

LESSON IV.

GENESIS IV.—V

THE TWO RACES.

Birth and Death.

The life of Cain was spared. We wonder why, for there had been no confession of sin, no desire for re-union with God, and there certainly was no amendment of life. Both he and his descendants seem to have lived in sin, and far away from God. The mystery of sin and the mystery of God's longsuffering with unrepentant sinners is insoluble. It cannot be known now; it will be revealed in the hereafter.

Certain facts are recorded of Cain and of his race. He built a city; his descendants multiplied. They were skilful and civilized. They were distinguished by ability, self-reliance and hardihood. Jubal was the inventor of musical instruments, and thus began the fine arts. Tubal Cain, an artificer in brass and iron, introduced the useful arts. Typical of the spirit of the whole race is what is called the Sword Song of Lamech. Perhaps a special notice is made of him because of his outstanding daring, and his defiance of the right. He is the first man recorded as having two wives, and from this time we find polygamy and its consequent evils in the world. His Sword Song contains his proud boasting before those wives. He has committed murder, but he makes a boast of it, and, as it were, dares either God or man to touch him. If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and seven fold. His is a positive defiance which breathes the very pride of life.

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