

# CAIN AND HIS LEGACY



Lesson 3 for April 16, 2022

It's hard to imagine what Adam and Eve must've felt when they found out that their firstborn Cain had killed his brother Abel.

Genesis 4 contains the account of the first murder and humankind's downward spiral of sin.

God is also present in this chapter. He cares for His children and offers grace to the sinners.



#### **Two brothers:**

 Their birth. Genesis 4:1-2

 Their offering. Genesis 4:3-5

#### **Cain's sin:**

 God gives advice. Genesis 4:6-8

 God punishes. Genesis 4:9-16

#### **Two lineages:**

 The children of Cain. Genesis 4:17-24

 The children of God. Genesis 4:25-26

# THE BIRTH OF CAIN AND ABEL

“And the man knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, ‘I have acquired a man, indeed the Lord Himself.’” (Genesis 4:1, literal translation)

Eve remembered God’s promise in Genesis 3:15 as she bore her first child. Eve thought Cain was the fulfillment of the prophecy, the seed that would free them from sin.

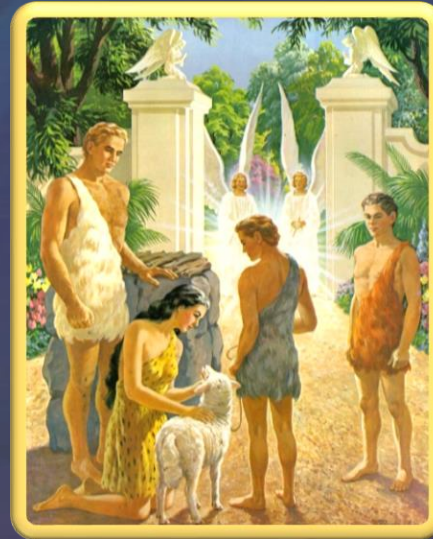


Evidently, that hope outshined the birth of Abel [*hébel* in Hebrew], whose name means “vanity” (see Ecclesiastes 12:8).

Each brother made different choices. Cain chose to work the land and Abel chose to take care of the animals (Genesis 4:2).



Apparently, Cain was following God’s orders (Gn. 2:15). Everything seemed to go according to the plan...





# THE OFFERING OF CAIN AND ABEL

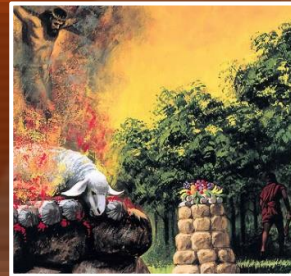
**"And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord." (Genesis 4:3)**

**God required both animals and vegetables as offerings (Lv. 1:2; Ex. 23:19). Each type of offering has its meaning (redemption and gratitude respectively).**

**We don't know the full context, but we can intuitively know their motivation because God rejected one of their offerings (Gn. 4:4b-5).**

**While Cain thought of his offering as his gift to God, Abel understood his sacrifice as a reminder of God's gift to him.**

**Cain wanted to be accepted for what he did for God (salvation by works). Abel wanted to be accepted for what God had done for him (salvation by faith).**



# GOD GIVES ADVICE

**"If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it." (Genesis 4:7 NIV)**

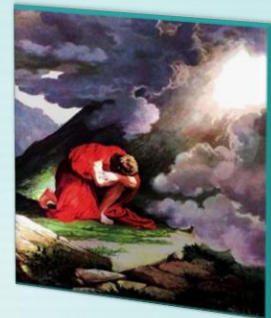
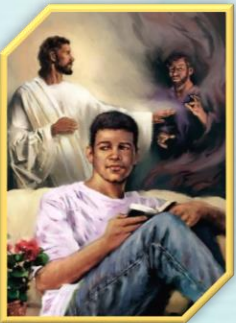


**Cain got angry with God and his brother because his offering was rejected. Getting angry with God might make sense because He had rejected his offering. But why did he get angry with his brother? 1 John 3:12.**

**God responded to Cain's anger by treating him affectionately. He gave him some advice to prevent him from making further mistakes, encouraging him to make good choices.**

**He invited Cain to do what is right and good. He will always be accepted, but he must accept God's terms and not his own.**

**He also encouraged Cain to overcome sin. God was willing to be always with him to help him (1Co. 10:13).**



# GOD PUNISHES

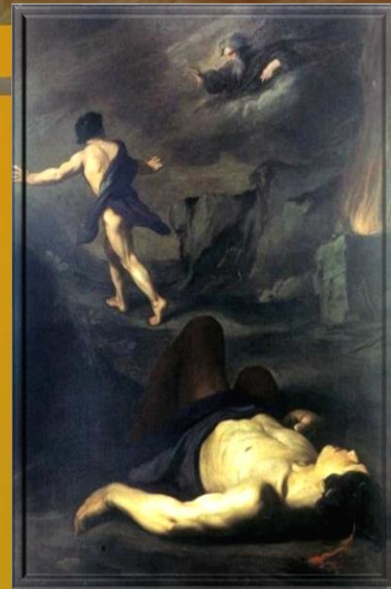
**“When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.” (Genesis 4:12)**

**After Cain killed his brother, God asked him a similar question to the one He asked Adam: “Where is Abel your brother?” (Gn. 4:9).**

**However, Cain didn’t acknowledge his sin. He didn’t even try to justify it. He just dodged the question and challenged God.**

**Therefore, God let Cain be cursed from the earth that had drunk the blood of his brother (Gn. 4:11). Cain had chosen to live far from God, so he was condemned to a wandering life (v. 12).**

**Cain didn’t repent, but he knew that living far from God means death (v. 14). But God cares for sinners by His mercy (Gn. 4:15; Mt. 5:45).**



**"If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, then  
Lamech seventy-sevenfold."  
(Genesis 4:24)**

The descendants of Cain became worse generation after generation. Lamech is a good example of this. He was part of the seventh generation after Adam:

**CAIN**

He was  
monogamous

He hid his sin

He asked for  
mercy

Avenged 7-fold  
by God

**LAMECH**

He was  
polygamous

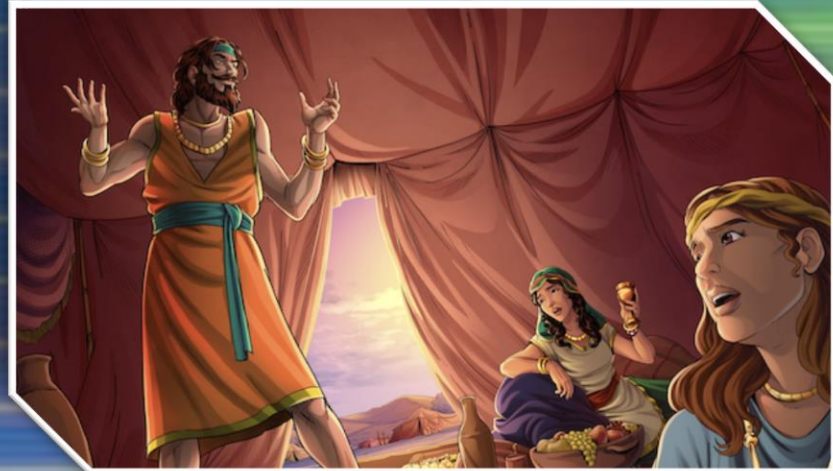
He boasted  
of his sin

He didn't want  
mercy

He thought he  
deserved a 70x7  
revenge

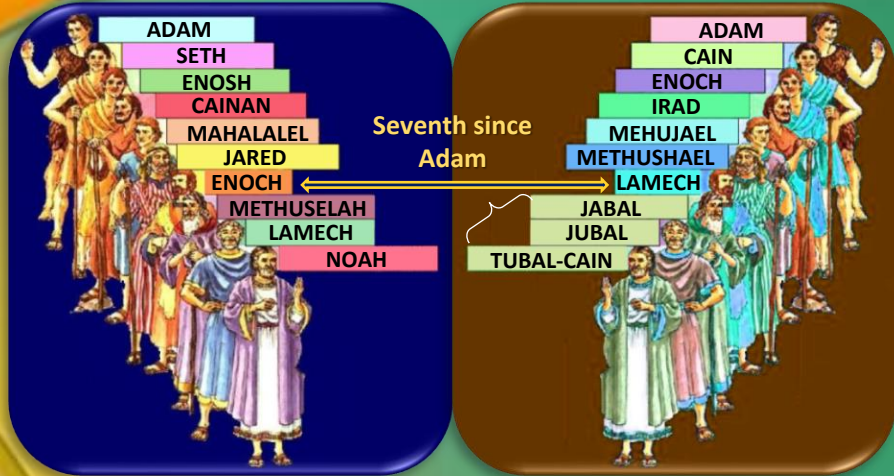


**THE CHILDREN OF CAIN**



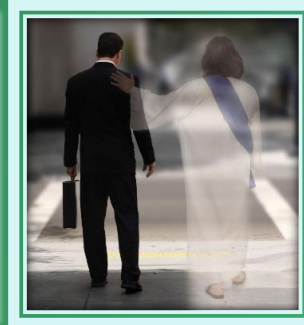
# THE CHILDREN OF GOD

“And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.” (Genesis 4:26)



Eve had faith that the Liberator would come through Seth's offspring (Gn. 4:25). The messianic seed would be part of Seth's lineage. The descendants of Seth (the children of God) and Cain's (the children of men) were clearly differentiated since Enosh (Gn. 6:1-2).

The offspring of Cain were getting further from God, but Seth's were trying to come closer to Him. Enoch was also part of the seventh generation since Adam. But his experience stunningly contrasts with that of his cousin, Lamech. We are children of God. Let's imitate Enoch and walk with Him every day (Gn. 5:22).





**“The only safeguard against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. It is because selfishness exists in our hearts that temptation has power over us. But when we behold the great love of God, selfishness appears to us in its hideous and repulsive character, and we desire to have it expelled from the soul. As the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, our hearts are softened and subdued, the temptation loses its power, and the grace of Christ transforms the character.”**