

## Cain and Abel

Scripture: Genesis 4:1-17

### 1. Two sons of Adam and Eve – Genesis 4:1, 2a

### 2. Two different types of work - Genesis 4:2b

Abel was a keeper of sheep (Shepherd)

Cain tiller of the ground (Farmer)



### 3. Two different offerings brought to the Lord – Genesis 4:3, 4

Cain brought some of the fruit of the ground (Produce)

Abel brought the firstborn of his flock (Animal sacrifice)

- Adam's family must have received God's direction about the necessity of sacrifice to create and maintain fellowship with Him
- The background for this was probably the sacrifice God provided to clothe Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21)

### 4. Two responses from God – vs. 4b, 5

- God was pleased with Abel's offering – vs.4b
- God was not pleased with Cain's offering – vs.5a

### 5. Two different heart conditions – Genesis 4:4b-7

Abel - Hebrews 11:4

- Man of faith – Hebrews 11:4a
- Righteous – vs.4b; Matthew 23:35
- Obedient

Cain - 1 John 3:11-12

- Of the wicked one – 1 John 3:12a
- Unacceptable worship – vs. 3
- Murder – Vs. 8 (1 John 3:12b)
- His works were evil – 1John 3:12 (Reject the doctrine of redemption)
- Violent anger – vs. 5-8
- Lying – vs. 9

### 6. Two questions from God – vs. 9, 10

- 1- Where is your brother?
- 2- What have you done?

*“Thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground” (vs. 10b)*

A figure of speech to indicate that Abel's death was well known to God

### 7. Two punishments

- 1- Difficulty making a living from the ground – vs. 11, 12a
  - 2- He would become a nomad – vs. 12b
- “Nod” means wandering or homeless

## Who was Cain afraid of?

*Genesis 4:14 – “Every one that findeth me shall slay me”*

**One reason someone would want to kill Cain is if that person was a close relation of Abel**

- Adam was 130 years old (Genesis 5:3) when Seth was born. Eve saw him as a replacement for Abel (Genesis 4:25) – The time period from Cain's birth to Abel's death may have been 100 years or more
- By the time Abel was killed, there may have been a considerable number of descendants of Adam and Eve

**The “mark” – vs. 15**

- God placed an identifiable sign of protection on Cain – Sign or mark is not described
- Whether a physical marking on his body or just what we don't know

## The effects of the fall came fast and furious

In the first generation after Adam and Eve we see the following:

- Jealousy
- Selfishness
- Hatred
- Murder

**The first born man becomes the first murderer – Genesis 4:8b**

Abel the first human to physically die

## Where /did Cain Get His Wife?

Genesis 4: 16, 17a

Some have answered this by saying that God must have created other people or races on earth who did not descend from Adam and Eve

**Scripture is very clear that ALL people descended from Eve – Genesis 3:20**

Therefore, Cain's wife was a descendant of Adam and Eve –

See Genesis 5:3, 4

- After Adam and Eve's third son was born they had “sons and daughters”
- Cain either married his sister or another close relative – possibly a niece

- Also, Genesis 2:20 – When Adam looked at the animals, he could not find at mate (none of his kind) This supports that there was only one woman - Eve

### Objections:

#### 1- Law against brother and sister marriage

Actually, if you don't marry a relation, you don't marry a human – All are of “one blood” (See Acts 17:26)

The law against close relatives marrying was not given until the time of Moses – Leviticus 18-20

- Abraham was married to his half-sister (Genesis 20:12) – This was 400 years before Moses
- Isaac's wife, Rebekah was his second cousin (Genesis 24:15)

#### 2- Biological Deformities

Children produced today from a union between brother and sister or close relative have a greater chance of being deformed (the closer the couple are in relationship the more likely it is that any offspring will be deformed)

#### This fact did not apply to Adam and Eve

- Everything God made was “very good” (Genesis 1:31) Adam and Eve's genes were perfect – no mistakes
- Over periods of time, degeneration would have resulted in all sorts of mistakes occurring in genetic material
- Cain was the first generation of children ever born. He as well as his brothers and sisters, would have received virtually no imperfect genes from Adam and Eve, since the effects of sin and the curse would have been minimal to start with

From Adam to Moses 2,500 years – Degeneration mistakes would have increased with time. By the time of Moses there were plenty of people on the earth for there to be no reason for close relatives to marry.

### Firsts Found in Genesis 4

- First person born – Cain (4:1)
- First time the word “sin” is used (4:7)
- First murder (4:8) Cain the first man born became the first murder when he killed his brother Abel
- First mention of blood in Scripture (4:10)  
Shedding of blood implied in 3:21
- First one recorded as having two wives (4:19)
- First mention of musical instruments (4:21)

## Animal Sacrifices throughout Biblical History



- † An amazing foreshadowing of what was to come!
- † The very first animal sacrifice was made by God Himself – Gen. 3:20, 21
- † Abel's offering to God – Genesis 4:4
- † Noah sacrificed animals after the flood – Genesis 8:20
- † Job sacrificed animals for the sins of his family – Job 1:5
- † Abraham sacrificed a ram that God provided as a substitute for Isaac – Genesis 22:13
- † When the Israelites left Egypt, God specifically appointed a sacrificial system to cover the sins of His people – Leviticus 17:11



Animal sacrifices can never cleanse us from sin!

The ultimate purpose of the sacrificial system was to demonstrate that the penalty of sin is death - See Hebrews 10:3-5