

# CAIN AND ABEL

*Genesis 4*

## INTRODUCTION

### MAKE YOUR PARENT'S PROUD

Have you ever dropped off your child and said, "Do a great job today. Make your parents proud." Of course, if you love your children, you are proud of them in their failures as well as their successes. But we all have such optimism when it comes to our children, hoping and trusting that they will indeed make us, and their Lord very, very proud.

And kids, you do make us proud. We look at you and see the great changes that God is doing in your lives. We see you growing, just as Jesus did, in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man.

Well, the same could be said about Adam and Eve. They had disappointed God terribly through their sin, but in God's grace, He had promised that a seed would come who would ultimately crush the skull of Satan. And so, when Cain was born, perhaps Adam and Eve wondered, "Could this be the promised victorious seed?" "Is this the deliverer?" I believe Eve did believe Cain was to be the promised one, for when he was born, she named him "Cain" which means, "I have acquired".

But in spite of the optimism of the parents, Cain did not turn out so well. Cain was a big disappointment. Cain did not live up to the expectations of either Adam, Eve, or Jehovah. Cain did not make his parents proud. No, instead, Cain made his parents very, very sad. Instead of being the Messiah, he was a murderer. He was not the great deliverer, but the great disappointment.

And, I am sad to say, we will see some strikingly similar characteristics between Cain and ourselves. For as men and women with such great potential created in the image of God, we have proven ourselves do be more like the Great Deceiver than the Great Deity we know as Jehovah.

### LOOKING AT GOD AND THE GOSPEL

This morning, you should leave with an even better understanding of the Gospel. You will see clearly the difference between religion and faith; for Cain was a worshipping man, but Cain was not a believing child of God.

So let's study this passage together, and leave with a clear knowledge of the Gospel, and also with a better knowledge of ourselves. Are we a faithful child of God or simply a worshipping man still in need of a Savior?

# SCRIPTURE TEXT

*NIV Genesis 4:1 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with the help of the LORD." 2 And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground. 4 And Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; 5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. 6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 "If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." 8 And Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" 10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. 11 "And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 "When you cultivate the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you; you shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth." 13 And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear! 14 "Behold, Thou hast driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Thy face I shall be hidden, and I shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and it will come about that whoever finds me will kill me." 15 So the LORD said to him, "Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD appointed a sign for Cain, lest anyone finding him should slay him. 16 Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.*

**Joe's Translation** Genesis 4:1) And Adam knew his wife and she conceived and she bore Cain and she said I have acquired a man (by, from, with) Yahweh. 2) And (she increased, she added, Joseph) to bear his brother (Able, vapor, breath, vain) And Abel tended sheep and Cain he was (worker, servant) [of the] ground. 3) And it came to pass after a time, brought Cain fruit from ground [as an] offering to Yahweh. 4) And Abel he brought, he also, from firstborn of flock, even from their fat, and the Lord (looked at, regarded) Abel and his offering. 5) And in reference to Cain and in reference to his offering no regard [God had], And Cain burned (exceedingly, in abundance, forcefully) and his face was cast down. 6) And Jehovah said to Cain, what burns you? And what [is] your face downcast. 7) [Is there] not if you be good (exaltation, acceptance), and if not good an opening [for] sin lying [there], (and in reference to you it desires) and you shall (rule, dominate). 8) And Cain spoke to Abel his brother, and it came to pass in the field, and Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and he (slaughtered, murdered, killed, destroyed) him. 9) And Jehovah said to Cain, where [is] Abel your brother? And he [Cain] said I don't know. Who watches my brother? Me? 10) And he [God] said, What have you done? The voice of the blood of your brother cries to me from the ground. 11) And now, you are cursed from the ground which has opened her mouth to take the blood of your brother from your hand. 12) When you work the ground no (increase, fruit) it gives, in reference to you (wanderer, reeler, staggerer) (fugitive, wanderer) you will be in the earth. 13) And Cain said to Jehovah, great punishment to bear. 14) Behold you have (driven, expelled) me today from face [of] the ground and from your face I am hid, and it has happened wandering fugitive in the earth it has happened, all finding me he shall slaughter me. 15) And Jehovah said to him, not true, all slaughterers of Cain sevenfold will be

avenged, and Jehovah pledged (to, in reference to) Cain a sign "that none finding him should kill him." 16) And Cain left from before Jehovah and dwelt in the land, wandering east of Eden

# I. CAIN'S FIRST PROBLEM WAS HIS SINFUL PARENTS

Cain was the product of sinful parents

Cain was the beneficiary of being raised by sinful parents. There were times when he saw Adam and Eve bicker and quarrel. There were times when he saw his father being lazy or inconsiderate. There were times when he saw his mother display the wrong attitude. Dad was harsh and overbearing at times. Mom was impatient and often rebelled against her husband's leadership. Undoubtedly, Cain saw much good, but he also saw much sin modeled before him by his frail, fallen parents.

However, Cain was the recipient of something much worse than a sinful environment. Cain was the recipient of a sinful nature. Even if Cain's environment would have been perfect and godly, Cain would still rebel against God because all of Adam's descendants have received the curse of a sin nature.

You and I are products of sinful parents

There is a very real sense in which we are encouraged to sin by our parents.

We are also encouraged to sin by our surrounding environment.

But, even more influential than parents or culture, is our heart. We, just like Cain, are the recipients of original sin, passed down to us from our father, Adam.

*So Cain's first problem was his parents, who passed on to him his sin nature.*

*We all have that problem. But this was just the first of Cain's internal flaws which ultimately led to his external murderous actions.*

*We have to give Cain some credit. He believes there is a God. He believes that this God must be worshiped. He performs the sacred rite of sacrifice while thinking of this God. He understands that man has alienated himself from this God and must be reconciled or pardoned in some fashion.*

*But this leads us to Cain's second problem. His parents gave him a sin nature, and his worship experience did nothing to help him.*

## II. CAIN'S SECOND PROBLEM WAS HIS SINFUL WORSHIP

Cain's worship, though done with good intent, was disregarded

God had modeled the sacrificial rite for Adam and Eve. There were no sacrifices before the fall. There was no need for a sacrificial system. When there is perfect obedience, there is no need for sacrifice. "Yes Lord" is always better than "I'm Sorry Lord.". This is the idea conveyed in 1 Samuel 15:22, "But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. But Adam and Eve sinned, and God modeled the first sacrifice for them by slaughtering an animal to provide for them some covering. This was for the purpose of showing them that someday an innocent man would have to be killed to provide a sin covering for many sinners.

So God began the rite, and Adam had continued to sacrifice and teach his children to do so. Much more goes on behind the scenes than is written.

Sacrifices showed two things:

Need (Need of atonement by death) (No more atoning sacrifices)

Ownership (Gratefulness for God granting his provision) (Now we are living sacrifices) (Tithing)

God had commanded Adam to teach his children to give sacrifices.

They had been well-taught by their father. Cain and Abel were now old enough to offer their own sacrifices. So at this particular time, Cain, who was a farmer by trade, brought from the fruit of the soil. He brought some sort of agricultural product to give to God. Abel, who was a herdsman or shepherd by trade, brought a fat, young animal to be his sacrifice.

There were two offerings, made by two men, made at the same place, and made at the same day; but only one of those offerings was accepted. Read with me again the end of verse 4, "... And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; 5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard." Scripture does not tell us exactly how God accepted and rejected the offerings. Maybe God would visit in human form and dialogue with these men. Or perhaps God would send fire down from heaven to engulf the sacrifice that pleased him, similar to the account of Elijah and the pagan priests on Mount Carmel. But somehow it became very clear; God was pleased with Abel and his offering, but was not pleased by that offering made by Cain.

There are some who become very angry with God at this point. To them, this is just one more example of the Heavenly, unbending bully who pouts and throws a temper-tantrum when he doesn't get his way. The reason, "Why should God not be flexible. Cain did the best he could. Couldn't God just be loving and loosen up a bit?"

Well, let's look at the sacrifices and see why God accepted Abel's but did not accept Cain's.

Option #1 The problem was that one choose an excellent sacrifice while the other settled for a mediocre sacrifice

Support: It was rather in the fact that Abel offered the fattest firstlings of his flock, the best that he could bring; whilst Cain only brought a portion of the fruit of the ground, but not the first-fruits ... Abel's thanks came from the depth of

his heart, whilst Cain merely offered his to keep on good terms with God. (Keil & Delitzsch)

Support: The contrast in offerings is not between an offering of plant life and an offering of animal life, but between a careless, thoughtless offering and a choice, generous offering. (Serendipity Study Bible)

Support: The worshiper is expected to give his best.

Option #2 The problem was the heart of the one sacrificing. One had faith, the other did not have faith.

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

Motivation and heart attitude are all-important, and God looked with favor on Abel and his offering because of Abel's faith. (Serendipity Study Bible)

1 Samuel 16:7 ... The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Why did Abel have faith and Cain did not? Because God gave it to him.

Notice the word order of the passage ... God had respect for Abel and for his sacrifice. It starts with the person.

God will regard no works with favor except those the doer of which is already previously accepted and approved by him. (Calvin)

The problem was one of sovereign election. One man was pleasing while the other was not.

Augustine said, "Give what thou commandest, and command what thou wilt."

Option #3 The problem was the nature of the sacrifice. One was bloody, the other bloodless.

Support: Abel's sacrifice involved blood and therefore testified to the death of a substitute. He was coming to God as God had shown he must be approached ... The sacrifices pointed forward to Christ. When Abel came with the offering of blood he was believing God and was looking forward to the provision of the deliverer. When Cain brought his fruit he was rejecting that provisional. (Boice)

Objection: In addition we must remember that God does find great pleasure in produce sacrifices throughout the Mosaic law.

Answer to Objection: There are two different kinds of sacrifices in the Old Testament. There are atoning sacrifices and thanksgiving sacrifices. God is very pleased to accept our sacrifices of thanksgiving, but only after He has received our atoning sacrifice too. Boice writes, "The offering of Cain represents all the beautiful things of this world that God has given to us and which you and I would like to offer back to him. It is possible for us to offer these to God, but only if we have first come to him on the basis of the sacrifice of Christ."

Our worship, though done with good intent, could be disregarded.

There are millions of people worshiping God in America this morning. Millions more worshiped God yesterday, either in

Jewish services, Seventh-day Adventist services, or Saturday evening services. And they could all be disregarded.

There are millions of people singing songs of praise ... and they could all be disregarded.

There are millions of people giving money to build churches, send missionaries, and feed the poor ... and they could all be disregarded.

There are millions of people sitting under the preaching of the Bible and inwardly believing it to be true ... and they could all be disregarded.

There are thousands of men who have given their career to serving people and teaching the Bible ... and they could all be disregarded.

There are millions of moms and dads who have read Bible stories to millions of children ... and they too could all be disregarded.

Why do I say this? I am seeking to get this point across: the worship of God, even with good intent, does not suffice. We have the same problem Cain did -- our natural sacrifices or worship is disregarded and insufficient. God is never satisfied by men's sacrifice.

These are all sacrifices of grain, fruit or produce. They are all good sacrifices that please our God. It is our requirement and responsibility to do all these things. But reconciliation, favor, and acceptability in the eyes of God do not come through these sacrifices.

First there must be the bloody sacrifice, the atoning sacrifice, the substitutionary sacrifice, the death of an innocent man to cover these sins of unjust men.

God does not give points for effort. There are not levels of acceptability. Either you are 100% reconciled, or you might as well be fishing or golfing this morning.

### III. CAIN'S THIRD PROBLEM WAS HIS OBSTINATE REBELLION

What is the proper response when one realizes that he and his sacrifice are unacceptable to God?

There should only be one reaction; a humbling of oneself, a falling on one's face, a crying in the dust begging for the pardon and forgiveness of God.

This is what we see from David when he was confronted with his sin of killing a man and taking his wife. This is what we see from Job when he realized that he had argued with the God of all gods. But this is not what we see from Cain.

Cain was angry.

His countenance changed. It dropped. He was furious with God.

Can you see the arrogance here. Here is a man who is supposedly coming to offer tribute to a God who controls the eternal destiny of men in his hand, and yet Cain still feels he has some rights. Cain showed his faulty view, that God was

somehow in debt to Cain and must accept his worship. As if God were under obligation to him. As if God were to be standing in Heaven applauding and thanking Cain for taking time out of his busy day to send up a little sacrifice.

Emotions are a good guide to test our spirituality, or lack of spirituality. (Litmus test) (Chlorine Test)

And in the same attitude of Cain, men get very angry today. Some may be inwardly seething at my preaching this morning – wondering who this young man thinks he is condemning the worship of millions.

Cain ignored God's revelation.

God comes to Cain and has a discussion with him. Once again, do not take this for granted. God could have annihilated him there. He could have rained down fire and brimstone. He could have simply ignored him. A wild giraffe could have gored him to death. But God comes and communicates.

God asks Cain literally, "Cain, what burns you?" God sees the heart and wicked emotions of Cain.

Then God says, "Will you not be accepted if you do well?" This is one more indication that God had communicated effectively to Cain and Abel regarding the nature of the sacrifice they were to bring.

Finally God gives Cain a very serious warning. "Sin is crouching at your door, and its desire is to have you, but you must master it." There is an interesting picture of sin here. Picture a man living in a house, and as long as he walks in the house, he can relish in any delight contained within that house. But when he tries to leave, there is sin, lying at the door, blocking the door. God is saying, "Cain, be careful, for sin desires to be your lord, but you must not allow this."

You can't flirt with sin and win. If you flirt, you will end up dating. And then soon you will be engaged. Finally your heart will be consumed and you will be married and in bed with sin and Satan.

Instead, you must proclaim war against Satan. You must flee from sin. You must run to Christ. You must deny yourself. You must make hard choices. You must never compromise. You must purge your heart and your house.

God is saying the same thing to you and me. "Quit burning and fighting Me." "Do right and you will be accepted." "Either I will be your Lord or sin will be your lord."

Instead of falling on his face in repentance, the rebellion and defiance of Cain continues.

This is proof that though men hear from God personally (Adam, Eve, Cain) they will still not obey.

My friends, are you ready to humble yourselves and submit yet? Cain was not.

Cain was mastered by sin.

Cain the worshiper became Cain the murderer. He lashes out at the only piece of God he can touch. Cain acts as a little Satan ... seeking to extinguish the image of God in his brother. Why did Cain kill Abel when it was God that made him mad? Because he could not touch or kill God. Why did Satan deceive Adam and Eve when it was God that expelled him? For the same reason listed above.

Cain, acting as a little Satan, slyly and coyly leads his brother to the place of destruction. Just as Satan, under the guise of being Adam and Eve's friend had hidden his real objective of defaming God and destroying their lives. Obviously



Abel suspected nothing ill from his brother, for he follows his older brother out into the field.

Callously slaughtering his brother. This is no impulsive act of fury on the part of Cain. This murder has been well thought out and planned. There has been ample time for the emotions to subside. Yet still Cain cold and with great calculation plans on exterminating his brother.

Cain hides and conceals his sin.

It appears that Cain murdered his brother and then buried him. Later God states, the voice of Abel's blood is crying to me from the ground.

Cain then lies to God.

He confesses to God that he has know knowledge of his brother's whereabouts.

Regarding Cain and his reaction to his sin, how often do we have the same reaction to our sin? We sin grievously, then we seek to conceal and forget about it. Instead of facing and confessing our sin, we pretend that it never happened. And then we compound sin upon sin by hearing God through our conscience point out our sin, and we still ignore Him and pretend there is no problem between us and our God.

## IV. CAIN'S FOURTH PROBLEM WAS HIS INTOLERANT, ALL-SEEING GOD.

Cain's God was all-seeing.

While one can hide sin from men, one cannot hide sin from God. Cain says, "Am I my brother's keeper?" In a way Cain is saying, "I chose not to give an account of my actions and the consequences of those actions right now."

But God does not grant Cain this wish. God says, "What have you done?" Instead, the all-piercing, infiltrating gaze of God continues to show Cain his sin against Abel, and most importantly against God. God is no longer asking Cain what He has done. God is prosecuting Cain. "The voice of your brother's blood cries to me from the ground."

He was there - Cain and Abel were really not alone in that field

Notice here that Abel needs no witness to the crime, nor a district attorney to prosecute. God is the vindicator of the abused. God is the one who sees all and will prosecute and convict those who abuse the weak, small and helpless.

Cain's God was intolerant.

"When you work the ground, no fruit will it give." Cain would have even more difficulty in farming the ground and producing crops than the average sinful man.

"A fugitive and a vagabond you will be." He would never be stable. Cain would always be on the run. Fear would be his constant companion for the remainder of his days.

you (wanderer, reeler, staggerer) (fugitive, wanderer)

How did Cain respond? Even now Cain is more concerned over his sentence than his sin. Regretting the punishment

more than regretting the sin. There is a difference between remorse and sorrow, and Godly repentance.

Cain's condemnation is a picture of the condemnation of all worshipping frauds.

Cain's life was the opposite of what a believer's life should look like. The believer is to be blessed by God. The believer finds peace even in this world. Because the believer is never far from the heart of God. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." (Is. 26:3)

But not Cain and the unbeliever.

1. You are cursed. (Before, only the ground was cursed.)
2. Earthly misery will be magnified.
3. You shall restlessly wander and never find peace.

Why? Because you have been driven away from the face of God. (4:14)

Cain left the presence of the Lord. (16)

He left the place of the Lord's people.

He left the place of the Lord's revelation.

He left the place of the Lord's protection.

We need to notice how Cain's sin affected his family. Cain was not the only one who must wander in exile. His wife and children suffer too.

Cain seeks to establish his own paradise outside of God's presence.

Cain builds a city, but there is no reason for us to believe that it looked like Jericho. It could have been any little village that he put together with his family, and then in a desire to protect himself, he builds walls.

Cain produces a race of rebels.

Lamech is his descendant and is the first to pervert God's plan of marriage by taking two wives. God in his original intent gave one man, one wife, and told them to become one.

Lamech was a ferocious man.

Lamech was an extremely proud and boastful man. He says in effect, if Cain is of value and God will avenge him seven times, well then I will avenge myself seventy-seven times.

## CONCLUSION

NOTICE THAT THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT SEEDS TAKING PLACE.

CAIN ACTS JUST LIKE A LITTLE SATAN. HE IS IN A REAL SENSE BEGINNING TO TAKE ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF HIS FATHER, THE DEVIL. GOD'S PROPHECY WHICH HE PROCLAIMED TO MAN IN THE GARDEN IS BEGINNING TO TAKE SHAPE. THE WOMAN HAS HER SEED, AND SATAN HAS HIS.

## CAIN

NIV 1 John 3:12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.

NIV Jude 1:11 Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

## ABEL

NIV Matthew 23:35 And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

NIV Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

## GOD'S GRACE AND GOSPEL

Genesis 4:25-26 Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." 26 Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.

Seth was born.

What wickedness took from Eve, God restored,

The advancement of Christ was halted, but not extinguished.

Abel was the true father of the worshipers and he was gone. His seed was no longer. So God gives Adam and Eve, Seth. The godly seed has once again been given, and I do not think it a coincidence that Moses then writes in verse 26, "Then began men to call on the name of the Lord."

There is a real sense in which Cain is the father of religion, while Seth is the father of the worshipping church.

## NOTICE THAT THE WORSHIPER AND HIS SACRIFICE ARE JOINED TOGETHER.

Verse 4 and 5

Cain is already fearful.

Cain is concerned that the men who find him will kill him.

God promises a magnified punishment to the one who kills Cain.

Why does Cain not receive the sentence of capital punishment?

Men do not have the right to execute men. Only God has this inherent right, and only God outlines who, when and how these executions must take place.

God does not kill Cain because Cain is the tool by which God continues to breed the seed of the serpent. This leads us to verses 17 and following, "And Cain knew his wife." Cain must have been married before this event because it is hard to imagine any daughter of Adam willingly married such a one condemned and cursed as Cain.

God places a sign or a mark upon Cain.

We do not know what this mark was. In the south, the mark was the black skin of the negro. It just as easily could be said that the mark was the white skin which I have. After all, if one looks at the culture in the Middle East and the African continent to the south, it is the white man that is odd.

God loved some of Cain's children. Or Cain experienced what we call Common Grace.

Jabal was endowed by God with musical ability.

Why did God not execute Cain immediately?

God was not in the business of making a holy seed at that time. (Wheat and Tares)

What about capital punishment?

Pro

Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.

Exodus 21:12-14 "Anyone who strikes a man and kills him shall surely be put to death. 13 However, if he does not do it intentionally, but God lets it happen, he is to flee to a place I will designate. 14 But if a man schemes and kills another man deliberately, take him away from my altar and put him to death.

Romans 13:1-4 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. 4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong,

be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

1 Peter 2:13-14 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

## CON

Matthew 5:38-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Paul still held to capital punishment. This is speaking to individuals. Paul is addressing the state.)

John 8:7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." (Evil setup, Unjust, NT differentiates between sins deserving death.)

Luke 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. (Jesus did not ask for vengeance, but forgiveness.)

God set a mark upon Cain.

Men did not have the right to kill Cain.

Vengeance does not belong to man, but only to God ... and those he gives the sword to.

Cain's Legacy

City-builder

Patriarch of Lamech ... the first to have two wives.

# OTHER WORK

## SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

### WE HAVE SEEN WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE THE BEGINNING

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit existed.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit communed – enjoyed and glorified one another.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit planned.

### WE HAVE SEEN WHAT HAPPENED IN THE BEGINNING

God created everything.

God created everything empty, void, dark, and drowning.

God created everything good.

God created everything good through and for his Son.

### WE HAVE SEEN THE SPECIAL HONOR GIVEN TO MAN

God created man in a special manner – in God's own image. (Divine communion, Earthly communion, Moral sense, Creative)

God commissioned the man – Procreation – Cultural Mandate

God holidayed with man on the seventh day.

### WE HAVE SEEN THE REBELLION

Sometimes this tragic episode has been called "*The Fall*" because the result was the entire human race falling from grace. Perhaps it could be better labeled "*The Rebellion*," for it was no accident when perfectly wise individuals defied the one stated rule of their Creator. Yes, willfully, just as Satan and the demons arrogantly rebelled against God in the heavens, so the first couple defied God on earth. Truth claims were compared and contrasted. Free choices were made. Trust was transferred from the Creator to a created being. Spiritual alliances were formed. Sides were taken, and on one side were God and his obedient angels, on the other were Satan, the demons, Adam and Eve. Sure, it was a "*Fall*," but it was also a most "*Wicked Rebellion*."

The rebellion continued with a distrusting of God's revelation.

The rebellion continued with a doubting of God' character.

The rebellion resulted in horrific consequences:

Spiritual curse -- They lost divine communion; their souls were killed.

Intellectual curse -- They thought differently; they reasoned imperfectly.

Emotional curse -- They felt differently; their emotions were damaged.

Relational curse -- They experienced a disharmony that would grow.

Physical curse -- They had deteriorating bodies in the process of dying.

Vocational curse -- They would be frustrated in their calling.

Global curse -- They encountered danger on their formerly perfect planet.

## WE HAVE SEEN THE PROTOEVANGELION

We see the religion of man

We see the gracious love of God

We see two teams made of the one wicked team.

We see the heel of a son will be bitten.

We see the head of the serpent will be crushed by the son.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 4:1–26     Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.”  
<sup>2</sup> And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.

<sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, <sup>4</sup> and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

**Gospel Expectation** – Eve expresses gratitude and faith. She understands the Lord has helped her get a man. She understands the Lord has made progress towards bring the Promised One – Cain or one of his descendants.

**Brothers** – Perhaps they were twins, but this is not stated. The “Battle of the Brothers” is a huge theme throughout Genesis. Cain means “Acquired.” Able means “Vanity or Breath.” Cain is a farmer. Able is a shepherd – this too is another huge theme throughout Genesis and the rest of scripture. God works through shepherds.

**Common Grace:** Even though men and women are totally depraved and cursed, God still grants them short term blessings such as sun, rain, the ability to procreate, and enjoy success at work.

**Daily Worship:** Adam and Eve obey and worship as they have sought to keep the Cultural Mandate (procreation, work) and have taught their children to do so. Both vocations are equally noble.

**Organized Worship:** Adam and Eve have, at some unrevealed time, received information from God regarding worship and have taught this to their children. Here we see the principle of the Regulation of Worship. Cain is bringing a grain offering. Able is bringing a meat offering. Offerings serve three purpose in the Old Testament: Atonement, Gratitude, Provision. Here we have two religious brothers – going to church and worshipping.

**Wasted Worship:** God was not pleased. What was the problem? Some believe it was a lack of excellence. There is also an interesting clue in the Genesis account that tells us about Cain and Abel and their offerings. In 4:4, Moses records that Abel offers “the firstlings of his flock” (cf. Exod 34:19; Deut 12:6; 14:23) and the “fat portions” (cf. Num 18:17) for his offering. 14 The word that is translated “fat portions” means “choicest, best part, or abundance.”15 Abel gave what cost him most—the firstborn! On the other hand, Cain merely offers “the fruit,” not the first fruit, of the ground (4:3). Abel brought the best parts of his flocks and Cain was not so particular. Abel went out of his way to worship God by giving his best. Cain merely discharged a duty. One of the key themes throughout Scripture is God seeks worship that is perfect and costly (Lev 22:20-22; 2 Sam 24:24). He will not be satisfied with second best (Mal 1:6-14; Rom 12:1). The Butterball Company set up a Thanksgiving hotline to answer questions about cooking turkeys. One woman asked if she could use a turkey that had been in the bottom of her freezer for 23 years. The Butterball expert—how’s that for a job title—told her it would probably be safe if the freezer had been below zero the entire time. But the expert warned her that even if the turkey was safe to eat, the flavor would likely have deteriorated and wouldn’t be worth eating. The woman said, “That’s what I thought. We’ll give the turkey to our church.” Some believe it was a lack of blood. Most believe it was a lack of faith. (Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:2; Jude 1:11-13) Notice that God had regard for Abel then he had regard for Abel’s offering.

**Original Sin:** – The sin nature of Adam and Eve have spread to their children.

**Arrogance:** Cain was thinking, “I have done my religious performance and put you in my debt. God, you owe me!”

**Anger:** Cain was outraged at God. Rather than being concerned about remedying the situation and pleasing God, he became very angry. People today are angry at God and or his people who point out the strictness of the Law and the depravity of man. From Tim Keller: Yet, many of us have been told by other well-meaning Christians that it is perfectly acceptable to get mad at God. We like to justify our anger by saying, “He’s a big God. He has broad shoulders. He can handle my cussing and complaining.” Well, sure He can, but is this the appropriate response to the almighty Creator of heaven and earth? I don’t think so.18 He is a sovereign God that is to be feared. He wants us to trust Him, even when things don’t make sense. Unfortunately, many Christians have a small view of God that allows them to have temper tantrums with Him.

**Downcast Face:** “His face fell” it is a Hebrew phrase for depression.

**Murder:** Cain had murderous thoughts before he had murderous actions. He was a murderer long before he went hiking with Abel. This is what Jesus was pointing to in Matthew 5 where He says hating your brother is really the same as murder.

**Divine Omniscience** – God read Cain’s face and heart and actions

**Sovereign Mercy:** Do we remember how God approached Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? Well, here he goes again. God approaches sinful Cain to counsel and call him to repentance. He is urging Cain to look within a respond properly. He is coming tenderly and not as one who is angry. These first two questions demonstrate that He was even more displeased by Cain’s response.

**The Law:** God is calling Cain to better obedience. He is telling Cain to worship rightly and he will be accepted.

**The Enemy:** Sin is the ever-present foe. The image of a ravenous leopard, tiger, or other predatory animal is in view. Sin is near. It is always hungry. It is crouching and ready to spring. It is somewhat hidden. You must dominate it or it will dominate you. (Frequency, Intensity, Scope, Addictions) Sin is ready to spring and kill. It is predatory.

**Premeditated Murder:** Cain spoke; it appears he is leading his brother into the field. There would be no witnesses present.

**Satan’s Seed:** Cain acted like his father the devil; he can’t touch God; he killed Abel

**Sovereign Mercy:** God is approaching Cain again. God has forgiven many murderers in scripture

**Brother:** God is the one mentioning brother ... brother ... brother.

**Divine Omniscience:** God read Cain’s face and heart and actions

**Arrogant Lying:** I do not know. Like his father the devil.

**Arrogant Self-Interest:** Am I responsible for my brother or neighbor? First human question in the Bible? Remember Adam?

**Justice:** God is a God of love and justice.

**Condemnation, Consequences, Curse:** Ground – Neighborhood love – Impossibility to keep the Cultural Mandate and purpose in life



*<sup>6</sup> The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? <sup>7</sup> If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”*

*<sup>8</sup> Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.*

*<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” <sup>10</sup> And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground. <sup>11</sup> And now you are cursed from the ground, which has*

**Regret but not Repentance:** Regret vs. Repentance – The reason for Cain’s sorrow is strikingly selfish. It’s not that he can’t bear the thought of his brother lying in his own blood, or the thought of his troubled parents, or the thought of deeply offending God’s honor and glory. Cain’s focus is on himself and the consequences. Cain’s complaint is peppered with the use of seven personal pronouns. All Cain cared about was himself. There was no fear or reverence for God, no regret for the loss of innocent life, no sorrow for sin, and no thought for his parents who had lost one son tragically through murder and would be losing another through rebellion. There was only a preoccupation with himself. The killer fears being killed. He who turned on one of his relatives now must watch out for any of his relatives. The New Testament Scriptures uniformly speak of Cain in the negative with phrases like “the way of Cain” (Jude 11) and one “who was of the evil one and slew his brother” (1 John 3:12). His life is contrasted with “righteous Abel” (Matt 23:35). Nevertheless, we do not know what ultimately happened to him. He may have responded to God. Cain was not beyond God’s grace and neither are you.

**Common Grace** – Marked for protection – Treating Cain better than he deserved

**Capital Punishment** – Not a requirement all the time

**Natural Sinful Response:** Cain went away from the presence of the Lord (Tabernacle)

**Bad Seeds:** He is fathering a race away from the Covenant community. He is fathering a race where they sing of polygamy, murder, and revenge.

**Good Seed:** Seth’s name, from the Hebrew verb translated “granted” and meaning “to set or place,” expresses Eve’s faith that God would continue to provide seed despite death. The phrase “call upon the name of the Lord” usually refers to proclamation rather than prayer in the Pentateuch. Here it probably refers to the beginning of public worship of Yahweh. This is the inauguration of true worship (cf. 12:8; 13:4; 16:13; 21:33; 26:25). “Enosh” means “weakness” and in his weakness he turns to God with petition and praises (Ps 149:6).

*opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."*

*<sup>13</sup> Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. <sup>14</sup> Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." <sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.*

*<sup>16</sup> Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. <sup>17</sup> Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. <sup>18</sup> To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. <sup>19</sup> And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. <sup>20</sup> Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. <sup>21</sup> His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. <sup>22</sup> Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all*

Sin's Progression:

Sin Nature ...

Disbelief ...

Self-Worship ...

Divine Hatred ...

Anger ...

Depression ...

Hatred ...

Murder ...

Incorrigibility ...

Glorying in sin

**Christology** – Able as a type of Christ? Death of holy seed? (Hebrews 12:24) Years later, another perfect worshiping man Man showed up who was a lot like Abel, because he came into a world, filled with Cains, people who were religiously very observant, who were always bringing their offerings, honoring the sacrificial system, and yet they hated his Spirit, and they slew him. The book of Hebrews says when Jesus Christ shed his blood, an innocent victim of injustice, his blood cried out, but in a new way. Jesus Christ was, in a sense, the ultimate Abel because he was the only person who was truly innocent who came into this world. He was not a grumpy Cain. He was beautiful. He was gorgeous. He was loving. The Cains couldn't stand it, and they killed him. But he didn't die only as a victim of injustice. He also died by design. He died in our place. He died to pay the penalty for our injustices. Jesus blood is better than Abef's ... what is it now saying? He is not crying for mercy but justice.

*instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."*

*<sup>25</sup> And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him." <sup>26</sup> To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.*

ALSO LOOK AT THE BIBLE STUDY FROM HEBREWS 11