



**Does your family have a family crest with a motto? If so, what is it? If not, what would you want it to be?**

The half brother of the Father of Musical Instruments, Jubal, was Tubal-cain (also written as Tubalcain). Two brothers, albeit half-brothers, could not be more different. Sometimes people assume that the members of one family are all alike. The name, *Tubal-cain* is believed to mean *metal smith*. That is, *the mixer of metals*. Some Hebrew scholars believe that Tubal-cain was the first to develop metal weapons, since it is believed that since Adam and Abel “tilled the ground” they probably used metal implements to do so (Gen. 3:23; 4:2). Some scholars believe that Tubal-cain’s inventions of weapons may have enabled his father, *Lamech* to commit manslaughter (Gen. 4:23).

We now know that bronze is an amalgam of 80% copper and 20% tin. How would Tubal-cain have discovered this?

1. Circle the traits an inventor needs to have (and Tubal-cain probably had) —
  - a. Too much time on their hands
  - b. A willingness to experiment
  - c. A lot of curiosity
  - d. A PhD in physics and chemistry

Iron is formed from smelting (“heating and melting”) *iron ore* which looks remarkably like *a stone*! What would have caused Tubal-cain to think that he could *melt* a stone? Great inventors view ‘failure’ totally differently to the rest of us.

2. In what way do inventors see ‘failure’ in a positive light?

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It is said that before Thomas Edison invented the incandescent light globe he had made nearly 10,000 ‘failed’ attempts to do so. When asked about this repeated string of failures, Edison positively replied that he hadn’t failed, rather, he had *successfully* discovered 10,000 ways *not* to make a light globe!

During the Middle Ages before the enlightenment period was about to dawn, men who became known as ‘Alchemists’ were experimenting with all sorts of matter and minerals in an attempt to make gold. They ‘failed’; but along the way they discovered what has now become known as *The Periodic Table of Elements*. Perhaps you have been battling with some past failure and could benefit from a change of perspective inspired by these Alchemists? In a real way, Tubal-cain was the first Alchemist.

3. Many scholars see a link between Tubal-cain’s inventions with metal mentioned in Genesis 4:22 and what is reported in Genesis 4:23. What may have been Tubal-cain’s motive in experimenting with metal?

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History tells us that many inventors do not realise the full potential of their inventions. While Tubal-cain’s motives for developing forged metals may have been evil, today we can see how God has redeemed the use of metal for His glory.

4. In what ways has God redeemed the use of metal for His glory today? Circle each true answer -
- a. In the production of engines which make rapid and long distance travel possible
  - b. For use in telecommunications
  - c. In the manufacturing of life-saving medical equipment and implants

As with music or any material object, metal in itself is neither good or bad. What makes a song, or any object, good or bad is *how it is used*.

5. Note which Scripture refers to a good use of metal and an evil use of metal-  
Deuteronomy 27:15 \_\_\_\_\_  
First Kings 7:23 \_\_\_\_\_

Jubal and Tubal-cain were sons of the same father, Lamech, but to different mothers, Adah and Zillah (Gen. 4:19). This is the first recorded instance of *polygamy* (the taking of more than one wife). This was not God's intention for marriage.

6. How did Jesus describe God's original intention for marriage? (Matthew 19:4-5)  
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When Tubal-cain's Great-Great-Grandfather, Cain, killed Abel (Cain's brother) he fled *east* from Eden. As you read through Scripture, notice how the Bible highlights that when someone rebels against God they head east, but when people seek God they head west, or to put it another way, *they come from the east* (Mtt. 2:1).

It seems that Cain's wanderings ('Nod' means wanderings) led him to establish a 'city'.

*"In vv.20-24 the author names the originators of the primary components of city life: animal husbandry (Jabal, v.20), arts (Jubal, v.21), craftsmanship (Tubal-Cain, v.22), and it appears, law (Lamech vv.23-24)."*

**THE EXPOSITOR'S BIBLE COMMENTARY, Vol. 2, John H. Sailhamer, 1990, p.67**

Tubal-cain's father, Lamech, told his two wives that he had *avenged* himself by killing a man (Gen. 4:23). That is, he said that it was in *self-defence*. His Great Grandfather, Cain, had killed his brother and was then confronted by God who put a mark of protection on him. But Cain did not murder Abel in self-defence. Lamech then claimed sanctuary from God.

7. If God was to punish someone 7 times as much if they killed Cain for murdering Abel, how much more did he claim God would punish anyone for killing him for killing someone in self-defence? (Genesis 4:24)  
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This is the basis for the legal distinction between *murder* (Deut. 19:11) and *manslaughter* (Num. 35:12). Lamech's appeal tells that the 'city' in which he and children lived not only had an agricultural economy and an arts community, it also had a system of law.

Tubal-cain's story tells us that God has probably invested even more great discoveries in this world that are currently 'concealed' from us, but which God has designed for mankind to seek to discover (note Proverbs 25:2). Maybe God might use you to make one of these discoveries which could result in millions of lives being enriched and the God who loves them receiving even greater glory.

*Amen.*