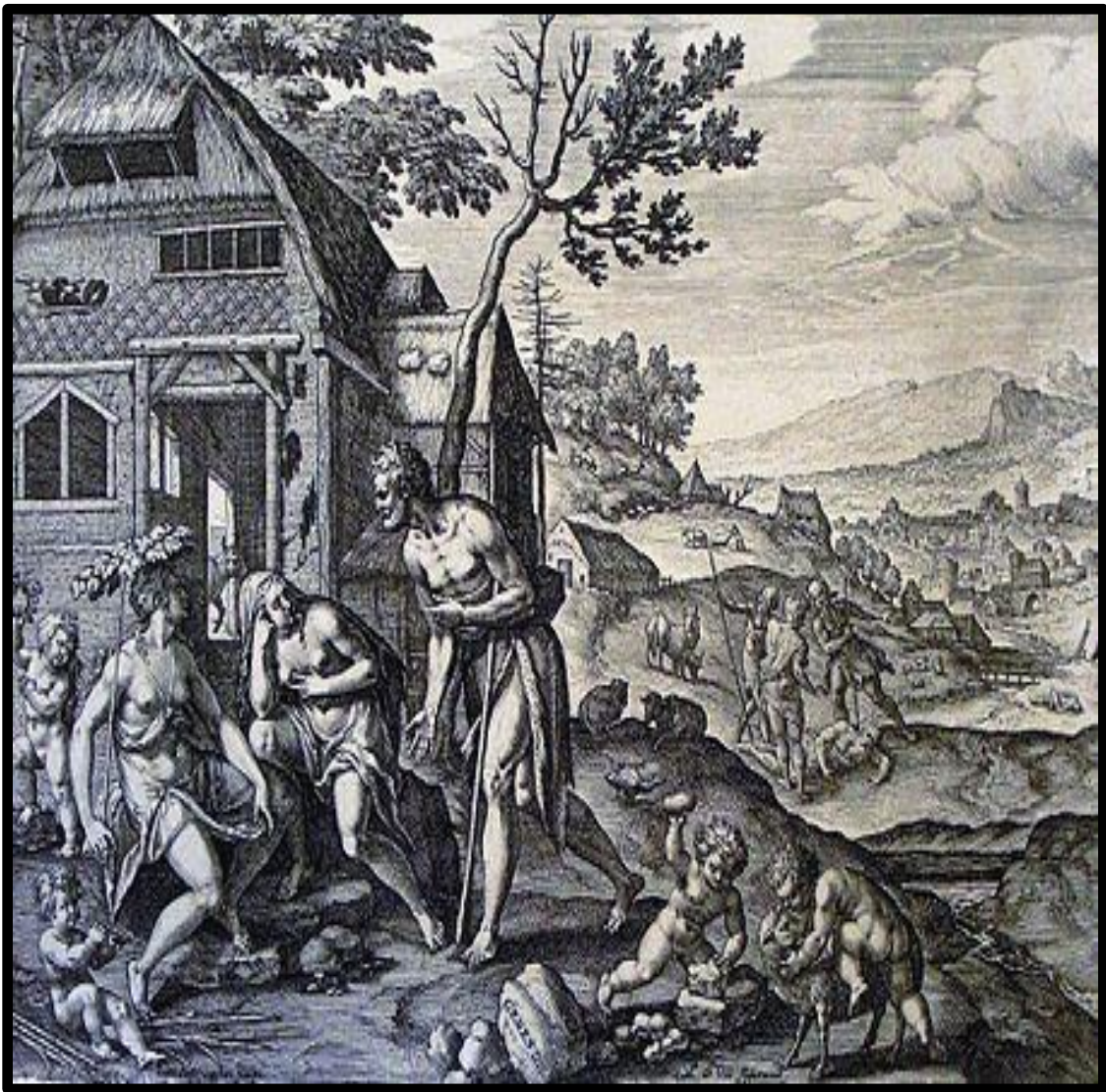


LIVING GODS WILL

Vessel of God

LAMECH



Lamech and his two wives by Phillip Medhurst

Born: Unknown

Died: Unknown

Lamech was a descendant of **Adam and Cain**.

Lamech was the **father of Tubal-Cain** the first blacksmith.

Lamech was a **polygamist** having wives **Adah and Zillah**.

Lamech boasts to his wives of **killing a man** for striking him.

“Lamech said to his wives: ‘Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. If Cain’s revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech’s is seventy-sevenfold’” (Gen. 4:23–24).

When **Cain** transgressed the will of the **Lord** and killed his brother **Abel**, **God** could have immediately ended his life. Such was the sentence Israel was to carry out on murderers according to the law later delivered to **Noah** (**Gen. 9:6**). However, in his grace, our **Creator** allowed Cain not only to live but to exist securely under divine protection (**Gen. 4:15**).

The apostle **Paul** teaches us that the **Lord** pours His kindness on sinners for the purpose of driving them to repentance (**Rom. 2:4**). Cain should have turned from his sin in response to **God’s** protection. But this first murderer fled from the presence of the **Lord**, seeking to build a name for himself and his sons by naming a city after his firstborn (**Gen. 4:17**).

Cain’s sons multiply, and several generations later, a man by the name of **Lamech** is born (**v. 18**). Though his ancestor Cain was evil enough, **Lamech** is far worse, the first indication of this being Moses’ reference to his **polygamy** in **verse 19**.

Nevertheless, the taking of multiple wives was not the most monstrous of his acts. Today’s passage illustrates the depths of mankind’s depravity in the first few generations after **Adam**.

In **verses 23–24**, **Lamech** boasts to his wives of killing a man for “**striking**” him. The circumstances of this offense against him are not known; yet it is certain the punishment **Lamech** executes does not fit the crime.

Here the danger of blood-vengeance is illustrated in the extreme — a danger the **Lord** later curbs by giving us the **Lex talionis**. Far from being too harsh, the stipulation “**an eye for an eye**” ensures punishment will not be harsher than deserved (**Ex. 21:23–25**).

Lamech's sin is worse than Cain's because of his boast that those who take revenge on him will be avenged **seventy-seven fold** (**Gen. 4:24**). In arrogance, **Lamech** presumes upon the mercy and kindness of our **Creator**, viewing the absence of strict justice as liberation for him to do evil.

Note well that while we may never murder another, we all regularly take the **Lord's** grace for granted when we sin. May we never so recklessly violate the law of **God** (**Rom. 6:1-4**).

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

Genesis 4:19 Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah.

Genesis 4:23 Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, even a young man for hurting me. **24** If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."

Genesis 4:20 And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. **21** His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute.

Genesis 4:22 And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.



Tubal-Cain at his forge by Andrea Pisano