

Cain

Genesis 4:1-3 [NIV] *“Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, ‘With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.’ Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.”*

Cain was the first child of the marriage union of Adam and Eve.

Life for the Adam family was **not** as easy as it had been in the Garden of Eden before Adam and Eve were turned out because of rebellion.

Genesis 3:16-19 [NIV] *“To the woman he said, ‘I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.’ To Adam he said, ‘Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, you must not eat of it, cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.’”*

Cain had to work the soil which was under a curse and involved a great deal of pain and sweat.

Cain may have already begun to envy his younger brother who was a shepherd, which to him looked like a far easier job.

Genesis 4:3-7 [NIV] *“In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. Then the LORD said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 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 master it.’”*

Both brothers brought a sacrifice to God as they must have been commanded either directly by God or by Adam and Eve who had received this command as a result of their rebellion.

Abel followed God’s example and sacrificed one of his best lambs and his sacrifice was pleasing to God, being motivated by humble obedience.

Cain most likely knew the sacrifice should have been a lamb, but was very reluctant to humble himself and ask he could purchase one of his younger brother’s animals.

1 John 3:11-13 [NIV] *“This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 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 brother’s were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you.”*

As with all evil sin Satan was behind the rebellious actions of Cain, and deceived him as Satan had his mother.

Cain was probably very proud of his vegetable offering because of all the sweat and toil and did **not** understand why God rejected it.

Hebrews 11:4 [NIV] *“By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.”*

What is indicated here is that Cain's offering was **not** made with a right attitude, that is with faith!

Cain did **not** repent and accept the forgiveness God was offering, nor did Cain take any notice of God's warning that more sin would follow if he did **not** take notice of God's warning.

The Hebrew word translated "*crouching*" is "*râbats*" meaning lurking or imbedded, referring to Satan's assault on Cain.

Jude likens this rejection of God's authority as "*the way of Cain.*" [**Jude 8-11**]

Genesis 4:8 [NIV] "*Now Cain said to his brother Abel, 'Let's go out to the field.' And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.*"

Cain gave in to the influence of Satan who is a liar and murderer. [**John 8:44**]

Cain's jealous anger led him to the first murder.

The sin of disobedience degenerated into outright murder, sin becoming completely out of control.

Genesis 4:9-12 [NIV] "*Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?' 'I don't know,' he replied. 'Am I my brother's keeper?' The LORD said, 'What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.'*"

Cain was severely corrected by God for this murder seeking to restore a right fellowship with Him.

Genesis 4:13-14 [NIV] "*Cain said to the LORD, 'My punishment is more than I can bear. Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.'*"

Cain resented this correction from God looking on it as punishment, still definitely **not** accepting the mercy God was offering.

Cain's fear over killing his brother was the repercussions from his family, if he was capable of killing, so were they.

Remember Adam and Eve had been told to be "*fruitful and increase in number*" [**Genesis 1:28**] and we do **not** know what "*in the course of time*" [**Genesis 4:3**] means in the number of years that had passed.

The earth could be extensively populated by the time of Cain murdering Abel.

Genesis 4:15 [NIV] "*But the LORD said to him, 'Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over.' Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no-one who found him would kill him.*"

God was going to protect Cain's life to continue to give him time to repent.

Genesis 4:16 [NIV] "*So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.*"

The tragic direction of rebellious humanity, a restless wanderer, without contact with the Creator God and without hope for the future.

"*Land of Nod*" the name is unknown outside the Christian Bible. As Cain bemoans the fact that he will become a wanderer and the Hebrew word translated "*Nod*" is "*Nôwd*" meaning to flee, wander

as a vagrant. We can assume that it was a region where nomadic existence was necessary, such as many find today in the Middle East.

Genesis 4:17-24 [NIV] *“Cain lay with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch. To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael was the father of Methushael, and Methushael was the father of Lamech. Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play the harp and flute. Zillah also had a son, Tubal-cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron. Tubal-cain’s sister was Naamah. Lamech said to his wives, ‘Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times.’”*

This short history of the family of Cain shows us the many talents and abilities that God gave to early humans.

It also shows a continuous development of rebellious sin as time passes, in the Cainite culture.

Lamech had two wives, was an abuse of the creation ordinance of marriage shows shows the ungodly spirit of the culture.

Lamech also boasts about killing a young man, showing utter contempt for the God-given human life and the spirit of vengeful tyranny in this dynasty’s founder.

Unfortunately when left to themselves with **no** fear or acknowledgement of the Creator God humans tend to become more sinful and violent.

Genesis 4:25-26 [NIV] *“Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, ‘God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.’ Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.”*

Two distinct groups of humans are appearing at this time in human history.

- 1) Those who show indifference to evil and sin, who followed the “*way of Cain.*” [**Jude 11**]
- 2) Those who followed Seth, the child of Adam and Eve, who took the place of the murdered Abel. Who faithfully worshipped the Creator God.

This same division is found in every generation of humans including the one in which we live today.