

The First Family

Commentary for March 1, 2018 — ... and the Last Family

I am not writing about the First Family of the President of the United State. I write about the First human Family in history — Adam and Eve. From them the entire human race was born, through the flood, repopulated, with an estimated 7.6 billion people alive at this moment.

Adam and Eve did not do well. However, not one of us would have done any better. Adam, Eve, and their children were mortal and tainted with sin after they disobeyed God. Sin passed on to their children and all future generations.

“Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sins, it shall die.”

• **Ezekiel 18:4**

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

• **Romans 5:12**

Although mortality was now part of Adam and Eve’s physical makeup, they were still almost genetically perfect when they were created, and must have had seemingly miraculous recuperative powers. How can I know? Well, Adam lived 930 years (Genesis 5:5).¹

Adam did a great deal of living (8 to 10 times the normal lifespan today), during most of which he had far greater physical prowess (strength, coordination, agility) than any of us ever had, even in the prime of our lives. During that time Adam, Eve, and the rest of their pre-flood “extended family” suffered falls, cuts, scrapes, gouges, infections, as well as animal and human attacks that would kill most of us today. Yet several lived a remarkably long time.

Adam and Eve failed the test of sin (though I think the deck was stacked against them) and they had the highest IQ possible, they had zero experience on how to act, teach, and raise children or following generations. We do not know how much education God gave them or how much they had to figure out for themselves. Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden (Genesis 3:23), but they remained in the land of Eden. The birth of Cain gave them hope. Abel was born along with other sons (and daughters, Genesis 5:4).

The First Family was changed forever when the first murder took place. Cain clubbed Abel to death. This occurred during a time when Cain (and presumably Abel, Adam and Eve) still

¹ Since Adam, human genetic degeneration began and the rate of degeneration has increased to be a very serious problem. As more mutations accumulate in each generation, the rate of mutation also increases. Unless God intervenes, within a foreseeable future very few “healthy” people will be able to successfully reproduce the next generation. This is according to Dr. John C. Sanford, *Genetic Entropy and the Mystery of the Genome* (FMS Publications, 2014). The 2014, 4th edition has the best and latest evidence.

communicated with God (Genesis 4:6–16), and YHWH's presence was near (4:14, 16).

As far as the biblical text tells us, Abel was the first human who died — ever. God's promise of future death (Genesis 2:17²) was no longer a threat. Suddenly it was a horrifying reality. The evil of those descended from Adam and Eve was so great that YHWH had to wipe out all human beings except 8 persons:

“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, ‘The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.’”

• **Genesis 6:11–13**

The Second First Family, of Jesus

Families can do better than Adam, Eve and the pre-flood population. The family of Jesus was close-knit and — eventually — supportive of Jesus' Messiahship. Truly, His human family can be considered a First Family because of who Jesus was: the Son of God in human flesh. Through Him, all creation was made and all creation will be reconciled to God.

That family was Joseph, Mary, Jesus, 4 other sons, and at least 2 daughters, a minimum of 9 people in the household. Dr. Ernest Martin's article this month, “Who's Who in the New Testament” discusses interesting aspects of the family relationships of Jesus. (Read first the [“March 2018 Newsletter.”](#)) Joseph died after Jesus was twelve (Luke 2:42–53) and before His first public miracle at the wedding celebration in the town of Cana (John 2:1–12).³

In Dr. Martin's article you will learn that Jesus had several relatives in His extended family who were supportive of His mission in various ways, and some were chosen apostles. His family members (His mother being an exception) did not fully believe Him until they encountered Him after His resurrection from the dead.

The Last Family (The New First Family)

The entire human race will be incorporated as part of the “Last Family” after every human being is justified by Christ. It will then be the Family of God, with Christ Jesus as God's firstborn son and elder brother. Every human being will be our brother or sister. Other spirit beings (angels, cherubim, seraphim) will be lower in status to us. As far as Scripture tells us at present, none of them will become Sons or Daughters of God (Hebrews 1:5). Just imagine the family reunions!

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² The King James Version of Genesis 2:17 says, **“you shall surely die.”** The Hebrew of Genesis 2:17 is clearer and eliminates the question as to why Adam did not die immediately. It says, **“dying you shall die.”** In other words, the dying process has begun.

³ The family of Jesus probably considered Him to be unique and a wonderful man. He was likely very respectful, friendly, and caring to most everyone before His ministry began. We know that He mingled well with all classes of people. In fact, Jewish society sought His company for social occasions.