

Genesis Chapter 4

- 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*” (H-3045) “yada”, to know; used in variety of senses, fig., lit. - including to know, perceive, discern, to know people relationally, to know a person sexually / carnally.

- Considering the context & results we can plainly see that this is a Biblical euphemism for intimate marital relations.
- “*Cain*”, literally “acquired” or “acquisition”
- Acknowledgment: “*From the LORD.*”

James 1:17 “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. The first of many, Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus.

John 10:11 “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”

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

Matthew 23:34-35 “³⁴Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge

in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, ³⁵that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, who you murdered between the temple and the altar.”

- Cain is not a man of God, he ends up being a murderer.

John 8:44 “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth...”

Talking about loving one another:

1 John 3:12 “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.”

- 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, we presume him to be #2, but it’s possible he could be farther down in the lineage.

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.”

Proverbs 3:9 “Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase.” (Cain didn’t do that.)

2. “Fruit of the ground” – which had specifically been cursed. **Genesis 3:17**
3. Fruit of his own labor and efforts, by his own hand, being a tiller of the ground.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest any man should boast.”

4. God did not respect Cain’s offering.

1 John 3:12 “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.”

Abel's offering:

1. "first born" / first fruits.

Proverbs 3:9 "Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase." (Abel did that.)

2. Animal sacrifice.

Hebrews 9:22 "without the shedding of blood there is no remission."

3. "and of their fat..." (First time fat is mentioned)

- Perhaps meaning that he didn't bring just the firstborn lamb, but brought more than one, more than was necessary, knowing that it all came from God to begin with, trusting God to replace them.

Leviticus 3:3 "Then he shall offer from the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire to the LORD. The fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails."

Leviticus 3:16 "and the priest shall burn them on the altar as food, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma; all the fat is the LORD's."

4. Abel kept the sheep, but God was responsible for bringing forth the increase.

5. Abel's offering involved an element of faith, the kind of faith that leads to righteousness.

- 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." (His legacy still speaks)

- Ultimately God accepted Abel's offering.
- 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, and in obedience to God's word.
- Cain's offering was rejected because it was his own idea and work; demonstrating Cain's 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.

Holy Spirit speaking through the Apostle John declared:

1 John 3:12 “... Because his works were evil and his brother’s righteous.”

- 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 “¹⁸But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. ¹⁹For 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.
- Anger is typically a manifestation of pride: We didn’t get out way, we weren’t treated the way we thought we should be treated.

James 1:19-20 “¹⁹So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; ²⁰for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

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."

1st mention (previously described in the fall, but first use of the actual word.)

"Sin" (H-2403). "chatta'ah" an offense, sometimes habitual sinfulness, and its penalty, transgressions, youthful indiscretions, trespass against God, general state of sinfulness.

Iniquity - sin - transgression:

- English word "sin": archery term, to fall short, to miss the mark, un-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 1st 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.
- As with the first described sin, this sin, this murder also falls in alignment with the enemies diabolical playbook:

1 John 2:15-17 "¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."

- If you were the homicide detective what do you think was the motive for this murder?

1 John 3:11-15 “¹¹For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, ¹²not 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.

- Jealous / pride of life / not just that Abel’s sacrifice was accepted, but that Abel himself was accepted in the beloved.

Continuing: 1John 3:11-15

¹³Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. ¹⁵Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

- As with Abel, our righteous lives and our relationship with God point out and contrast sharply with the unrighteousness of the world - and they hate that.



V: 9 As with Adam, 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?*”
- Cain is showing contempt and disrespect for God, and a definite lack of fear.

Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

- Sadly at this point Caine is coming across as being foolish.
- Score Card:
 1. Brings un-acceptable offering. (must have been prior instruction which he contradicted.)
 2. Angry, hatred in his heart. (pride / angry against God.)
 3. Murdered his brother. (The anger in his heart wasn’t dealt with in a Biblical way then if manifest in this murder.)
 4. Lies directly to God.
 5. Disrespectful, sarcastic, un-repentant response.

“*Am I my brother’s keeper?*” – YES!!

1 Corinthians 8:9-13 “⁹But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. ¹⁰For 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? ¹¹And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? ¹²But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, 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 our behavior matters with respect to how it impacts our brothers and sisters.

Ezekiel 3:17-21 “¹⁷Son 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: ¹⁸When 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. ¹⁹Yet, 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. ²⁰Again, 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. ²¹Nevertheless 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.”

“Am I my brother’s keeper?” - YES!

V: 10 God is all knowing, Cain cannot hide his sin any more than Adam and Eve were able to. (Nor can we.)

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

- Even though Abel was a victim of Caine's murderous sin, Caine's sin was first and primarily against God, then against Abel as a secondary victim.

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..."

- 1st mention of blood:

Leviticus 17:11 "For the life of the flesh is in the blood..."

Luke 11:51 "51from 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."

- The Old Testament is the covenant of the Law, the N/T is the covenant of blood.
(Not grace.)
- Abel's blood cries out a message of condemnation; murderer! Jesus' blood cries out "forgiven".

V: 11 1st time God directly curses a man.

"cursed" – To pronounce evil upon, mis-fortune, doom.

- This not the first use of the word "cursed" - it's just the first time it's being applied to a man.

1st use of the word cursed: Serpent.

Genesis 3:14 "... Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle,..."

- Both of the subjects of these curses involves the death of a man, first Adam (spiritually) then Abel. (physically)
- In each instance the "curse" was upon those involved in the death of God's beloved.

Speaking of Israel:

Zechariah 2:8 "... for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye."

V: 12 consequences:

- As he works the ground – his vocation – it will no longer yield its 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 57:20-21 “²⁰But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. ²¹there is no peace, says my God, for the wicked.”

- “Vagabond” - homeless wanderer.
- 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.”

John 14:3 “... I go to prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

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

- Cain didn't cry out for forgiveness – which would have been granted, he instead cried out that his punishment was un-fair, blaming his punishment upon God when he's the one who brought it upon himself!
- Sniveling, worried that he will be killed – like what he did to Abel.
- Not realizing or appreciating 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 “¹Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. ²But 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.”

- 7 Fold - perfect & complete vengeance...
- Cain is concerned about being killed by others seeking revenge for Abel’s murder, assuming others would be enraged to the point of murder, thus God puts a “mark” on him forever identifying him with his un-confessed, un-repentant sin.
- Is it a protection for Cain, or is it for everybody else? Keeping everyone else from sin.
- I wonder and speculate if that would still have been the case if he were humble and repentant?

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

V:16 Sin separates us from God, here we see Cain going out from the presence of God.

- Did God cast him out? No, “*Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD...*”
- **1 Peter 2:9** “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special / peculiar people, that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light:”
- David’s biggest concern after repenting of his sin with Bathsheba was just that...

Psalms 51:11 “Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.” The difference here being that David was repentant!

- Land of “Nod” = land of “wandering” - Somewhere East of Eden.

V:17 Caine is a son of Adam, where did he get his wife from? At this point, truth be told, she is either a sister or a niece.

- At this point the gene pool is still relatively un-compromised as it would later be and it was acceptable and safe to marry your close relations.
- That would later not be the case at which time God would put restrictions on that practice.

Leviticus 18:6-18, 20:17

- Cain has a son, Cain builds a city and names it after his son.

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

- The land of Canaan - inhabited by the Canaanites... same mind set but a different people group. Caine's descendants were wiped out in the flood of Noah.
- God doesn't seem to be part of his equation, or life.
- Enoch: “dedicated”

V: 18 Genealogy time: This will be a dead end genealogy, it will only go to the flood of Noah. The genealogy of Jesus will run through Adam, to Seth, through Noah, and onto the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, to our Lord Jesus.

- But this one is much shorter. Caine begets Enoch. (Dedicated)
- Enoch begets “Irada” = “fleet.” As in fleet footed, or fast.
- Irada begets “Mehujael” = “smitten / struck by God” - “Destroyed by God”
- Mehujael begets “Methushael” = “who is of God” / “man of God”
- Methushael begets “Lamech” = “Powerful” / “Destroyer” / “Conqueror”.

V: 19 1st 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.

Matthew 19:5-6 “⁵... for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. ⁶So the, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

- Two wives:
Adah = “Ornament”

Zillah = “Shade” (2nd wife was a “shady character.”)

- 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 herdsmen, musicians, metal workers.

- Adah bore “Jabal” = “stream of water” (herdsman)
- Adah then bore “Jubal” = “Joyful Sound” - “Music” - (musician)
- Zillah bore Tubal-Cain = “Flowing Fourth From Caine.”
- He was an instructor of craftsmen in bronze and 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 2nd murder, revenge for a seeming accident.

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.”

“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 “²¹Then Peter came to Him and said, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? ²²Jesus 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 1st born, David was the 8th 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*” (H-2233) 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.

Later Paul would write:

Romans 10:13 “For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”