



Genesis - *Beginnings and Foundations*

Chapter 4 – Cain and Abel
Jan 12, 2025

Module 5, Room 1

Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *Dec 15, 2024 – Christmas Lesson 1*
- ✓ *Dec 22, 2024 – Christmas Lesson 2*
- ✓ *Dec 29, 2024 – Resume Genesis at Ch 2:12*
- ✓ *Jan 5, 2025 - Genesis Ch 3*
 - ✓ *Jan 7, 2025. - Manor Lake – Daniel Ch 5*
- ✓ *Jan 12, 2025 - Genesis Ch 4*
- *Jan 19, 2025 - Genesis Ch 5*
- *Jan 26, 2025 - Genesis Ch 6*

Quick Update .../CYMI

Middle East

- *Israel/ US pounding the Houthi areas of infrastructure, ports, and weapons*
- *Hostage negotiations with Hamas and returns have stalled. Hamas refuses to give an account of the hostages and their “alive or dead” status. One proof of life video for woman*
- *Israel continues to watch and respond to Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Hamas in Gaza*
- *Israel's consolidation of more of the Syrian border*
- *Syrian rebels are killing the old Assad regime soldiers and leaders*
- *Turkey is moving in to fill the vacuum and kill Kurds – no UN outrage*

US/World

- *Trump is preparing to lead and is the defacto president now as Biden avoids any involvement*
- *Lots of skirmishes by the Deep State to protect themselves against Trump's pledge to drain the swamp*
- *Terror attacks in the US- soft targets vulnerable. FBI focus an issue*
- *Ukraine and Russian war still raging with more civilian casualties*
- *Little more than 15 days left to wait for the new US Administration.*
- *Congress made headway after new Speaker named, and both house and senate electees sworn in*

Genesis Chapter 4 – What can we expect

We will learn about...

- *First Children – 4:1-2*
- *First Worship – 4:3-7*
- *First Murder & First Martyr – 4:8-16*
- *First Godless Society – 4:17-24*
- *First Religious Revival – 4:25-26*

The spotlight falls on Cain and his descendants, with a brief reference to godly Abel at the beginning and to a godly community at the end – The Book of Origins – Philip Eveson

Gen 4: 1-16 - Cain and Abel

Gen 4:1-2 – Cain's godly background

*4 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten (Cain – “gain/acquire”) a man **with the help of the Lord.**”*

2 And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel (Breath or vapor) was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.

What a blessing it is to be raised in a godly household. Adam and Eve were not the perfect people they were created to be, but they were not pagans, and both knew and understood the Lord and kept His ways in the home.

Three important thoughts –

- The sexual union between Adam and Eve was called “knew his wife”. In God’s plan this was not just a biological event to procreate new life, but a conscious, intimate act between a husband and wife*
- Eve’s understanding of the power and help of the Lord is acknowledged and she knew the pain of childbirth, she also knew that the Lord had blessed her and brought her through the time of stress, and that she had **gained** a son.*
- Not much is made of the birth of Abel other than his name means breath or vapor which may indicate the fleeting nature of his presence.*
 - Ps 144:4 - “**Man is like a breath;**
his days are like a passing shadow”*

Cain and Abel

Gen 4:3-5 ³ *In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground,*

⁴ *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,*

⁵ *but for Cain and his offering he had no regard.*

So, Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

We do not know the timing of these events, but at the time of the harvest, or the end of the year, both boys brought an offering to the Lord, in keeping with their livelihoods. Cain- harvest of produce, and Abel, from his flocks.

We have to try and understand why one offering was received positively, and one was not. We have some hints: Abel – firstborn of flocks and fat portions.

The offering was given, but as we will see, the attitudes and worthiness were different.

Gen 4:6-7 God Disciplines all His Children

⁶ The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?”

*⁷ If you do well, will you not be **accepted**? (a lifting of your face). And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is **contrary to** (facing or toward) you, but you must rule over it.”*

We know that produce is a satisfactory offering to the Lord, so why was this one not accepted? I think because it was offered in the wrong attitude, and most likely not the choice or first fruits offering as was his brothers.

God sees the crestfallen look on Cain and reminds him that if his offerings were right, they would be accepted, and his face would not fall in response. Also, that when things go wrong, sin is facing us to make us fall, but we must rule over it. Good advice for Cain and us !

What other things can we take away from this?

- ***A godly upbringing is not a guarantee of upright children. Each of us is trained by our parents and others, but ultimately, we are responsible for our responses to God***
- ***The First Born offered neither First Fruits, not the choices produce, where the Second Born offered both First Fruits of his flock, and the fat portions, which were considered the choices parts to the Lord. Able had to sacrifice an animal to the Lord to produce the fat portions.***
- ***While First Born had significance in these tribes, God chose 2nd born based on His Will. God also chose David over all his brothers as the new King***
 - *Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau, Ephraim over Manasseh*
- ***Cain's anger not only to God, but also to Abel is a constant reminder that God is sovereign and can make any choice He desires. Man's thoughts and sense of right and wrong, or what is due to us, does not sway God. Hard lesson to learn for Cain and for us...***

Gen 4:8-10 Premeditated Murder – *the First*

⁸ *Cain spoke to Abel his brother (and said let us go out into the field), And when they were in the field, **Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.***

⁹ *Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “**I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?**”*

¹⁰ *And the Lord said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground”*

Gen 4:8-10

Deeper Understanding...

- *Cain was angry with God **and Abel** even though Abel had done nothing to him but show more respect to God. Jealousy is a terrible sin.*
- *God tried to calm Cain and get him past his sin and anger, but Cain hardened his heart and mind*
- *Cain lured Abel out into the field where no one would see or hear any part of the murder or cries for help. This was the premeditation and the sin overpowering Cain.*
- *Cain "rose up" and killed Abel indicating it was a sudden act and surprised his brother before he could defend himself.*
- *Not only was this **the first murder**, but Abel was the **first martyr** because he was killed for his sacrifice to the Lord Matt 23:35 "**all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah**"*
- *Somehow the Lord came to Cain and spoke to him about Abel*
- *Cain's response was not only callous, but showed arrogance toward God*

Gen 4:11-16 The punishment of Cain

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 work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you, its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”

¹³ Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment(guilt) is greater than I can bear.

¹⁴ 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.”

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of **Nod** (land of wandering) east of Eden.

Gen 4:11-16 *Some thoughts...*

- ***God punished Cain, but did not kill him.*** He was driven from the land, it became unfruitful for him, and he was sentenced to wander the earth.
- ***Cain was greatly disturbed his punishment, and thought it was a death sentence.*** He was banished from the presence of God and Cain felt this was too much for him to bear.
- ***God did not back down on the sentence,*** but He did protect Cain by marking him in some way. No idea how, but it was something that indicated that Cain was under a sentence from God, and no one was to change that.
- ***Cain went away to the land of wandering (Nod). Are you in the land of Nod?***
- ***Cain was a spiritual seed of Satan, not Eve. Similarly, Judas Iscariot left the “presence of the Lord” (John 13:13)***³⁰ As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out (away from the Lord). And it was night.
- 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 brothers were righteous.***

Gen 4:17-22 Descendants of Cain – in darkness

*¹⁷ 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**.*

*¹⁸ To **Enoch** was born **Irada**, and Irada fathered **Mehujael**, and **Mehujael** fathered **Methushael**, and **Methushael** fathered **Lamech**.*

*¹⁹ And **Lamech** took two wives. The name of the one was **Adah**, and the name of the other **Zillah**.*

*²⁰ Adah bore **Jabal**; he was the **father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock**.*

*²¹ His brother's name was **Jubal**; he was the **father of all those who play the lyre and pipe**.*

*²² Zillah also bore **Tubal-cain**; he was the **forgery of all instruments of bronze and iron**. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.*

Gen 4: 23-24 Sin nature called out

²³ 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.

²⁴ If Cain's revenge is sevenfold,

then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold.”

*It seems that the commitment from God to protect Cain, has become a shield to others in the family to protect **them** from revenge, but it does not work that way.*

Gen 4:25-26 God Grants a Godly Replacement for Abel

*²⁵ And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name **Seth**, for she said, “**God has appointed (Seth means appointed or set) for me another offspring (seed) instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.**”*

*²⁶ 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.***

***Note:** in Gen 3:15, the pronouncement of the hostility between the Seed of Satan, and Eve shows up in the children of Adam and Eve. Satan convinced Cain to kill Abel, and now God has raised up another seed to provide the Godly seed to mankind.*

A ray of hope appears in Seth, and people began to call on the name of the Lord in worship.

Calling on the Name of the Lord

Even while the seed of Cain strived to build cities that were not within the presence of the Lord, the Godly line of Seth began to have a spiritual revival and renewal.

Calling on the NAME of the Lord means here that they were calling on all the attributes and nature of God Himself. This is an act of Public Worship towards God, and we can see the separation of those who try to follow God, from those who do not.

As it is today, cultural changes affect all of mankind, and spiritual renewal can make the most hardened sinner come to faith in the Lord. It most likely is the same at this time. Genealogy does not determine our salvation or destiny, our own choices as humans determine that.

Next week we will look at the Genealogy of Adam in Ch 5

Next time, we will Pickup at Gen Ch 5

- *Pray for the US, Israel, and the Peace of Jerusalem*
- *Pray for the transition of Power here at home*
- *Pray for the release of the Hostages*
- *Pray for our leaders – present and future*
- *Pray for First Redeemer Pastors, staff, teachers, and all who lead*
- *Pray for your family and friends inside and outside the church.*
- *Pray for each other earnestly and often*
- *Be thankful that God has placed you **in this day and time** and
commit **your** will ...to doing **His** Will.*
- *Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to fill the land*