

GENESIS 4: CAIN AND ABEL

I. OVERVIEW

- A. Adam and Eve have a child named Cain
 - i. Then another child named Abel
 - ii. Abel was a shepherd and Cain a farmer
- B. Both brothers brought offerings to God from their work
 - i. God accepted Abel's offering but rejected Cain's offering
 - ii. Cain became angry
 - a. God warned him of the dangers of anger
- C. Cain ignored the Lord's warning and killed Abel
 - i. God cursed Cain
 - a. Ground will not yield its strength
 - I. Because it received Abel's blood from Cain's strength
 - b. He will be a fugitive and a wanderer
 - c. God places His protective mark on Cain
 - I. Then Cain went east to Nod
- D. Cain had a son Enoch
 - i. Built a city and named it after him
- E. Lamech, descendent of Cain, born
 - i. Seventh generation from Adam
 - ii. He was a tyrannical murderer and polygamist
- F. Adam and Eve have another son Seth
 - i. Seth's son is named Enosh

II. CAIN MEANS “I’VE GOT HIM”¹

- A. Eve may have thought Cain was the Seed promised by God
- B. Instead he turned out to be the seed of the serpent

III. ABEL MEANS “VAPOR”²

- A. As in Ecclesiastes

¹ Guzik, David. “Study Guide For Genesis 4.” *Blue Letter Bible*, 2018,
https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-4.cfm.

² “1892. Hebel.” *Strong's Hebrew: 1892. הֶבֶל (Hebel) -- Vapor, Breath, Bible Hub*, 2004,
<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/1892.htm>.

IV. IT IS POSSIBLE CAIN AND ABEL BROUGHT THEIR OFFERINGS TO THE DOOR OF EDEN

- A. Cherubim are always seen guarding the presence of God
 - i. Ark of the covenant
 - ii. Ezekiel 10
- B. God warned Cain that sin is crouching at the door
 - i. What door?

V. WHY DID GOD HAVE NO REGARD FOR CAIN'S OFFERING?

- A. Bible doesn't tell us
- B. We should ask, how do I react when I don't understand what God is doing?

VI. ANGRY – V. 6

- A. Connection between anger and murder
- B. Matthew 5:21-22
 - i. This is how Jesus can say anger is as murder

VII. GOD QUESTIONS CAIN AS HE QUESTIONED ADAM

- A. Adam responded by blaming Eve
- B. Cain responded with disrespect
- C. God will confront us regarding our sin – how will we respond?

VIII. BLOOD CRYING FROM THE GROUND

- A. Blood has a voice that God hears
- B. Innocent blood cries out for justice
- C. Jesus' blood speaks of restoration to the Father
 - i. Hebrews 12:24 *and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.*

IX. CAIN'S PUNISHMENT AMPLIFIES ADAM'S PUNISHMENT³

- A. Adam had to work the ground in pain
 - i. The ground would yield no crops at all for Cain
- B. Adam was driven from Eden
 - i. Cain would wander the earth forever

X. MARK – V. 15

- A. First one to be marked in the Bible

³ Guzik, David. "Study Guide For Genesis 4." *Blue Letter Bible*, 2018,
https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-4.cfm.

- B. Signifies protection, belonging

XI. CAIN GOES EAST TO NOD

- A. Exiled again
- B. Nod means “to wander”⁴
- C. Away from the presence of God, he:
 - i. Knew his wife
 - ii. Had a son named Enoch
 - a. Means “to dedicate”⁵
 - iii. Built a city dedicated to his son
- D. Continues pattern of selfish disregard for God

XII. LAMECH'S WIVES

- A. First polygamist
- B. Names of wives and daughter reveal more about him⁶
 - i. Adah – ornament or adorned⁷
 - ii. Zillah – shadow or shade⁸
 - iii. Daughter Naamah - loveliness⁹

XIII. HUMAN CULTURE DEVELOPS QUICKLY

- A. Within just a few generations we have:
 - i. Agriculture
 - ii. Music
 - iii. Metalworking

XIV. LAMECH COULD MEAN “CONQUEROR” – UNCLEAR¹⁰

- A. Boasted about murdering a man

⁴ Armstrong, Stephen. “Genesis 2011 - Lesson 4B.” Verse By Verse Ministry International, 18 Apr. 2011, https://versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_4b.

⁵ “2596. Chanak.” Strong’s Hebrew: 2596. **נְנָה** (Chanak) -- to Train up, Dedicate, Bible Hub, 2004, <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/2596.htm>.

⁶ Guzik, David. “Study Guide For Genesis 4.” Blue Letter Bible, 2018, https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-4.cfm.

⁷ “5710b. Adah.” Strong’s Hebrew: 5710B. Adah -- to Ornament or Deck Oneself, Bible Hub, 2004, <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/5710b.htm>.

⁸ “6751. Tsalal.” Strong’s Hebrew: 6751. **תְּשַׁׁלָּל** (Tsalal) -- to Be or Grow Dark, Bible Hub, 2004, <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/6751.htm>.

⁹ “5276. Naem.” Strong’s Hebrew: 5276. **נְאֵם** (NAEM) -- to Be Pleasant, Delightful, or Lovely, Bible Hub, 2004, <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/5276.htm>.

¹⁰ Guzik, David. “Study Guide For Genesis 4.” Blue Letter Bible, 2018, https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-4.cfm.

- B. He boasts his vengeance is greater than God's vengeance
- C. Then his line is never heard from again

XV. SETH – APPOINTED¹¹

- A. As humans devolve into wickedness, one is born who is appointed to bear the Seed

XVI. POINTS TO JESUS

- A. Abel sacrificed the firstborn of his flock of sheep
 - i. Jesus will become the sacrificial lamb for the world
- B. Seth is appointed to carry forth the Seed line
 - i. The Seed does not come through the one whom Adam and Eve thought it would come
 - a. They thought it would come through the firstborn line of Cain
 - b. Instead it came through the thirdborn line of Seth
 - c. **1 Peter 2:4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious...**

XVII. QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- A. How has man's relationship with God changed from before the fall to what we see in chapter 4?

- B. Have you ever been rejected and didn't know why? How did you respond? What can we learn from God's warning to Cain?

- C. What does the author of Hebrews tell us about Abel's offering? See Hebrews 11:4.

¹¹ Armstrong, Stephen. "Genesis 2011 - Lesson 4C." Verse By Verse Ministry International, 2 May 2011, https://versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_4c.

D. Did God reject Cain or did He only reject his sacrifice? What was God's solution for Cain's desire for acceptance?

E. Have you ever been faced with a solution to a problem you didn't like? How did you respond?

F. How can we avoid Cain's response of flippant disrespect when God confronts us with our sin?

G. Are we our brothers' keepers? What responsibility do we have toward our families and our neighbors?

H. What is Cain's response to God's judgment? What would a true repentant response look like?

I. How does God show Himself merciful to Cain even after his sin and disrespect? What does this reveal about God?

XVIII. FURTHER STUDY

A. What parallels do you see between the two brothers in Genesis 3 and the two brothers in the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32?

B. Read Genesis 3:16 and note the adversarial fallen state of marriage relationships. How does this illustrate our struggle with sin in Genesis 4:7?

C. Jude 3-13 warns of those who have crept into the Church that have “walked in the way of Cain.” What does this look like in the modern Church? What should we learn from Jude’s warning?

D. Is the door in 4:7 literal or metaphorical? See Genesis 3:24 and Exodus 27:9-14.

E. What is Lamech implying when he says his revenge is seventy-sevenfold that of Cain's?

F. How does the author contrast the line of Cain versus the line of Seth?
