

## Genesis Ch. 4

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Genesis Ch. 3 describes the root of sin, chapter 4 describes the “fruit” of sin.

- This is the beginning of the conflict described in Genesis 3:15, the enmity between the seed of the woman seed and the seed of the enemy.

V:1 “Knew” (H3045) yada', to know; used in a great variety of senses, fig., lit., euphem. including observation, to know, perceive, discern, to know people relationally, to know a person sexually / carnally. Also used to denote God knowing our hearts entirely. **Psalm 139:4, Jeremiah 17:9.**

- A Biblical euphemism for intimate marital relations.

“Cain”, literally “acquired” or “acquisition”

Acknowledgment: *“From the LORD.”*

**James 3:17** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

**Psalm 127:3** “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.”

- Adam & Eve may have seen Cain as the fulfillment of God’s promise of a redeemer from **Genesis 3:15.**

V: 2 Eve bears another son, Abel.

Abel – literally “breath” or “vapor”, “vanity” – this may have been out of exasperation.

- Abel was a shepherd.
- Cain was a farmer, a tiller of the soil.
- Both working under the curse, every beast of the field and the ground.
- Abel is a man of God, attested to by Jesus Himself.

**Luke 11:49-51** “therefore the wisdom of God also said, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute, <sup>50</sup>that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, <sup>51</sup>from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.”

- We are told specifically about Cain and Abel because they play a significant role in these early events.
- We know that there were other children born to Adam and Eve because after Cain is cursed and sent out, there are already other people in the world that are capable of killing him.
- Cain would appear to be the oldest / first born, but we're not sure where Abel is in the order of things in the midst of his other brothers and sisters.

V: 3-4 Two offerings, one was acceptable and one was not.

#### Cain's offering:

1. "an offering of", meaning "some of" as opposed to the "first fruits."
2. "fruit of the ground" – which had specifically been cursed.
3. "fruit of his own labor and efforts, by his own hand, being a tiller of the ground.
4. God did not respect Cain's offering.

#### Abel's offering:

1. "first born" / first fruits.
2. Animal sacrifice, **Hebrews 9:22** "without the shedding of blood there is no remission."
3. Abel kept the sheep, but God was responsible for bringing forth the increase.
4. Abel's offering involved an element of faith, the kind of faith that leads to righteousness.
5. God accepted Abel's offering.

Abel is the first one mentioned in the NT "hall of faith."

**Hebrews 11:4** "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks."

**Romans 10:17** "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

- They had received God's word on how and what to do to meet God's requirements for the sacrifices.
- **Abel's offering was accepted by the Lord because it was made by faith, according to God's word.**
- Cain's offering was rejected because it was his own idea and work; for lack of faith and obedience to God's word.

**1 Samuel 15:22** "So Samuel said: Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams."

**Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith it is impossible to please Him...”

- Cain offered of his “works” to God: offering up his righteousness.

**Isaiah 64:6** “But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

**Titus 3:5** “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,”

V: 5 Respect / not respect: to look upon with favor, or dis-favor.

- Cain was very angry – issue of the heart, starting on the inside and working it’s way outward.
- Cain is blaming God, not himself.
- Cain is un-repentant.

V: 6 God demonstrates His omniscience and confronts Cain on his sin.

- God knows the answer, He is simply drawing Cain out, getting him to search his own heart.

**Matthew 15:18-19** “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”

- Cain is angry at God for not accepting his offering, but he can’t kill God, so he attacks Abel.

V: 7 God explains to Cain that if he doesn’t master sin, sin will master him.

**2 Peter 2:19b** “...for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”

- Sin / the enemy always lies in wait.

**2 Peter 5:8** “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

<sup>1st</sup> mention

Sin (H2403). “chatta'ah” an offence, sometimes habitual sinfulness, and its penalty, transgressions, youthful indiscretions, trespass against God, general state of sinfulness.

- English word “sin”: archery term, to fall short, to miss the mark, intentionally or deliberately.
- We cannot master or rule over the sin in our lives without the power of God working in our lives!
- Desire is not enough, we need the power of the Holy Spirit working in us!

**1 John 4:4** “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

- That means humbling ourselves before God and asking for His help, seemingly not Cain’s strong point thus far.

V: 8 1<sup>st</sup> murder: was this an act of passion or pre-meditated?

In either event, it was the result of sin in Cain’s heart.

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death...”

- Pride leads to jealousy, which leads to hatred, which leads to murder.

**1 John 3:11-15** “<sup>11</sup>For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, <sup>12</sup>not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother’s righteous. <sup>13</sup>Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. <sup>14</sup>We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. <sup>15</sup>Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

V: 9 God is again “asking” – allowing Cain an opportunity to confess and repent.

- Cain compounds things by lying directly to God: “I don’t know”, then his sarcastic retort: “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

Score Card:

1. Brings un-acceptable offering. (must have been prior instruction which he contradicted.)
2. Angry, hatred in his heart. (pride)
3. Murdered his brother.
4. Lies directly to God.
5. Irreverent, sarcastic response.

**“Am I my brother’s keeper?”** – YES!!

V:9 cont.

**1 Corinthians 8:9-13** “<sup>9</sup>But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. <sup>10</sup>For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? <sup>11</sup>And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.”

**Philippians 2:3** “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

**Romans 12:10** “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;”

- Bottom line: our conduct and behavior matters with respect to how it impacts our brothers and sisters.

**Ezekiel 3:17-21** “<sup>17</sup>Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: <sup>18</sup>When I say to the wicked, you shall surely die, and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>19</sup>Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. <sup>20</sup>Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>21</sup>Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul.”

**Galatians 6:1** “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

V: 10 God is all knowing, Cain cannot hide his sin any more than Adam and Eve were able to.

**Numbers 32:23** “... you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out.”

**Psalm 51:4** “Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight – that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.”

*“The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me...”*

1<sup>st</sup> mention of blood:

**Leviticus 17:11** “For the life of the flesh is in the blood...”

**Luke 11:51** <sup>51</sup>“from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.”

**Hebrews 12:24** “to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.”

- Abel’s blood cries out a message of condemnation; Jesus’ blood cries out “forgiven”.

V: 11 1<sup>st</sup> time God directly curses a man.

*“cursed”* – To pronounce evil upon, mis-fortune, doom.

V: 12 consequences:

- As he works the ground – his vocation – it will no longer yield it’s fruit to him.
- From now on you’ll be eating animals, you will always have blood on your hands.
- Since you like to kill, from now on you will have to kill and keep killing to eat and survive.
- Not just a restless wanderer, but a “fugitive” – running away, fleeing for your life, always looking over your shoulder – no rest – no comfort.

**Isaiah 50:20-21** “But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. <sup>21</sup>there is no peace, says my God, for the wicked.”

Such an awful contrast to what Jesus promises us:

**John 14:27** “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

**Matthew 11:28** “Come unto Me all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

V: 13-14 Hebrew translation: waaahhh!!!

- Cain didn't cry out for forgiveness – which would have been granted, he instead cried out that his punishment was un-fair.
- Sniveling, worried that he will be killed – like what he did to Abel.
- Not realizing that he is benefitting from God's mercy.
- Still not repentant – no request for forgiveness.

He recognizes and understands that he will be separated from God's presence.

**Isaiah 59:1-2** “Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. <sup>2</sup>But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”

V: 15 God protects Cain, reserving judgment for Himself alone.

**Romans 12:19** “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

V: 16-17 Land of “Nod” = “wandering”

**Psalms 49:10-11** “For he sees wise men die; likewise the fool and the senseless person perish, and leave their wealth to others. <sup>11</sup>Their inner thought is that their houses will last forever, their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names.”

- Cain has a son, Cain builds a city and names it after his son.
- God doesn't seem to be part of his equation, or life.
- Enoch, personal name meaning “dedicated”

V: 18 Genealogy time: Enoch begets “Irada” = “fleet”.

- Irada begets “Mehujael” = “smitten / struck by God”
- Mehujael begets “Methushael” = “who is of God” / “man of God”
- Methushael begets “Lamech” = “Powerful” / “Conqueror”.

V: 19 1<sup>st</sup> mention of polygamy, in this case bigamy.

- God instituted marriage as a monogamous relationship.

**Genesis 2:24** “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife (singular), and they shall become one flesh.”

- This wasn't just intended for Adam and Eve, but for all of us. Adam and Eve didn't have a father and mother to leave... this was instruction for future generations.

Two wives:

Adah = “Ornament”

Zillah = “Shade”

- Anything that “falls short” or “misses the mark” of God's perfect will is sin, Lamech is in willful sin regarding his wives, this will be more manifest in the next few verses.
- This may have been an economic decision in that more wives, means more sons, which means more wealth and power for the clan.

V: 20-22 We see the beginning of tradesmen; nomadic herdsman, musicians, metal workers.

- Adah bore “Jabal” = “stream of water”
- Zillah bore Tubal-Cain = “producer” / “smith” (craftsman w/ bronze & iron)
- Instructor can also be translated sharpener, whetter – meaning the production of weapons like swords and axes, etc.
- Zillah bore a sister to Tubal-Cain; Naamah = “pleasant” / “delightful” / “loveliness”

V: 23-24 2<sup>nd</sup> murder, revenge for a seeming accident.

**“A young man”** – no mercy, no grace – no love or forgiveness.

- Proud, boastful.
- Taking God's word about Cain, and twisting it to make it mean what he wants.
- Vengeance 7 times over, the exact opposite of what Jesus would later teach.



**Matthew 18:21-22** “Then Peter came to Him and said, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”

- This is the end of the Biblical record regarding Cain’s lineage, no further mention.

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Genealogies don’t necessarily mention every child born, often times there is no mention of the girls, and only the male children that will lead to the Messiah. The ones mentioned are not necessarily the 1<sup>st</sup> born, David with the 8<sup>th</sup> child of Jesse, and the only one mentioned in the genealogy in Matthew and Luke.

- The purpose is to show the lineage that leads to Jesus.

V: 25 Adam and Eve have another child – among many.

Seth = “Appointed”

- The next chapter tells us that Adam was 130 years old when he begat Seth, we can be sure that there were plenty of children born in the in between years.
- They give glory / credit to God for their “seed” – still looking for the Messiah.

“seed” (H2233) zera', seed; fig. fruit, posterity, child.

- Same word as in Genesis 3:15 “Her seed”

V: 26 Seth begets “Enosh” = “humanity” / “mortal”.

***“Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.”***

- Seth was a good father who instructed his son to honor God, then men began to call upon the name of the Lord.
- The beginning of prayer and communion with God.