

Genesis - Lesson 04

Genesis 4

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Memory verses for this week: *Isa 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

Introduction: We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as we get into Genesis Chapter 4 on the book of Cain and Abel.

I. Birth of the Two Sons

Gen 4:1 *And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.*

Gen 4:2 *And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.*

Cain was the first-born of Adam and Eve. His name means "acquisition" or "acquired," which might be prophetic of his emphasis on material fleshly things. He is a type of the flesh, the earthy, the firstborn.

1Co 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

1Co 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

1Co 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

1Co 15:47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

Note his mother's declaration in verse 1. Eve said that she had received a man from the Lord. All children are blessing from the Lord.

We have a record of the second born in verse 2. Abel's name means "exhalation" or "vapor," which may speak of the brevity of his life.

Jas 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

Jas 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Jas 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Abel is a type of the spiritual or second born man. He was a keeper of the sheep, as was the Second Adam.

Joh 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

Cain And Abel Compared.

1. Both born by natural generation.
2. Both received the sinful nature from parents.
3. Both children of death and not life.

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

4. They had different occupations. Abel kept the flocks but Cain was a tiller of the ground and raised plants.

5. They were both taught about the fall, judgment and the remedy.

II. The Bringing of the Two Sacrifices

Gen 4:3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

Cain's Offering was brought first to the Lord. It was the fruit of the ground and the ground is under the curse as we studied in last week's lesson.

Gen 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Gen 3:18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

Gen 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Cain's offering was the best he could bring from the field, but this was not what God required. His offering was the fruit. This perhaps indicates work or labor, and God is not impressed with man's works. His offering was bloodless, and that is not pleasing to the Lord.

Heb 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Cain's offering was contrary to God's way. When man sinned, two animals had to die to provide skins to cover Adam and Eve. This typified the blood that Christ would one day offer as payment for our sins when we know Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Gen 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Unlike Cain, Abel's Offering was according to God's plan. He brought the firstling of the flock, a type of Christ.

Gen 4:4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

Gen 4:5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Gen 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

He brought a blood sacrifice, and as we read earlier in Heb. 9:22, without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sins. Abel followed the pattern of Gen. 3:21. It was a faith offering.

Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

III. God's Attitude Toward The Offerings

God accepted Abel's offering but did not respect Cain's offering. Since Cain had brought the very best of his fruits to the Lord, this angered Cain. God rebuked Cain in verse 6.

It is important to remember that our very best works and righteousness are so far from reaching the perfection God requires.

Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Gen 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

God made it plain that only a proper sacrifice would be acceptable to God. Otherwise, he would lose his birthright as firstborn.

IV. The First Murder and it's Penalty

Gen 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Gen 4:9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

Cain was the first murderer on earth. At first the brothers talked and it was probably about the offerings. Since Cain was rejected and Abel accepted, there was no ground of communion and no basis for fellowship. In anger, Cain

slew his brother.

Cain came before the Judge of all mankind. God made it clear that we have responsibility towards other men.

Gen 4:10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

God told Cain that the blood of his brother cried out and his sin was found out. Abel's blood cries for vengeance. Man may shed man's blood and might not be found out in this life, but one day all men will give an answer to God. It is appointed once for man to die, and after this the judgment. If we know Christ as Lord and Savior, we will stand before the Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ. If not, we will stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment. The blood of Abel cried for vengeance. The blood of Christ cries forgiveness.

Heb 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Gen 4:11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

Gen 4:12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

Gen 4:13 And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

Gen 4:14 Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.

Gen 4:15 And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

The pronouncement of the curse came in verse 11-15. The first curse was upon Cain's labor. No longer would there be great yield of crops, but a limited yield. Also, Cain would be a fugitive and a vagabond. He from this day forward was a marked man.

V. The First Civilization and Its Product

Gen 4:16 And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

Gen 4:17 And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.

The first civilization was built by Cain who was a Rebel. Cain departed from the presence of the Lord. While it is not totally clear, most likely his wife was his sister. In the infancy of the race, this was permitted. Remember that Abraham was married to his half sister. Later on this was forbidden by God.

Lev 18:9 The nakedness of thy sister, the daughter of thy father, or daughter of thy mother, whether she be born at home, or born abroad, even their nakedness thou shalt not uncover.

Gen 4:18 And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael: and Mehujael begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech.

Gen 4:19 And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

Gen 4:20 And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle.

Gen 4:21 And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ.

Gen 4:22 And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubalcain was Naamah.

Gen 4:23 And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.

Gen 4:24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.

Note the Characteristics of this Civilization created by Cain.

1. Cities with all their attendant evils had their beginning here.
2. Polygamy began here as noted in verse 19.
3. Cattle ranching began here. (Verse 20)
4. Music which can be good, but is often evil, had its beginning here. (v. 21)
5. Metal work was began here by Tubalcain.
6. Murder continued here as Lamech killed a man as mentioned in verse 23.

VI. Godly Line Continued through Seth

Gen 4:25 And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.

Gen 4:26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.

Even though Abel died, God blesses Eve and sends Seth as the substitute for the righteous lineage. Seth is a type of Christ raised from the dead. In verse 26, men began to call upon the Lord

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Name the firstborn son of Adam and his occupation.

Cain, the tiller of the ground.

2. Name the second born son of Adam and his occupation.

Abel, shepherd of the flocks.

3. What did Abel offer, tell what was right about it?

Abel brought the firstlings of his flock. He offered a blood sacrifice which is what God required.

4. What did Cain offer and what was wrong with it?

Fruit of the field. Pointed to works, which never is pleasing to God. Must be blood for remission of sins.

5. What was the name of the son of Adam that filled Abel's place?

Seth

6. Where did Cain get his wife?

Most likely his sister.

7. Name some of the characteristics of the first civilization.

It was a city with many evils. Polygamy began there as well as ranching, music, metal work, and another murder came to pass.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.

