

## **Genesis Chapter Four**

- Cain and Abel

## **Cain and Abel Verses 1-26**

### **Verses 1-2**

***“Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have obtained a male child with the help of the LORD.”<sup>2</sup> And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a cultivator of the ground.”***

The very first human baby born into the world came into the world with a mother who praised God for blessing her, but the child turned from God and did as he wanted. Her second child was Abel whose name means breath.

Cain’s sin caused him to lose his firstborn blessing, which later was passed on to Seth. This pattern happens again in later generations as Ishmael was Abraham’s first born but Isaac’s was the chosen one by God. Esau was Isaac’s firstborn, but he gave up his birthright and Jacob’s firstborn son Reuben was replaced by Joseph’s two sons (Genesis 49:3-4, 1 Chronicles 5:1-2).

This situation of brothers turning on another is also seen in future generations when Ishmael mistreated Isaac. In fear, Jacob ran away from Esau and Joseph’s brothers planned to kill him but sold him into slavery instead.

Adam put both of his sons to work, both using the skills each had, Cain a farmer and Abel a shepherd. Work is part of God’s plan; the Bible speaks harshly about those who are idle and idleness. Work is to be a way each of us serves God (1 Corinthians 10:31). This has been true since man was created. In the New Testament, Jesus was a carpenter, and the apostle Paul was a tentmaker.

### **Verses 3-5**

***“So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the ground.<sup>4</sup> Abel, on his part also brought an offering, from the firstborn of his flock and from their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering;<sup>5</sup> but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his face was gloomy.”***

Adam and Eve were excommunicated from the Garden of Eden but they continued to worship God. We know this because they taught their children to do so. Both of their sons were bringing God an offering. One either becomes a worshipper or an idolater. Verse 4 points out that Abel’s offering included the ‘fat portions.’ This recognition is significant because this phrase is repeated through Scripture when an offering is presented such as in Leviticus 3.

#### **Leviticus 3:16**

***“The priest shall burn them on the altar as a food offering, a pleasing aroma. All the fat is the LORD’s.”***

What does the phrase mean? It points forward to the Cross and the shedding of blood by our Kinsman-Redeemer, Jesus Christ. In Leviticus God had ordained the offering of a lamb, which looks forward to the ultimate sacrifice of the ultimate sacrificial lamb, the Lamb of God, Jesus.

The Lord accepted Abel's offering. How did God do this? Perhaps fire came down from heaven and consumed Abel's offering.

**Leviticus 9:24**

*"Then fire went out from the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the portions of fat on the altar; and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell face downward."*

**1 Kings 18:38**

*"Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood, and the stones and the dust; and it licked up the water that was in the trench."*

One can also see this acceptance of an offering with fire in Judges 6:21 (Gideon), Judges 13:20 (Samson's parents), 1 Chronicles 21:26 (David) and 2 Chronicles 7:1 (Solomon).

Cain's offering was not accepted by God. It was rejected. Why? Because of Cain and his heart. **Hebrews 11:4** explains Cain's lack of faith:

*"By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he was attested to be righteous, God testifying <sup>[e]</sup> about his gifts, and through <sup>[f]</sup> faith, though he is dead, he still speaks."*

It wasn't because Abel brought an animal and Cain probably brought something from his field. Later, when God established the sacrifice system there is a place for the sacrifice of grains and fruit (Leviticus 2, Deuteronomy 26:1-11). What was rejected was the condition of Cain's heart.

**Jude 11**

*"Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain ..."*

Abel brought the best that he had and truly sought to please God; but Abel did not display the same heart towards God. Obedience is better than sacrifice – Isaiah 1:11-13, Hosea 6:6, Micah 6:6-8, Mark 12:28-34 and Jesus' own words in Matthew 9:13, when He quotes Hosea 6.

**Verse 6-7**

*"Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why is your face gloomy? <sup>7</sup> If you do well, will your face not be cheerful? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."<sup>8</sup> Cain talked to his brother Abel; and it happened that when they were in the field Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him."*

The Lord personally spoke directly with Cain. Has the Lord personally spoken to you? Yes, He has in His Word!

Cain's response was anger. The Lord responded to Cain's anger with a warning. In the New Testament Paul brings the same warning to the Ephesians.

**Ephesians 4:26-27**

*"Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil."*

Cain did not yield to the Lord's warning from verse seven. Interestingly the New Testament gospel of Luke lists Abel as the first prophet killed.

**Luke 11:49-51**

*"Because of this, God in his wisdom said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.' 50 Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.*

**Verses 8-12**

*"Cain talked to his brother Abel; and it happened that 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?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" 10 Then He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying out to Me from the ground. 11 Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a wanderer and a drifter on the earth."*

How much time passed between verses seven and eight? Did Cain rise up against his brother the same day? Did he ponder the situation and allow his anger to grow for several days? Did he "murder" his brother in his heart multiple times before he committed the physical act?

The New Testament book of 1 John reveals Cain's heart.

**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 brother's were righteous."*

Why did John say Cain belonged to the devil? Because he was a murderer and a liar.

**John 8:44**

*"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

As He did with Adam and Eve in chapter three, the Lord asked Cain a question. In both cases, the purpose of the question was not to receive information. God already knew the answers. The purpose was to give both Adam and Cain the opportunity to confess their sin. Both Adam and Cain shamefully tried to give an excuse for their actions, but the Lord brought light revealing the darkness of their sin. Adam and Eve tried to run away from God but Cain could not because his brother's voice cried out to God, however it was just one voice.

**Numbers 35:30**

*"Anyone who kills a person is to be put to death as a murderer only on the testimony of witnesses. But no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness."*

In His grace, God did not place a death sentence on Cain. However, because of the sin Cain was to be "a wanderer and a drifter on the earth."

## Numbers 35:33-34

*“Do not pollute the land where you are. **Bloodshed pollutes the land**, and atonement cannot be made for the land on which blood has been shed, except by the blood of the one who shed it. <sup>34</sup> **Do not defile the land where you live** and where I dwell, for I, the LORD, dwell among the Israelites.”*

### Verses 13-16

*“Cain said to the LORD, **“My punishment is too great to endure!** <sup>14</sup> **Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and I will be hidden from Your face, and I will be a wanderer and a drifter on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.**” <sup>15</sup> So the LORD said to him, **“Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him seven times as much.”** And the LORD placed a mark on Cain, so that no one finding him would kill him. <sup>16</sup> Then Cain left the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.”*

- A fugitive is one who runs
- A stranger is one who has no roots
- A pilgrim is one who desires to head home
- Cain became a mixture of all three

In Genesis three God cursed the serpent and the ground. Because the ground was cursed Adam had to toil, however his efforts could still produce a harvest. In this situation God once again brings a curse. This time it is on a person - Cain. He will no longer receive a harvest from the land he had been farming. To be a wanderer meant that he will have to travel from town to town and survive on whatever meager means the generosity of others provides. Moving from place to place would be dangerous. As God said, people would also turn against him but staying in one place would lead to starvation. God, in an act of mercy, placed a mark on Cain protecting him from the hands of others. As He still does, God does not give us what we deserve; He does extend His hand of grace.

Cain had remorse for his actions but we never see repentance. He did not say his guilt or sorrow was more than he could bare; he only said, *“My punishment is too great to endure!”*

### Verses 17-18

*“Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and Cain built a city, and named the city Enoch, after the name of his son. <sup>18</sup> Now to Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech.”*

Where did Cain get his wife? Genesis 5:3-4 explains: *“When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. <sup>4</sup> After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had **other sons and daughters**.”* Between the age of 130 and 800 Adam had more children including daughters to be the first wives.

Cain was not able to farm the ground but he could build on it. God allowed Cain to live. However, after his death, the entire ‘city’ he built and the people from his line were destroyed in the flood.

Six generations from Cain are mentioned here. The sins of Cain continued on through the generations. His son Lamech also was a murderer (Vs 23).

#### Verses 19-24

***“Lamech took two wives for himself: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah. <sup>20</sup> Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and have livestock. <sup>21</sup> His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and flute. <sup>22</sup> As for Zillah, she also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of all implements of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. <sup>23</sup> Lamech said to his wives, “Adah and Zillah, Listen to my voice, You wives of Lamech, Pay attention to my words, For I have killed a man for wounding me; And a boy for striking me! <sup>24</sup> If Cain is avenged seven times, Then Lamech seventy-seven times!”***

Genesis lists two different men by the name of Lamech. The first Lamech was the son of Methushael, and the second Lamech was the son of Methuselah. The first Lamech was a wicked descendant of Cain. The other Lamech was a descendant of Seth. Lamech, son of Methushael, was Cain’s great-great-great grandson, and he followed Cain’s disobedient and murderous ways. Lamech married two wives, the Bible’s first mention of polygamy, and like his great-great-great grandfather, he committed murder. Another man struck and wounded him in some way and Lamech killed him for this seemingly small offense. Afterward he boasted of his sin to his two wives and exulted that he suffered no consequences: “If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times”

#### Verses 25-26

***“Adam had relations with his wife again; and she gave birth to a son, and named him Seth, for, she said, “God has appointed me another child in place of Abel, because Cain killed him.” <sup>26</sup> To Seth also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then people began to call upon the name of the LORD.”***

In contrast to the ungodly line of Cain, a new Godly line is established through Seth. The *Imago Dei*, the Image of God, has been passed on to us through natural birth. The name Seth comes from the Hebrew root word meaning ‘Appointed’. This line, the line of Seth, will lead to Noah which will eventually lead to Jesus.

The birth of a child can generate a great deal of hope:

- The birth of Seth set the stage for Israel to gather together, to worship God and to pray (Genesis 4:26)
- The birth of Moses set the stage for God’s people to be delivered from Egyptian bondage (Exodus 2:1-10).
- The birth of Samuel set the stage for Israel to be called back to God’s Word (1 Samuel 1-3)
- The birth of David brought Israel as a nation out of chaos (Saul) to prosperity (1 Samuel 16)

Abel was a shepherd  
Abel gave God an offering  
Abel was hated by his brother  
Abel was slain by wicked brother  
Abel's blood cried out

Jesus was a shepherd (John 10:11)  
Jesus was the offering  
Jesus was hated by His brothers (Jn 15:25)  
Jesus was slain by wicked men (Acts 2:23)  
Jesus' blood cries out (Mark 12:1-12)

## **Genesis Chapter Five**

- Descendants of Adam

## Descendants of Adam Verses 1-32

### Verses 1-2

***“This is the book of the generations of Adam. On the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. <sup>2</sup> He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them “mankind” on the day when they were created.”***

This is the first genealogy recorded in Scripture. There are ten generations from Adam to Noah and there are ten generations from Noah to Abraham (Genesis 11). In Ruth 4:18-22, there are also a group of ten generations listed for King David’s genealogy.

Here in Genesis five, eight times the listing for the generations ends with the phrase, ‘*and he died.*’ Because of sin, death has entered the world. The New Testament book of Romans explains this.

### **Romans 5:12**

*“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.”*

### Verses 3-32

*“When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth. <sup>4</sup> Then the days of Adam after he fathered Seth were eight hundred years, and he fathered other sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup> So all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.*

*<sup>6</sup> Now Seth lived 105 years, and fathered Enosh. <sup>7</sup> Then Seth lived 807 years after he fathered Enosh, and he fathered other sons and daughters. <sup>8</sup> So all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.*

*<sup>9</sup> Now Enosh lived ninety years, and fathered Kenan. <sup>10</sup> Then Enosh lived 815 years after he fathered Kenan, and he fathered other sons and daughters. <sup>11</sup> So all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.*

*<sup>12</sup> Now Kenan lived seventy years, and fathered Mahalalel. <sup>13</sup> Then Kenan lived 840 years after he fathered Mahalalel, and he fathered other sons and daughters. <sup>14</sup> So all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.*

*<sup>15</sup> Now Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and fathered Jared. <sup>16</sup> Then Mahalalel lived 830 years after he fathered Jared, and he fathered other sons and daughters. <sup>17</sup> So all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.*

*<sup>18</sup> Now Jared lived 162 years, and fathered Enoch. <sup>19</sup> Then Jared lived eight hundred years after he fathered Enoch, and he fathered other sons and daughters. <sup>20</sup> So all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.*

*<sup>21</sup> Now Enoch lived sixty-five years, and fathered Methuselah. <sup>22</sup> Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he fathered Methuselah, and he fathered other sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> So all the days of Enoch were 365 years. <sup>24</sup> Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*

*<sup>25</sup> Now Methuselah lived 187 years, and fathered Lamech. <sup>26</sup> Then Methuselah lived 782 years after he fathered Lamech, and he fathered other sons and daughters. <sup>27</sup> So all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.*

<sup>28</sup> Now Lamech lived 182 years, and fathered a son. <sup>29</sup> And he named him Noah, saying, “**This one will give us comfort** from our work and from the hard labor of our hands caused by the ground which the LORD has cursed.” <sup>30</sup> Then Lamech lived 595 years after he fathered Noah, and he fathered other sons and daughters. <sup>31</sup> So all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died. <sup>32</sup> Now after Noah was five hundred years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.”

The year Methuselah died was the year the flood came.

Enoch did not die he was taken by God. Imagine how hard would it have been to walk by faith and to live a life pleasing to God just prior to the time of the flood.

#### **Hebrews 11:5**

“**By faith Enoch was taken** from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.” For before he was taken, he was **commended as one who pleased God.**”

There are two Enochs, one righteous and one not so righteous. One was the son of Cain, one the son of Seth.

#### **Genesis 4:17**

“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.”

The New Testament book of Jude also speaks about Enoch. Jude mentions a prophecy from Enoch. It’s one of the oldest prophecies in the Bible.

#### **Jude 14-16**

“**Enoch**, the seventh from Adam, **prophesied** about them: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones <sup>15</sup> to **judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness**, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” <sup>16</sup> These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.”

Jude’s recording of Enoch’s prophesy does confirm that Jesus will someday return. He will bring His holy ones with Him and that His purpose for returning will include judging the ungodly.

However, Jude’s quote in verse 14 isn’t found in the Bible. It comes from the book of Enoch, which is a book of Jewish writing taken place during the time of the Apostles (the range goes as far as 200 B.C. to 200 A.D.). It is part of what is known as the Pseudepigrapha, meaning *pseudes* = “false”, *epigrapha* = “inscription”. The pseudepigrapha refers to works which are said to be written by noted authorities in either the Old or New Testaments. Obviously, this book was not written by Enoch whose life was lived well before the time of Christ.

Jude says, “Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied...” A review of Genesis 5:3-18 will show that Enoch was not the seventh generation from Adam but the sixth.  
Adam – Seth – Enosh – Kenan – Mahalalel – Jared- Enoch

So why does Jude say he was the seventh? Another common Jewish custom is to count the first generation which then, yielding to the Jewish custom, would make Enoch the seventh generation.

Apparently, the quote Jude is using was somewhat common knowledge to his audience because he does not go into any explanation of its meaning or purpose. Unfortunately, his quote is not so common for modern day scholars and audiences however the theology of his words are.... There will be a time when the Lord will come in judgment!

What Jude is saying is that these godless men will be among those who will be judged when Christ returns for their ungodly acts and harsh vile words spoken against Jesus. Jude reveals that these men are grumblers and faultfinders. When one is serving their own evil desires, finding fault is easy. If people do not cooperate with their evil ways they are complained against. However, when it comes to themselves, boasting is natural and easy.

*It is possible to live for God in a crooked and perverse culture.*

**Philippians 2:14-15**

*“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without **fault in a warped and crooked generation**.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.”*

The New Testament book of Jude does reveal that Enoch believed God rewards those who seek Him and judges those who reject Him. Enoch believed God with all his heart. Note God took Enoch at age 365, which in that day, made him a young man.

Could Enoch’s ‘pre-flood rapture’ be a picture of the church being removed from the earth before the judgment of the Tribulation is sent upon the earth? (1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11)

Both Enoch and Noah walked *WITH* God. This is different than walking *BEFORE* God (Genesis 17:1, 24:40) or walking *AFTER* God (Deuteronomy 13:4). To walk before or after God signifies ones moral conduct. How one lived. It reveals one’s character. However, to walk with God details a personal intimate relationship with one’s Creator, Lord and Savior. To walk *WITH* God is a common description of the priest as he entered the Holy of Holies as he spoke directly to God.

Chuck Missler broke down the meaning and message from the names listed in this genealogy. Missler writes:

Adam = Man

Seth = Appointed

Enosh = Mortal

Kenan = Sorrow

Mahalalel = The Blessed God

Jared = Shall come down

Enoch = Teaching

Methuselah = His death shall bring

Lamech = The despairing

Noah = Comfort, rest

Combine the meaning of these names and Missler says this genealogy gives us this message:

*Man is appointed mortal sorrow; but the Blessed God shall come down teaching that His death shall bring the despairing comfort and rest.*

This genealogy in chapter five does give us a time frame from Adam to Noah. Genesis 11 will take us to Abraham. This genealogy in chapter 5 also gives us a time frame of when the flood took place:

### **Genesis 5 Adam to Noah**

<sup>3</sup> When **Adam** had lived **130** years, he had a son named him Seth.

<sup>6</sup> When Seth had lived **105** years, he became the father of Enosh.

<sup>9</sup> When Enosh had lived **90** years, he became the father of Kenan.

<sup>12</sup> When Kenan had lived **70** years, he became the father of Mahalalel.

<sup>15</sup> When Mahalalel had lived **65** years, he became the father of Jared.

<sup>18</sup> When Jared had lived **162** years, he became the father of Enoch.

<sup>21</sup> When Enoch had lived **65** years, he became the father of Methuselah.

<sup>25</sup> When Methuselah had lived **187** years, he became the father of Lamech.

<sup>28</sup> When Lamech had lived **182** years, he had a son.

<sup>29</sup> He named him **Noah**

<sup>32</sup> After Noah was **500 years old**, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

**1,056 years from Adam to Noah.**

**Noah lived 600 years before the flood.**

**Flood takes place 1,656 years after Adam & Eve.**

**The Flood happened 4,500 years ago.**