

# **Adam and Eve's Sons: Cain, Abel, and Seth**

**Genesis 4:1-26**

# Introduction

In Genesis chapter 3, we learned about Adam and Eve's sin against God.

We also learned that the wages of sin is spiritual alienation from God and physical death.

# Introduction

In the midst of God's judgment on Eve for her sin, He graciously gave a promise that through her a descendent would be born who would defeat and destroy the serpent, the Devil.

# Introduction

**Genesis 3:15:** I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise you're head [referring to the devil], and you shall bruise his heel.”

- **This verse is known as the first evangelic promise.**

# Introduction

- A prophetic word of hope appears: a singular “he” of the woman’s seed will deliver a lethal blow to the head of Satan.
- Who “he,” the seed, may be is not immediately revealed.
- Ultimately, we know it is fulfilled in Jesus who defeats Satan.

# The Birth of Cain and Abel

**Genesis 4:1-2a:** 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.

- Adam and Eve begin to fulfill God original mandate to "be fruitful" and "multiply" (Gen. 1:28)

# The Birth of Cain and Abel

- “**Cain**” – means “acquisition” or “possession” – “Literally Eve said, “I have gotten a man: Yahweh”
- Perhaps Eve thought Cain was the promised “seed” that would crush the serpents head promised in Genesis 3:15). Sadly, she discovered she was wrong!

# The Worship of Cain and Abel

**Genesis 4:2b-7:** 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,



# The Worship of Cain and Abel

<sup>5</sup> but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. <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 contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

# The Worship of Cain and Abel

- The occupations of “keeper of sheep” and “worker of the ground” were practiced by Adam.
- He also understood the practical use of animals through God’s gift of clothes to cover their nakedness made from animal skins (Gen. 3:21)

# The Worship of Cain and Abel

- The anger of Cain is the first mention of anger in the Bible. “Cain was very angry.
- The New Testament tells us why God accepted Abel’s sacrifice and rejected Cain’s sacrifice.

# The Worship of Cain and Abel

- **Hebrews 11:4:** By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

# The Worship of Cain and Abel

- **Romans 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
- **Hebrews 11:1,6** teaches us biblical faith has three elements:
  - Faith believes what God SAYS
  - Faith obeys what God REQUIRES

# The Worship of Cain and Abel

– Faith trusts in and rests on what God PROMISES.

- Scripture makes it clear that Abel offered his sacrifice by faith!
- This means he had to know what God required and Abel obeyed God.
- God had communicated His will concerning acceptable worship.

# The Worship of Cain and Abel

- Both Cain and Abel knew what God required.
- Abel obeyed.
- Cain knew what God required but decided he would worship God according to His own preferences.

# The Worship of Cain and Abel

- God gave Cain opportunity to change his mind and to offer the correct sacrifice. Cain refused.
- God warned Cain that sin, like a wild beast, was seeking to devour Cain. God said, “sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”



# Cain Murders Abel

<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.

- **Why did Cain murder Abel?**

# Cain Murders Abel

- **1 John 3:12** We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

# Cain Murders Abel

- Cain's anger turns into hatred which expresses itself in murder.
- The dangers of anger: **Ephesians 4:26**: Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
- <sup>NLT</sup> Ephesians 4:26 And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry,

# God's Judgment on Cain

<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.

# God's Judgment on Cain

<sup>11</sup> And now you are cursed from the ground, which has 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."

# God's Judgment on Cain

- Cain lies when God questions him.
- “Am I my brother’s keeper?” – an expression of self-centeredness.
- Cain is “cursed from the ground.” He will no longer have good results from working the soil.
- Cain is alienated from God and others.

# Cain's Response to God

<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."

# Cain's Response to God

- Cain complains that his punishment is too severe – at no time does he express regret or sorrow for his sin.
- He is afraid that others will do to him what he did to Abel. (Law of sowing and reaping- Gal. 6:7)



# Cain's Response to God

- God shows grace (love and mercy) to Cain by promising to protect him by putting a “mark” upon him. (No one knows what the mark was.)

# Cain's Ungodly Descendents

<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.

# Cain's Ungodly Descendents

- Cain's wife must have been one of his sisters.
- Cain rebels against God's judgment to be a fugitive and a wanderer and builds a city.

# Cain's Ungodly Descendents

<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.

- **Lamech** is the first recorded bigamist: two wives.

# Cain's Ungodly Descendents

1 Adam

2 Cain

3 Enoch

4 Irad

5 Mehujael

6 Methushael

7 Lamech + two wives

# Cain's Ungodly Descendents

<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 instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was **Naamah**.

# Cain's Ungodly Descendents

<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."

# Cain's Ungodly Descendents

- Unlike Cain, who felt he needed God's protection after he murdered his brother, Lamech feels he is his own security and doesn't need God.
- If Cain was to be avenged sevenfold, he will be avenged seventy-sevenfold.



# Cain's Ungodly Descendents

- Lamech is a proud man who backs away from nobody and does not hesitate to kill anybody!
- By contrast, Jesus may well have had in mind this “seventy-seven” saying in mind when he said to forgive 77 times.

# The Birth of Seth

<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.

# The Birth of Seth

- According to **Luke 3:38**, it is through the line of Seth and his son Enosh that the Messiah would come.
- Cain's recorded family tree ends with the family of Lamech (4:19-24), an arrogant murderer whose three sons manufactured things for this world.

# The Birth of Seth

- Seth's line will produce Noah who, along with his three sons, gave the world a new beginning after the flood.
- It appears Seth's descendants began to sense their need of God and "began to call upon the name of the LORD" which means to worship Him (Gen. 12:8, 13:4; 21:33; 26:25).

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