

THE NEW NORMAL

Genesis 4:1-8

The only time things were truly normal was in the Garden of Eden, but after the fall there was a New _____

I. THE NEW NORMAL BEGAN _____

A. The First _____

- 1) Both the OT and the NT use the word _____ as a meaningful euphemism for sexual intercourse
- 2) God intended sex to help a married man & woman know their spouse as no _____ else in the world

B. The First Conception and the First _____

- 1) Eve faced the total unknown—no idea how _____ she would get or how long pregnancy would last
- 2) “Cain” sounds like the word for _____ : Eve believed God’s promise of a seed to deliver them
- 3) Eve believed her son was to be the Rescuer, the Messiah, but he was to be a _____

C. The First _____ to Adulthood

We assume that the growth of these 2 sons took 15-20 yrs, but in that day it may have lasted _____ yrs

D. The First Siblings and the First _____

- 1) The First Sibling _____ : this dynamic appears repeatedly—Jacob & Esau, Joseph & his bros.
Often _____ facilitate sibling rivalry by favoring one child over another, like Isaac & Rebekah
- 2) The Two _____ appeared in the very first family: the ungodly line vs the godly—Cain & Abel
Cain’s act of murder was a _____ : the ungodly have always persecuted & martyred the godly

II. THE NEW NORMAL ENDED _____

A. The First _____

- 1) This story turns on the question: Why did God respect Abel’s offering and _____ Cain’s offering?
 - a) Heb.11:4 = Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice by _____, but faith in what? The Word of God
 - b) Most likely, God revealed to Adam that He was to be worshipped with animal _____
 - c) Abel may have provided these _____ + preaching no forgiveness w/out the shedding of blood
 - d) Cain finally rejected God’s demand & invented the 1st false _____ : I can worship God my way!
- 2) God rejected Cain’s man-made religion: 1 Jo.3:17 indicates his new religion was of the _____ One

B. The First Anger and the First _____

- 1) Cain was red-in-the-face angry and God counseled him, connecting his anger to his _____
- 2) God gave Cain a general principle: if you do right, you will be _____ out of your depression
- 3) Anger is like a wild animal that desires to overwhelm us, but human beings can control their _____

C. The First _____

- 1) Instead of ruling over his anger, Cain invited the wild beast thru the door to make its lair in his _____
- 2) In Matthew 5:21-22 Jesus teaches that anger carried to its logical conclusion ends in _____

CONC: The New Normal in Gen.4 is a microcosm of our world: the _____ nature working itself out in our lives
But there is hope: we may be accepted by God thru the _____ sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus