

Noah Part 1
by Jen Bradbury

Clip: Start: 00:39; End: 2:06;

Intro to the clip: The prologue to “Noah” tells the story using words and illustrated images. It gives us background that will help us better understand the story of “Noah”.

1. According to “Noah”, “Temptation led to sin. Cast out of Eden, Adam & Eve had 3 sons: Cain, Abel, and Seth.” Read Genesis 3:22-23. Why did God cast Adam & Eve out of the garden?
2. According to Genesis 3:23, part of Adam & Eve's punishment was to “till the ground from which he was taken.” Do you think work is meant to be a punishment? Why or why not?
3. Read Genesis 3:24. Do you think God's overreacting to Adam & Eve's sin here? Why or why not?
4. Reread Genesis 2:16-17. What did God initially tell Adam & Eve the punishment for eating from the tree of knowledge would be? Given this, how is Adam & Eve's punishment actually a reflection of God's grace?
5. Read Genesis 4:1. What does it mean that the “man knew his wife Eve”? Why?
6. Read Genesis 4:2. What was Cain's occupation? Abel's?
 - *Cain: Farmer*
 - *Abel: Shepherd*
7. Read Genesis 4:3-5. What do Cain & Abel give as their offerings?
8. How does God react to Cain & Abel's offerings?
9. God rejects Cain's offering. What did Cain do to deserve this rejection?
 - *Nothing!*
 - *Consider this idea from Old Testament Scholar Walter Brueggemann: “The trouble comes not from Cain but from Yahweh, the strange God of Israel. Inexplicably, Yahweh chooses – accepts & rejects...The rejection of Cain is not reasoned but is a necessary premise for the story. Life is unfair. God is free.”*
10. According to “Noah”, “Cain killed Abel and fled to the East, where he was sheltered by a band of fallen angels: The Watchers.” Read Genesis 4:8-9. Why does Cain kill Abel?
11. Old Testament Bible scholar Walter Brueggemann says “The family would perhaps have gotten along better without this God... All through the Genesis narratives, Yahweh is there to disrupt,

to create tensions, and to evoke the shadowy side of reality." Based on what you know about the story of Cain and Abel, do you think Brueggemann is correct: Would Adam & Eve's family have gotten along better without this God?

12. Do you ever feel as though you'd get along better without God? Why or why not?
13. According to Brueggemann, "Yahweh is there to disrupt & create tensions." How, if at all, has God disrupted your life? When, if ever, has God created tension in your life? If God disrupts and sometimes creates tensions in your life, why do you continue to worship and follow him?
14. Read Genesis 4:9. Is God all-knowing? Why or why not? If God is all-knowing, then why do you think he asks Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"
15. Cain asks, "Am I my brother's keeper?" In the Christian world, we often refer to one another as our "brothers and sisters in Christ." From God's perspective, do you think we are our "brothers keepers"? Why or why not? What, if any, responsibility do we have for one another?
16. Read Genesis 4:10-12. What punishment does God give to Cain?
17. What's the difference between fairness and justice? Do you think God's punishment for Cain is fair? Why or why not? Just? Why or why not? Read Genesis 4:13-14. Do you think Cain thinks his punishment is fair? Why or why not? Just? Why or why not?
18. According to the movie, "Noah", who protects Cain?
 - *A band of fallen angels: The Watchers.*
19. Read Genesis 4:15. According to this passage, who protects Cain? How?
20. The mark of Cain announces both his guilt and God's grace. How?
 - *Grace: It marks Cain as safe in God's protection; It shows an anticipation of resurrection – God has not lost interest in the murderer or given up on him*
21. If God did not lose interest in or give up on the murderer, Cain, then do you think he could ever lose interest in or give up on you? Why or why not?
22. Read Genesis 4:16. Where does Cain settle? Why's this significant?
 - *The Land of Nod, to the east of Eden*
 - *Prior to this, this land was thought to be beyond God's protection; Now God shows that no where is beyond his protection*