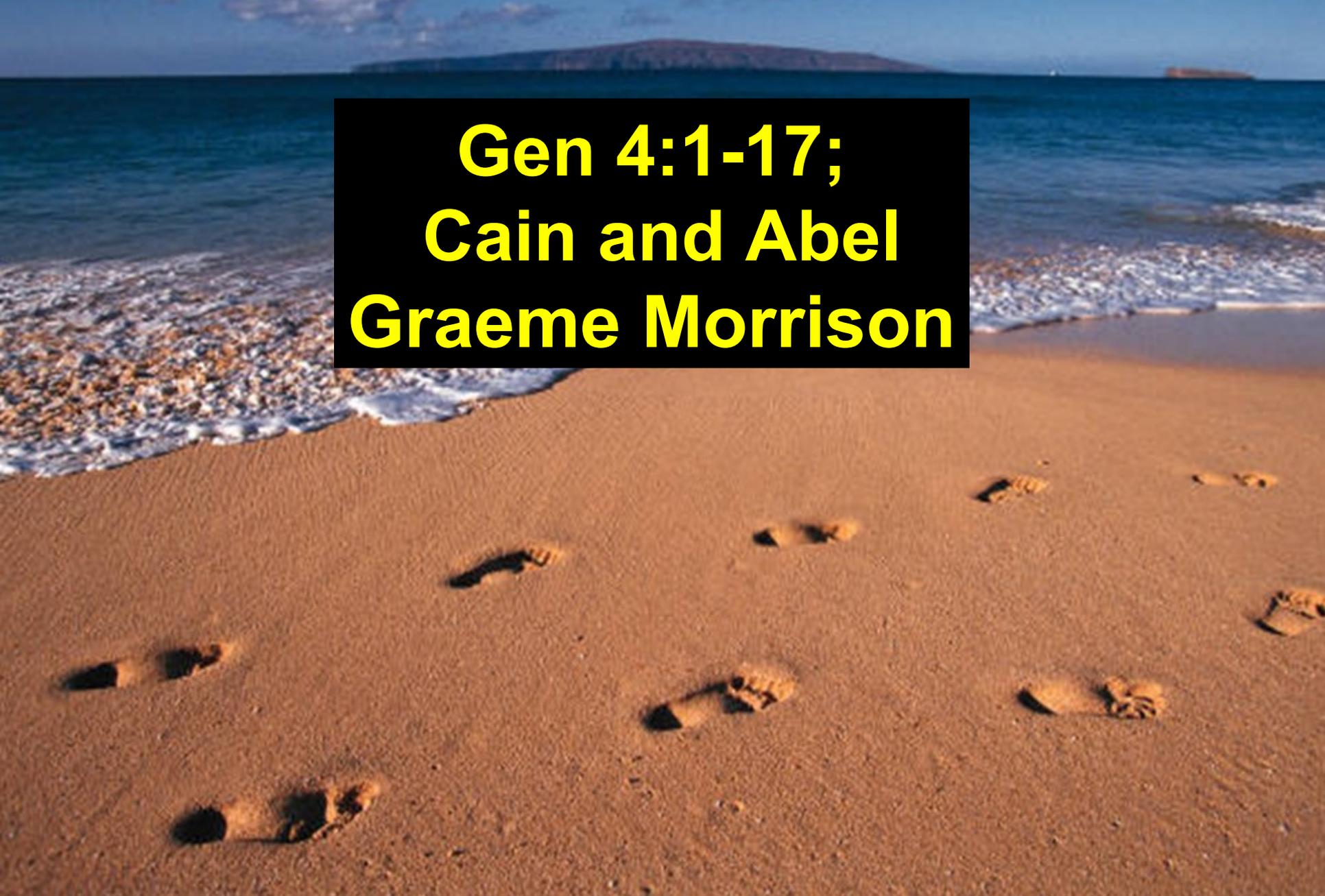


# **Patriarchal Age- before the flood.**

**Gen 4:1-17;  
Cain and Abel  
Graeme Morrison**



**THE  
PATRIARCHAL AGE**

**FROM THE CREATION TO MOSES**

# **"The Patriarchal Age."**

**A reminder of our subject.**

**During this first period of Bible History  
God ruled men through family heads called  
"Patriarchs."**

**Beginning with the Creation  
this Bible age reaches all the way  
to the time of Moses and the Exodus  
of God's people from the land of Egypt.**

# LAW

Genesis  
 Exodus  
 Leviticus  
 Numbers  
 Deuteronomy

# HISTORY

Joshua  
 Judges  
 Ruth  
 1 Samuel  
 2 Samuel  
 1 Kings  
 2 Kings  
 1 Chronicles  
 2 Chronicles  
 EZRA  
 NEHEMIAH  
 ESTHER

OLD TESTAMENT

# Poetry

Job  
 Psalms  
 Proverbs  
 Ecclesiastes  
 Songs of Solomon

# Major Prophets

Isaiah  
 Jeremiah  
 Lamentations  
 Ezekiel  
 Daniel

# Minor Prophets

HOSEA  
 JOEL  
 AMOS  
 OBADIAH  
 JONAH  
 MICAH  
 NAHUM  
 HABAKKUK  
 ZEPHANIAH  
 HAGGAI  
 ZECHARIAH  
 MALACHI

# Gospels

MATTHEW  
 MARK  
 LUKE  
 JOHN

# History

ACTS

# Paul's Letters

ROMANS  
 1 CORINTHIANS  
 2 CORINTHIANS  
 GALATIANS  
 EPHESIANS  
 PHILIPPIANS  
 COLOSSIANS  
 1 THESSALONIANS  
 2 THESSALONIANS  
 1 TIMOTHY  
 2 TIMOTHY  
 TITUS  
 PHILEMON

A Letter To Jewish Christians.

Hebrews

Letters To The Entire church.

James  
 1 Peter  
 2 Peter  
 1 John  
 2 John  
 3 John  
 Jude

The Revelation To John

Revelation

NEW TESTAMENT

**THE CHART SHOWS** that the Bible is actually a library of 66 books.

The top shelves represent the 39 books of the Old Testament and the bottom shelves represents the 27 books of the New Testament.

Both testaments are very important to the Christian, but the New Testament books are the Christian's guide for today.'

For instance, when a person desires to become a Christian, they can read the New Testament Book of Acts which gives examples of conversions.

# Old Testament

# New Testament



Law



Gospels

History



History



Letters of Paul to Churches

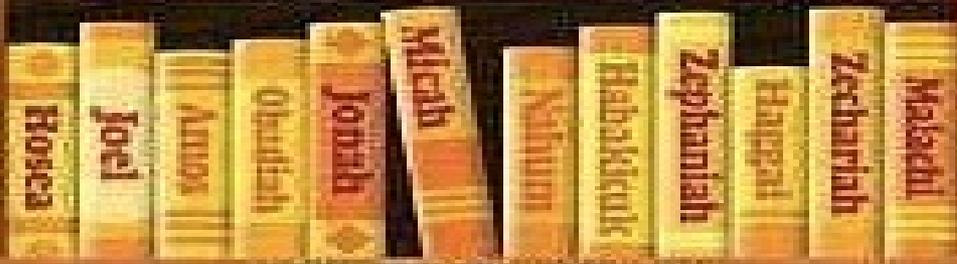


Wisdom

Major Prophets



Letters of Paul to Individuals



Minor Prophets



General Letters

Apocalyptic

# The Patriarchal Age- before the flood. Cain and Abel Genesis 4.



**Man is now adjusting  
to a life made more difficult by sin.**

**Nothing in this life will ever be as easy  
and good as he had it in the beautiful garden,  
walking and talking with God every day  
with every need bountifully supplied.**

**Now there is a separation between  
man and God that  
only the death of God's Son can restore.**

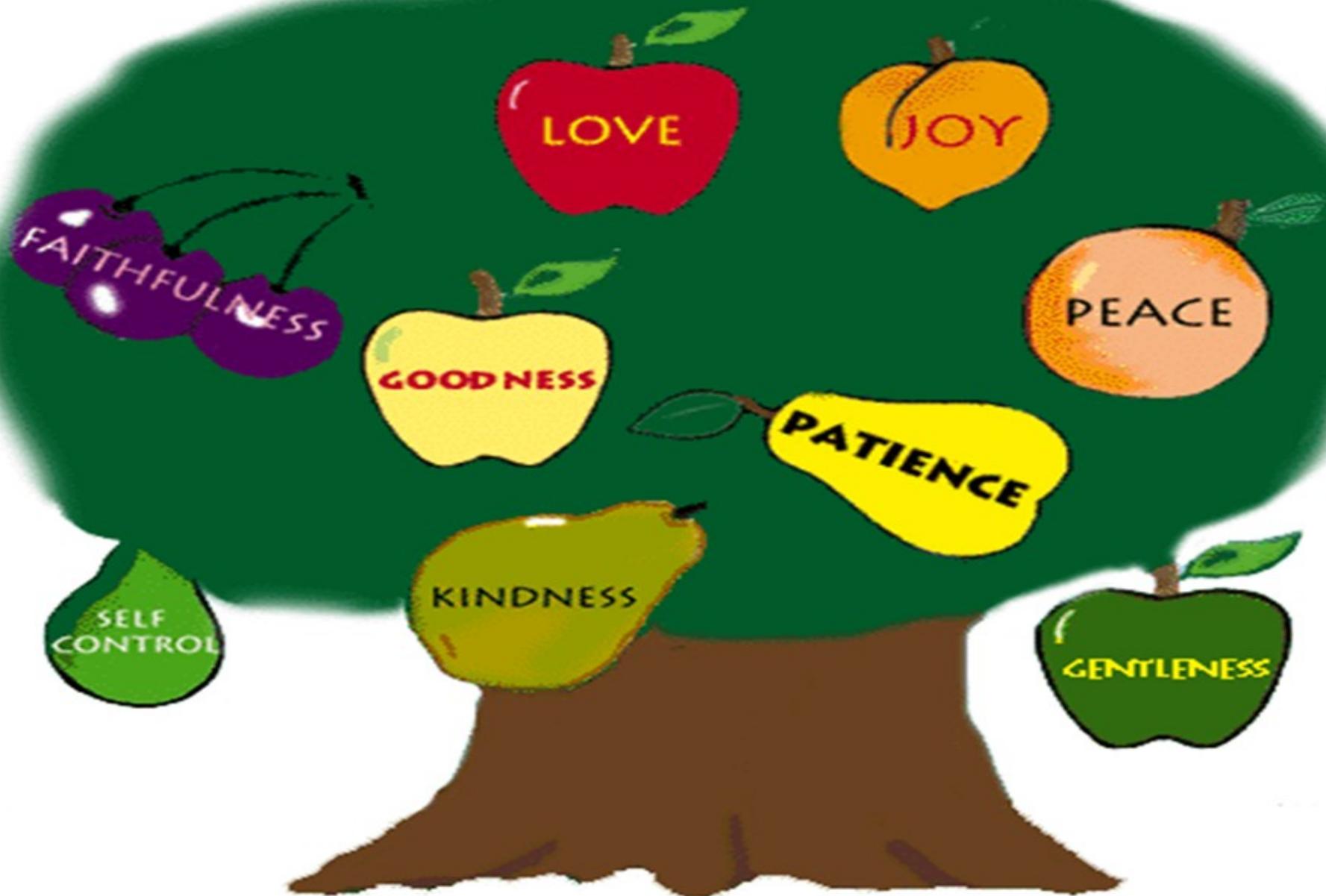


**Now for Adam and Eve,  
there is no tree of life available with  
the fruit of the Spirit and healing leaves  
to maintain life and good health.**

**Now all Adam's descendants  
must die a physical death.**

**God was the Perfect Father,  
yet His children disobeyed. Can we  
expect better of the children of fallen man?**

# The Fruit of God's Spirit



In keeping with **God's earlier Command** to **“multiply and replenish the earth,”** Adam and Eve **began their family.**

**They had many children,**  
**two of whom were Cain and Abel.**

**In the account of Cain and Abel**  
**we see the Patriarchal Dispensation**  
**in effect requiring animal sacrifice.**

**This was to put off**  
**The final punishment of eternal**  
**spiritual separation from God until the**  
**True Lamb came to redeem fallen mankind.**

**Cain** grew up to be a **farmer**,  
and **Abel** became a **shepherd**. **Genesis 1:28; 4:1-8;**



## **Genesis 4:1-2;**

**1. 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."**

**2. Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.**

## **The First Natural Births**



# Cain and Able.

**Cain**

**Farmer**

**Offers God**

**from his crops**

**Offering Rejected.**

**Abel**

**Shepherd**

**Offers God**

**firstborn of flock**

**Offering Accepted.**

**What we will see with Cain and Abel is that the trend of sin that was begun with the fall in the garden would now continue to spread along with the growth of humanity.**

## **THE WAY OF CAIN. GENESIS 4:1-26;**

**When we look at a picture or a landscape, we first let our eyes sweep over the entire panorama, thus soaking up the design in one initial glance.**

**Then after gaining an initial impression, we proceed to look at it more intently, noticing details and specifics.**

**In this way, we are able to appreciate the picture more fully when we have first considered it as a whole.**

**In the case of Genesis 4, it is best understood in the light of the previous chapter.**

# **THE WAY OF CAIN. GENESIS 4:1-26;**

**The same is true of Bible study.**

**As we begin to study  
any given passage of the Bible.**

**It will become more meaningful  
if we first look at the passage as a whole  
and in contrast to the surrounding chapters.**

**In the case of Genesis 4,  
it is best understood  
in the light of the previous chapter.**

**Genesis 3****Genesis 4**

**Opens with Adam and Eve in the garden**

**They give birth to Cain and Abel outside the garden**

**As the chapter opens, Adam and Eve are innocent**

**As the chapter begins, Cain and Abel are sinners**

**Satan comes to the woman and speaks with her openly**

**Satan is tempting Cain in the background where we cannot see him. This attack is much more subtle than the one against Eve**

**Adam and Eve's sin was in disobeying God by eating of the fruit of the Tree of knowledge of good and evil**

**Cain's sin is threefold:**

- He offers an unacceptable sacrifice**
- He becomes angry and jealous**
- He murders his brother**

**God seeks out Adam and Eve and interrogates them until they admit their guilt**

**God seeks out Cain and interrogates him, but he still refuses to acknowledge his guilt**

**The earth is cursed as a result of Adam's sin**

**The earth no longer yields its increase for Cain**

**The chapter ends in Adam and Eve's expulsion from the garden**

**The chapter ends in Cain's banishment to the land of Nod**

**Gen 4:1;** “Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, she said, “I have gotten a man child with the help of the Lord.”

**The old King James Version translates this literally when it says that Adam knew Eve his wife.**

**Whereas there were previously only two members of the human race, their union now brought forth offspring.**

**The name of Cain means “gotten” or “possession.”**

**Eve named Cain as a celebration of his birth and a recognition that he was a gift.**

**Gen 4:1;** “Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, she said, “I have gotten a man child with the help of the Lord.”

**If you can recall when your children were born.  
As you stood there you cannot fail  
to be impressed by the fact that  
they had just the right number of arms and legs.**

**Their eyes and mouth and nose  
were all in the right places.**

**Their nose was lined up in the centre of their face.**

**No doubt they would give  
an audible indication that  
their lungs were in working order.**

**Gen 4:1;** “Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, she said, “I have gotten a man child with the help of the Lord.”

**I am certain that Eve looked upon the newborn baby and was impressed.**

**This was a man!**

**As impressive as this would have been, another aspect must have also occurred to Eve.**

**It was that Eve had been given a promise Regarding the seed of the woman and now she had given birth to an offspring. Could this be the promised seed?**

**Was this the one through whom the promise would be fulfilled?**

**Gen 4:1;** “Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, she said, “I have gotten a man child with the help of the Lord.”

There is an **interesting contrast** to be seen between **Cain and the Messiah.**

<b>Cain</b>	<b>Jesus Christ</b>
<b>Brought an unworthy sacrifice</b>	<b>He was the worthy sacrifice</b>
<b>He offered a sacrifice that did not involve the shedding of blood</b>	<b>He was the sacrifice who shed His own blood</b>
<b>He became angry and jealous</b>	<b>He prayed for the forgiveness of those who wronged Him</b>
<b>He murdered his brother</b>	<b>He gave His life to make us His brothers</b>

**Jesus was the ultimate son of Adam who gave Himself for His brothers, laying down His own life in our place that we might live in His place.**

**Whereas Cain offered an un bloody sacrifice that was rejected, Jesus offered Himself as the sacrifice that was accepted by God.**

**Gen 4:2;** “again, she gave birth to his brother Abel.  
And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.”

The name **Abel** means “**vanity**” or “**emptiness.**” It is the **same word** that is used throughout **Ecclesiastes** to describe the **emptiness of life without God.**

By **contrast** with the **birth of Cain** and the **emphasis** placed **upon his name**, there is **no mention** of **such celebration** when we come to **Abel.**

He is just born. There is no special mention of how he came to be named.

**That often happens with firstborn and second born.** There are hundreds of photos taken of the firstborn child. His **first step.** His **first haircut.** His **first words.** **By the time the second born child comes along, the camera is broken.**

**Gen 4:2;** “again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.”

## **Cain and Abel were brothers.**

**They were the first brothers ever to be born.**

## **Sons of Adam and Eve,**

**We don't know much about their upbringing or their early life, but we do know that there came a time when they each sought to bring an offering to the Lord.**

<b>Cain</b>	<b>Abel</b>
<b>Disobedient to authority</b>	<b>Obedient to authority</b>
<b>A sinful man</b>	<b>A sinful man</b>
<b>Rejection of God's grace</b>	<b>Faith in God</b>

**These two are seen in contrast to one another.**

**Gen 4:2;** “again, she gave birth to his brother Abel.  
And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.”



## **Why is Abel in the Bible.**

**Because he was an obedient servant.**

**"For whatever things were written before  
were written for our learning,  
that we through the patience and comfort  
of the scriptures might have hope?"**

**Rom 15:4;**

**Can we learn something from Abel.  
We learn that he was an obedient man.**



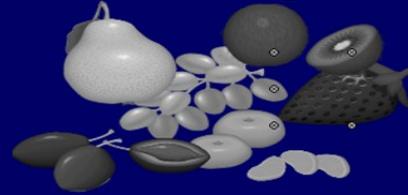
**Gen 4:2;** “again, she gave birth to his brother Abel.  
And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.”

**Notice that**  
**both Cain and Abel were sinful men.**  
A sacrifice was required of both of them  
because they **both needed forgiveness.**

**The difference is that**  
**one came in OBEDIENT faith**  
**to the Lord while the other was rejected**  
**because of his DISBEDIENCE or unbelief.**



**Gen 4:3-5;** “At harvest time Cain brought to the Lord a gift of his farm produce, while Abel brought several choice lambs from the best of his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his offering, but he did not accept Cain and his offering. This made Cain very angry and dejected.”



## **AN OFFERING REJECTED.**

Scholars have long discussed why God rejected Cain while accepting the sacrifice of Abel. A number of reasons have been suggested.

**Cain's offering** was of the fruit of the ground and the previous chapter of Genesis speaks of how **the ground had been cursed.**

The problem is that we read later in the Bible of good and legitimate offerings from the ground **such as the first fruits and meal offerings.**

**Gen 4:3-5;** “At harvest time Cain brought to the Lord a gift of his farm produce, while Abel brought several choice lambs from the best of his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his offering, but he did not accept Cain and his offering. This made Cain very angry and dejected.”

**Cain's offering was a bloodless offering.**

While this is true, there were **other bloodless offerings that were acceptable to the Lord**, although they were not offerings for atonement for sin.

It might be argued that **the pattern for a blood offering had been set by the making of coats of skin** in the previous chapter.

**But nothing is specifically said of this in the context of the Genesis account.**

**Gen 4:3-5;** “At harvest time Cain brought to the Lord a gift of his farm produce, while Abel brought several choice lambs from the best of his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his offering, but he did not accept Cain and his offering. This made Cain very angry and dejected.”

**Cain's offering was not accompanied by an attitude of love and faith.**

This is suggested by the words of the Lord in verse 7, “**You will be accepted if you respond in the right way.** But if you refuse to respond correctly, then watch out! Sin is waiting to attack and destroy you, and you must subdue it.”

It is **possible** that **EACH** of these **reasons** was at least part of the reason for the rejection of Cain’s sacrifice. However, **it is the last that is suggested by later bible texts.**

**Gen 4:3-5;** “At harvest time Cain brought to the Lord a gift of his farm produce, while Abel brought several choice lambs from the best of his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his offering, but he did not accept Cain and his offering. This made Cain very angry and dejected.”

**Cain and Abel** each felt it **important** to bring an offering to the Lord.  
**We do not know where they got this idea.**

Perhaps they recognized **the truth** that **the increase** we receive **from our labours** comes **ultimately** from the Lord.

Yet the Hebrew phrase v3 translated “**in the course of time**” means literally, “**at the end of days.**”

**This signifies** what might have been **a particular agreement** that had been **established by the Lord**,  
“**Faith comes by hearing.**” Rom 10:17;

**Gen 4:3-5;** “At harvest time Cain brought to the Lord a gift of his farm produce, while Abel brought several choice lambs from the best of his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his offering, but he did not accept Cain and his offering. This made Cain very angry and dejected.”

It was only **natural** that **each** would bring an offering that was **based upon** his particular **chosen** profession.

**Abel was a keeper of flocks,  
Cain was a tiller of the ground.**

These were both **honourable professions** and each **brought a sacrifice** from the area of his **own chosen** profession.

**The results of those offerings were quite different.**

Gen 4:5; “The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favour.”

**SO What made Abel’s offering “a better sacrifice than Cain”?** The writer to the Hebrews makes **no mention** here about the **differences** between a **bloody versus and un bloody sacrifice.**

Heb 11:4; “By **faith** Abel offered to God a **more excellent sacrifice** than Cain, through which he obtained **witness that he was righteous,** God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. Matt 15:6-9; John 4:23-24; Col 2:23; Col 3:17;



**Gen 4:5;** “The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favour.”

The Hebrew **writer points** to the **fact** of **Abel’s faith** as being the **determining factor**.

**Further testimony** of this is seen in 1 John’ 3:11-12;

“For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should **love one another; not as Cain**, who was **of the evil one**, and slew his brother. And **for what reason** did he slay him? **Because his deeds were evil**, and his **brother's were righteous.**”

1 Sam 16:7; “for **God sees not as man sees**, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the **Lord looks at the heart.**”

**Gen 4:5;** “The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favour.”

These passages **point to the character of Cain** as being **the deciding factor** in **God’s rejection of him.**

**This raises an important lesson.**

It is possible to be **outwardly religious** and at the same time to be **inwardly far away from God.**

**Jesus** often accused the **Pharisees** of this.

They **excelled at outward religious practices,** but their **hearts and attitudes** were quite different.

**Cain** had gone through **an outward religious practice** of **bringing an offering** to the Lord, but he had **a problem with an inner attitude** that came to the surface **when his offering was rejected.**

**Gen 4:5;** “The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favour.”

There was **something about the men themselves** that **resulted in a different response from God.**

If Cain did not come to God based on faith, he must have **come to God based on his own works.**

**Cain believed God existed.**

**Cain performed a religious ritual connected with the God of the Bible. He may have been sincere in his heart.**

**But he came on his own terms,  
not on God's terms  
Many make the same mistake today.**

Gal 2:16; “yet we Jewish Christians know that we become right with God, not by doing what the law commands, but **by faith in Jesus Christ**. So we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be accepted by God because of our faith in Christ-and not because we have obeyed the law. **For no one will ever be saved by obeying the law.**

Rom 3:22-24; “This **righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ** to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace  
28, **For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.”**

1 Cor 1:27-29; “God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. **He has chosen a plan despised by the world**, counted as nothing at all, and used it to bring down those the world considers great.”

**Gen 4:5;** “The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favour.”

**How did Cain and Abel know** that one offering had been **accepted** while the other had been **rejected**?

**The book of Genesis does not tell us.** Some have thought that it was through an **act of God**, where **fire came and consumed the approved offering.**

**Such a thing took place  
on a number of different occasions.**

**Gen 4:5;** “The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favour.”

**Gideon** was instructed to **prepare an offering** and to **lay it upon a rock**. When he had done this, the angel of the Lord touched it with a staff and fire arose out of the rock and consumed the offering (Jud 6:17-21;)

On one occasion when **Moses and Aaron** had been **in the tabernacle** and had returned to bless the people, fire came and consumed the offering on the altar. (Leviticus 9:24;)

When **David** built an **altar to the Lord** and offered sacrifices, the Lord responded by sending fire onto the offerings. (1 Chronicles 21:26;)

**Gen 4:5;** “The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favour.”

At the **dedication of the temple**, after **Solomon** had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices.  
(2 Chronicles 7:1;)

When **Elijah** prayed before all of Israel **on Mount Carmel**, God showed His presence by sending fire down from heaven and consuming the offering.  
(1 Kings 18:36-39;)



**Gen 4:5;** “The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favour.”

So we see **that Cain and Abel had offered sacrifices to God.**

**By faith Abel** offered a lamb and received God's approval.

**(it must have been what God had asked for.)**

But God had no regard for Cain and his offering of the fruit of the ground. Instead of being sorry,

**Cain** became very angry and ultimately **killed his own brother.**

**Gen 4:5;** “The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favour.”

**Cain and Abel are examples of two kinds of worshipers:-**

- (1) Those who worship by faith according to God's instructions, and**
- (2) Those who worship, but not in keeping with God's will.**

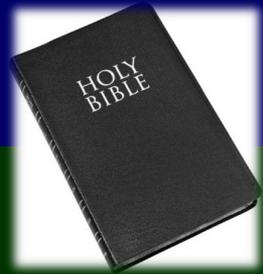
**God approves of worship only  
When man worships as God directs.**

**God will not accept man's  
substitutes or wrong attitudes.**

**Hebrews 11:4; Genesis 4:1-8;**

**Gen 4:5;** “The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favour.”

**There is only one righteous way to act  
And that is by faith.**



**"So then faith comes by hearing,  
and hearing by the word of God." Rom 10:17;**

**Can Abel teach us something about obedience?**

**From Abel's example we can see the importance  
of obeying God's will. We must obey God  
to meet His conditions for our salvation.**

**Gen 4:5;** “The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favour.”

**“Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you have obeyed with all your heart the new teaching God has given you. Now you are free from sin, your old master, and you have become slaves to your new master, righteousness. Rom 6:17-18;**

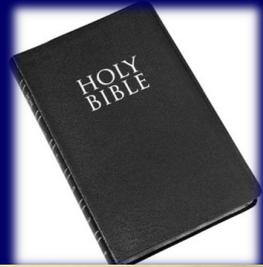
**“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”  
Philippians 2:2;**

**Gen 4:6-7;** "Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked him. "Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you respond in the right way. But if you refuse to respond correctly, then watch out!

Sin is waiting to attack and destroy you, and you must subdue it."

**CAIN CHOSE TO INCREASE HIS SIN.**

**Genesis 4:5-8; Sin is 100% choice!**



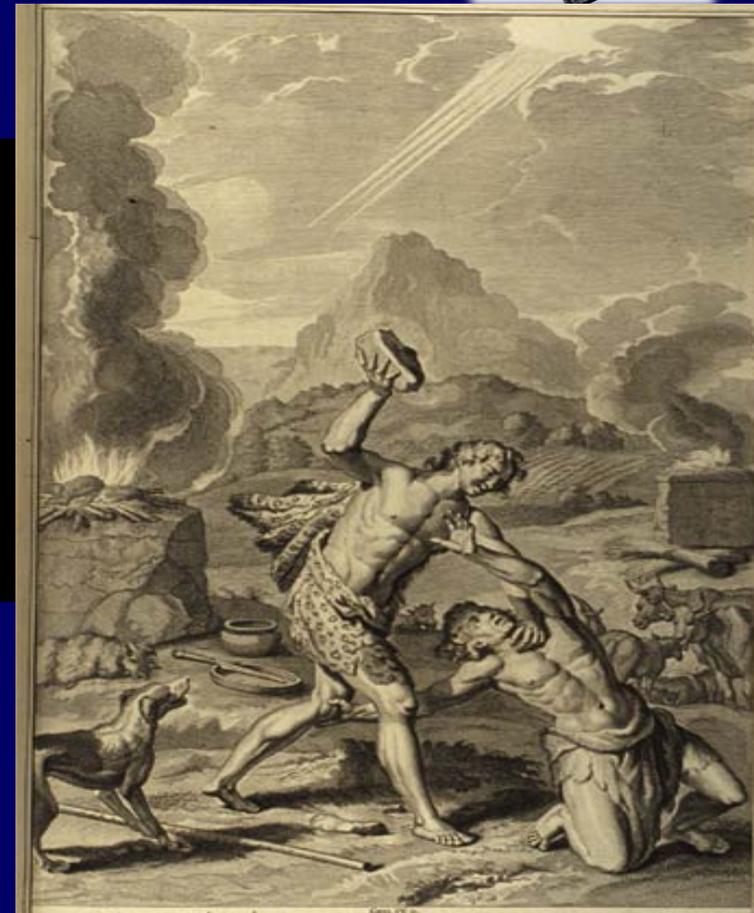
**The Sins Of Cain:-**

**Anger - Gen 4:5;**

**Envy – Gen 4:4-5; Titus 3:3;**

**Hate - 1 John 3:11-12, 15;**

**Murder - Gen 4:8; Mark 7:20-23;**





**The Problem of Anger!**

**Gen 4:6-7;** "Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked him. "Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you respond in the right way. But if you refuse to respond correctly, then watch out! Sin is waiting to attack and destroy you, and you must subdue it."

## **The Problem of Anger!**

**Unreasonable and uncontrolled anger can lead to serious behaviour disorders and even murder.**

**The New Testament has a lot to say about anger and our need to control it.**

**Matthew 5:21-26; Luke 15:25-32; 1 Corinthians 13:4-5; Ephesians 4:26-27, 31; Colossians 3:8; James 1:19-20;**

**In this section we see God counselling Cain about his attitude and behaviour.**



**Gen 4:6-7;** "Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked him. "Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you respond in the right way. But if you refuse to respond correctly, then watch out! Sin is waiting to attack and destroy you, and you must subdue it."

## **Why did Cain kill his brother?**

**Remember John who tells us why:- 1 John 3:12;**

**"For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous."**

**To have an Evil eye means being jealous.**

**Mark 7:21-23; (NKJV)**

**It was the monster, Jealousy, That ate him up inside.  
He would not admit that he was wrong,  
He held to selfish pride.**

**Gen 4:6-7;** "Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked him. "Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you respond in the right way.

But if you refuse to respond correctly, then watch out!

Sin is waiting to attack and destroy you, and you must subdue it."

The **Hebrew word for anger in this instance**

is a **general word for anger**

and **carries the idea of kindling a fire.**

**The Lord comes and questions Cain.**

**This is a rhetorical question.**

**It does not really require an answer.**

**It is not as though God is puzzled by Cain's actions.**

**The Lord knows and understands what is in the hearts of men. The question is for Cain's benefit.**

**It is asked to call him to a change of attitude.**

**Gen 4:6-7;** “Why are you so angry?” the Lord asked him. “Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you respond in the right way. But if you refuse to respond correctly, then watch out! Sin is waiting to attack and destroy you, and you must subdue it.”

**There is also a warning here.**

It is that **sin is crouching** at the door.

**Sin is pictured** like some **wild beast** that is waiting around the corner, **seeking to pounce upon its prey.**

This reminds us of how **Jesus describes Himself** in the letter to Laodicea as He stands at the door and knocks.

Unfortunately, **Cain did not heed the warning** from God. Instead he allowed his anger to go unchecked and it was not long before it boiled over into a murderous rage. **This is the first recorded instance of anger in the Bible.**

Gen 4:6-7; "Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked him.  
"Why do you look so dejected?"

**So Cain was very angry,  
and his face was downcast.**

**Poor Cain!**

**Cain's Anger. There is a Relationship  
between feelings and behaviour:-**

**Our emotional state affects our behaviour.  
Here we learn that our  
behaviour also affects our feelings.**

**The oil light in our car acts as a warning.  
To "do well"? is one of our challenges before God**

# Self-esteem



Gen 4:6-7; "Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked him.

"Why do you look so dejected?"

**Discipline is never easy to take if we nurse a sense of self-pity or victimization, we may descend into more resentment and bitterness**

**There is a difference between feelings and attitude. A change of attitude = metanoia**

**Good self-esteem** depends on good behaviour not on us telling ourselves or anyone else telling us we are good or pretty when we know otherwise.

**If we ARE good we will know it.**

**God tells us here that we can master sin, that is, not let it control us, if we so choose.**

**Jesus is our Example.**

**Cain could have repented and found favour with God but he chose not to.**



**Gen 4:8;** “Later Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, Let's go out into the fields. and while they were there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.”

**Suffering... Why did ABEL suffer?  
Why is this event recorded?**

**Because It is an example of the righteous  
being persecuted by the unrighteous.**

**Who defines what is right?  
Why does God have the right  
to tell us what to do?**

**Do parents have the same right  
to tell their younger children what is right?  
(Ephesians 6:1-3;)**



**Gen 4:8;** “Later Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, Let's go out into the fields. and while they were there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.”

## **Can we be persecuted for being righteous?**

“**Blessed** are those who are **persecuted** for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

“**Blessed** are you when **they revile** and **persecute you**, and say all kinds of evil against you **falsely** for My sake”  
Matthew 5:10-11;

“If you are **reproached** for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. **Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.**” 1 Pet 4:14-16;



**Gen 4:8;** “Later Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, Let's go out into the fields. and while they were there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.”

And even though we may not be put to death, as were **Abel** and **many in the first century**, we are told:-



**“Yes, and all who desire  
to live godly in Christ Jesus  
will suffer persecution.” 2Tim 3:12;**

**Gen 4:8;** “Later Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, Let's go out into the fields. and while they were there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.”

**Can we suffer the same persecutions?**

**Perhaps not the same but in other areas.**



**Our fellow workers.  
Our Mum and Dad.  
Our brothers.  
Even Our Boss.**



**Sometimes we feel  
the whole world is against us!**

**But, Why?**

**Gen 4:8;** “Later Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, Let's go out into the fields. and while they were there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.”

“And this is **the condemnation**, that the light has come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light**, because **their deeds were evil**.

“**For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.**”

**John 3:19-20;**

“**You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.**”

**Matt 5:14;**

**Gen 4:8;** “Later Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, Let's go out into the fields. and while they were there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.”

**It is ironic that Cain kills Abel**

**when his sacrifice was such that**

**it did not involve the killing of even an animal.**

**If Cain's sin involved a refusal to offer an animal sacrifice, then the subsequent taking of Abel's life is an added irony. Cain became the first murderer.**

**Instead of dealing with the problem of his anger, he allowed it to flow out unrestrained.**

**Instead of repenting of his inner attitude and confessing his sin, he allowed it to remain and to grow until overflowed into outright murder.**

**Gen 4:8;** “Later Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, Let's go out into the fields. and while they were there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.”

Throughout this chapter we see **a continuing trend** as **Cain's attitude** against God gives way to a **wrong action** that is **met with a divine correction.**

It really **began** with that **inner attitude** that **caused Cain** to offer a **wrong sacrifice.**

It **began** when **Cain** made the **wrong choices** from the beginning. **It began** with his **self will.**

# Power to Change

An open book with a red bookmark is shown on a dark surface. A bright, vertical beam of light shines down onto the pages, creating a strong contrast and highlighting the text. The background is dark and slightly blurred, suggesting a library or study setting.

**“Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but **let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is.**” Rom 12:2;**

**Gen 4:8;** “Later Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, Let's go out into the fields. and while they were there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.”

## **Power to Change.**

**By refusing to repent,**

**Cain allowed sin to get mastery of him.**

**The Christian is not to be enslaved to sin as those outside of Christ are. (Rom 6:17-18; 6:1-14;)**

**The Holy Spirit helps the Christian remember and apply the teachings of God's word.**

**He does not work in any way that is contrary to God's written word. So we have to know it.**

**(John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 14:37-38;)**

**Repentance and forgiveness are the keys to the victorious life. (1 John 1:7;)**

**Gen 4:8;** “Later Cain suggested to his brother, Abel, Let's go out into the fields. and while they were there, Cain attacked and killed his brother.”

**Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world,  
but let God transform you into a new person  
by changing the way you think.**

**Then you will know what God wants you to do,  
and you will know how  
good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.**



# **CAIN CHOSE TO LIE TO GOD!**

**Men Try To Deceive/Fight Against God. Heb 4:13;**

**We lie to God when we:-**

**Claim to** love Him but do not love our brother.

1 John 4:20;

**Claim to** give as He prospered us  
while actually giving less.

**Claim to** be His people yet live  
by the world's standards.

**Say "I'll do better"** (repent)

but go on the same old way.

**Sing godly sentiments** but live unholy lives.

Eph 5:19;

**God is not mocked nor deceived!** Gal 6:7;

**No one escapes God's wrath** against liars. Rev 21:8;

**Gen 4:8-9;** “Afterward the Lord asked Cain, **Where is your brother?** Where is Abel? and he said, I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?”

**Sin invariably begins with an inner attitude that underlies the outward action of the outward sin.**

**At any point along the way, Cain could have broken from this destructive cycle through confession of his sin and repentance and a return to the Lord.**

**Instead, he continues to spiral downward throughout this entire chapter.**

**Cain's spiralling sin is echoed in our own lives when we continue in sin and do not repent and return at the earliest opportunity.**

**This serves as a reminder to us to strive to deepen our relationship with God with genuine repentance.**

**Gen 4:8-9;** “Afterward the Lord asked Cain, **Where is your brother?** Where is Abel? and he said, I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?”

**The Lord directs a question to Cain. We are not to assume from this question any lack of God's knowledge of the events that had transpired**

**The questioning does not take place for God's benefit or because of God's ignorance of that which had taken place. God because of His foreknowledge knew what would be the outcome of these events before Cain and Abel were even born.**

**The questioning takes place for Cain's benefit. The Lord is giving Cain the opportunity to repent of His sin and to seek forgiveness.**

**This verse stands at the pivot of a chiastic pattern. Everything that comes before leads up to this question and everything subsequently echoes with those events that brought us to this point.**

**This verse is the pivotal point of the story.**

**Adam and Eve give birth to Cain and Abel. (4:1-2;)**

**Cain Rejected: Sacrifice no good. (4:3-5;)**

**Cain "Downcast" over sacrifice rejection. (4:5b;)**

**Cain warned of sin. (4:7;)**

**In the field: Cain kills Abel. (4:8;)**

**God: "Where is your brother?" (4:9;)**

**In the field: Brother's blood cries out. (4:10;)**

**Cain cursed because of sin. (4:11;)**

**Cain "Downcast" over punishment. (4:13-15;)**

**Cain Rejected: Out of the Lord's presence. (4:15;)**

**Cain and his wife give birth to Enoch. (4:17;)**

**Gen 4:8-9;** “Afterward the Lord asked Cain, **Where is your brother?** Where is Abel? and he said, I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?”

In **chapter 3**, we saw that **fallen man put himself at the centre**, as though **he were a god unto himself**.

With **Cain**, we see **one who has put himself at the centre**, and is prepared to **dictate to God how their relationship will work**.

The resulting conflict with God **results in murderous fury** expressed on **one** who is under God's authority.

But **killing Abel** failed to solve **Cain's problem**. He could do away with **the irritant** of the moment, but **he could not run away from his own bitter heart**.

**Gen 4:8-9;** “Afterward the Lord asked Cain, **Where is your brother?** Where is Abel? and he said, I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?”

**God comes to Cain** to question him concerning his sin in the **same way** that God came to **Adam and Eve in the garden** after they had sinned.

The fact of God's coming is a sign of **GRACE**. He comes and He questions Cain to give Cain the opportunity to confess and repent of his sin.

**History is now repeating itself**  
in the echo of continuing  
**sinful -disobedient -and unfaithful**  
**choices** being made.

**Gen 4:8-9;** “Afterward the Lord asked Cain, **Where is your brother?** Where is Abel? and he said, I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?”

<b><i>Genesis 3</i></b>	<b><i>Genesis 4</i></b>
<b>The Serpent comes and deceives Eve</b>	<b>God warns Cain that sin is crouching at the door</b>
<b>Adam and Eve eat of the forbidden fruit</b>	<b>Cain murders his brother</b>
<b>Adam and Eve begin the cycle of sin</b>	<b>Cain continues the cycle of sin</b>
<b>God comes in the cool of the day to seek out and question Adam and Eve</b>	<b>God comes to seek out and question Cain about his brother</b>
<b>Adam and Eve are banished from the garden</b>	<b>Cain is banished to a foreign land</b>

**Gen 4:8-9;** “Afterward the Lord asked Cain, **Where is your brother?** Where is Abel? and he said, I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?”

**“Am I my brother’s keeper?”**

**This is a famous and oft-quoted question.**

**Mankind still has a problem with the concept that we have a responsibility to look out for our fellow man and especially our brothers.**

**(Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 6:2, 10; 1 Timothy 5:9;)**

**Cain’s lies are designed to avoid admitting his sin  
His attitude reveals the cause of sin.**

**The simple answer is, “Yes, I am my brother’s keeper.” This concept is related to the Golden Rule and the second greatest commandment to love our neighbour as ourselves.**

**Gen 4:8-9;** “Afterward the Lord asked Cain, **Where is your brother?** Where is Abel? and he said, I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?”

**The point is that the fall is repeating itself in the next generation.**

**Lack of TRUST in God and attitude of SELF WILL has been the fall of mankind in many following generations.**

**Cain's reply is reflective of his own hardened heart:- Am I my brother's keeper?**

**The truth is that Cain has become his brother's murderer when he should have been his brother's keeper and guardian.**

## **THE DIVINE JUDGMENT Genesis 4:10-12;**

**“Afterward the Lord asked Cain,  
Where is your brother? Where is Abel?”**

**"And He said, "What have you done?  
The voice of your brother's blood  
is crying to Me from the ground.”**

**“And now you are cursed from the ground,  
which has opened its mouth to receive your  
brother's blood from your hand.”**

**“When you cultivate the ground,  
it shall no longer yield its strength to you; you shall  
be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.”**

**Gen 4:10;** “And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground”

**“and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel. (Heb12:24;)**

**Notice the reference to better blood.**

**The blood of Abel gave testimony.**

**What did it cry? It cried for justice.**

**While the blood of Abel called for justice,**

**the blood of Jesus calls for mercy.**

**The ground is seen to be defiled as a result of the murder of Abel and this defilement has a subsequent result in how Cain will be able to work the land.**

**Gen 4:10;** “And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground”

The blood of Abel is said to be calling from the ground.

**The same ground that had been cursed in the previous chapter** now bears testimony to **the continuing curse of sin** as the **blood of righteous Abel** has been spilled on it.

**Numbers 35:33; speaks of how innocent blood pollutes and defiles the land.**

34 “Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city,”

35 “that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, **from the blood of righteous Abel** to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.” Matthew 23:34-35;



**Anger Misdirected**

**Gen 4:10;** “And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground”

Cain let his unreasoned **anger** fester over time and **turn to hatred**. But why was his anger directed toward his brother and not to himself? **Why wasn't he angry with God instead of Abel?** (1 John 3:12-15;)

**Why do evil people hate those who do right?**  
(1 Peter 4:4-5; 2 Timothy 3:12;)

**How must a Christian handle anger?**  
(Ephesians 4:26-27;)



**Our lives are not recorded in the scriptures.**  
**So when we die, can we yet speak, and if so, how?**  
One way is by the influence that we have on our families.

**"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."** Ephesians 6:4;

**Gen 4:10;** “And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground”

**“Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not fall into the Devil's trap and be disgraced.”** 1 Timothy 3:7;



**“If it is possible,  
as much as depends on you,  
live peaceably with all men.”**

**Rom 12:18;**

**Gen 4:10;** “And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground”

Another way that we can speak is by **our example** to **our friends**.

“Let no one despise your youth, but be **an example** to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12;



**Gen 4:11-12;** “You are hereby banished from the ground you have defiled with your brother's blood. No longer will it yield abundant crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless fugitive on the earth, constantly wandering from place to place.”

**It would seem that both Cain and Abel and the community of man kind had originally decided to remain in the vicinity of Eden.**

**Though they had been expelled from the garden, they now live in the area that was near to the garden. They were outside the garden but still near to the presence of God.**

**Cain would no longer be permitted to remain here. He was now to become a wanderer from his fellow man and from the presence of God.**

**Psalm 80:1 and 99:1 speak of the Lord being enthroned above the cherubim. Though this points to the symbolism of the ark of the covenant, in the early days of Genesis, cherubim were said to be stationed at the garden entrance.**

**God Curses  
Cain's Land.**



**Gen 4:11-12;** “You are hereby banished from the ground you have defiled with your brother's blood. No longer will it yield abundant crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless fugitive on the earth, constantly wandering from place to place.”

**The ground was already under a curse** from the previous chapter. It would **require a labour and a struggle** to bring forth food from the ground.

Cain is cursed from the ground **because of his defilement** of that ground **with the blood** of his righteous brother.

As a result, even the labours and the struggles of the previous chapter will not be enough for him to gain a living through the cultivation of the ground.

**Cain** will be **a vagrant** and **a wanderer** on the earth. Since he can no longer make a living by tilling and labouring and struggling with the ground, he will be **forced to travel to other lands** in order to make a living.

# The First Nomad?



**Gen 4:11-12;** “You are hereby banished from the ground you have defiled with your brother's blood. No longer will it yield abundant crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless fugitive on the earth, constantly wandering from place to place.”

**Cain might have been the first nomad.**

He and his family probably turned from **an agricultural lifestyle** to trading or some kind of merchandising.

**This part of the curse of hard work and difficult crops may have caused Cain to give up farming as later we read Cain built the first city.**

**Cain's condemnation** to a life of restless wandering probably indicates the **life of the rebel**, always searching but **never able to find or regain what he has lost.**

**Cain is Banished.**



**Gen 4:11-12;** “You are hereby banished from the ground you have defiled with your brother's blood. No longer will it yield abundant crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless fugitive on the earth, constantly wandering from place to place.”

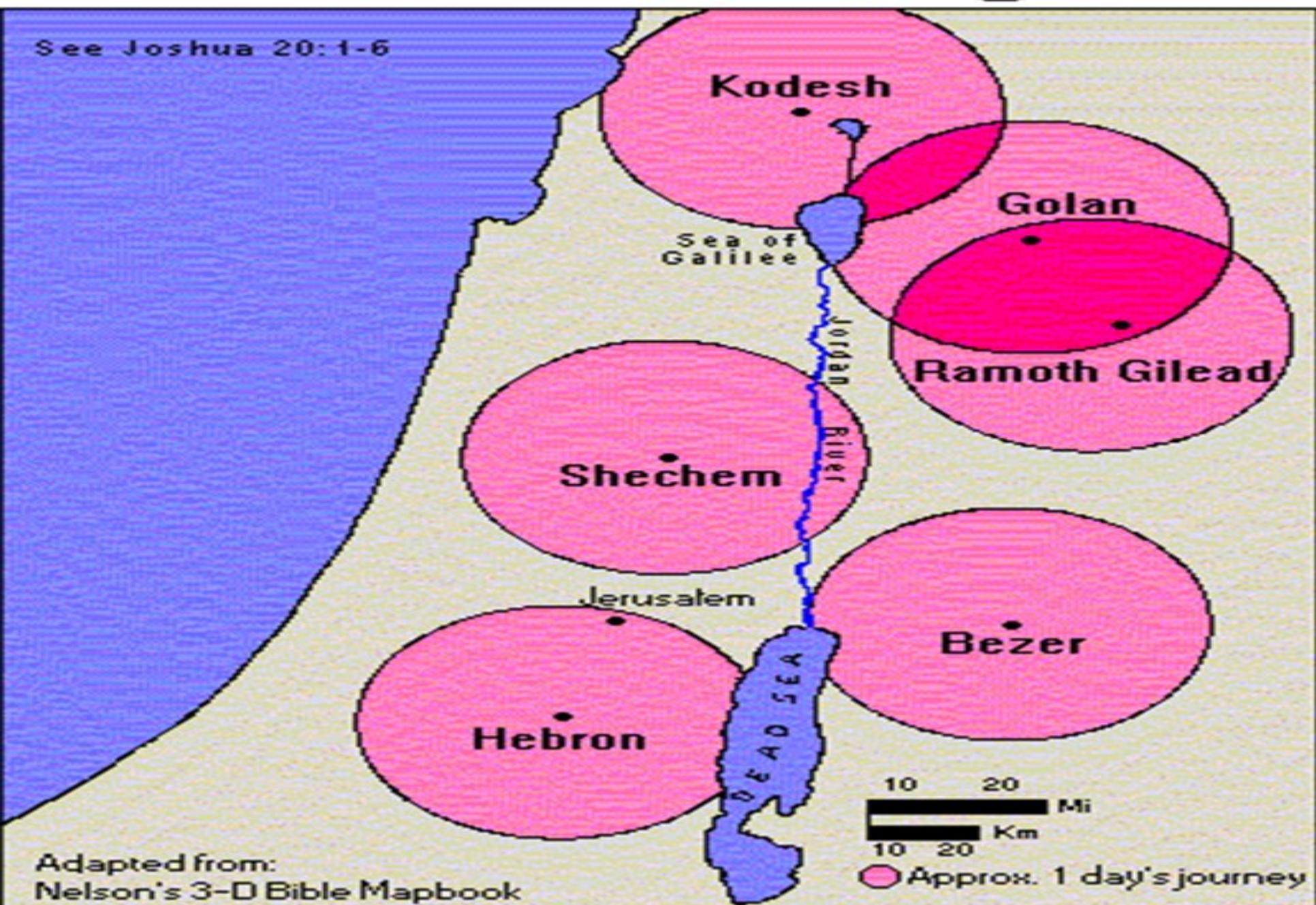
**The punishment for murder at this time was banishment or exile.**

With so few people on the earth at this time it would be easier to avoid the relative few who were somehow **“marked” by God as murderers.**

If we are guilty of **“crucifying afresh the Son of God in our hearts”** we will be eternally exiled from His homeland, heaven. (Hebrews 6:4-8;)

# Cities of Refuge

See Joshua 20:1-6



Adapted from:  
Nelson's 3-D Bible Mapbook

10 20 Mi  
10 20 Km  
● Approx. 1 day's journey

**Gen 4:11-12;** “You are hereby banished from the ground you have defiled with your brother's blood. No longer will it yield abundant crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless fugitive on the earth, constantly wandering from place to place.”

## **Our City of Refuge!**

**As manslaughterers who have unintentionally caused the death of Jesus by our sins, we can flee to the city of refuge until the death of our High Priest, which is never!**

**Therefore we will always be safe inside His city of refuge which is the Church.**

**For the law of the refuge for the manslayer, see Numbers 35. Then read Hebrews 6:18;**

**Gen 4:13-14;** “Cain replied to the Lord, “My punishment\* is too great for me to bear! You have banished me from my land and from your presence; you have made me a wandering fugitive. All who see me will try to kill me!”

**Cain’s appeal makes no mention of repentance over his deeds or sorrow for the death of Abel.**

**He is only concerned with what he considers to be the harshness of his punishment.**

**He is not sorry for his sin, but only sorry that he has been caught and that now he will have to suffer the consequences of his actions.**

**Cain expresses a fear of those who might seek to avenge the murder of Abel.**

**Gen 4:13-14;** “Cain replied to the Lord, “My punishment\* is too great for me to bear! You have banished me from my land and from your presence; you have made me a wandering fugitive. All who see me will try to kill me!”

**Who would be these hypothetical avengers?  
Cain does not say, but they would presumably  
come from the ranks of any other  
future children of Adam and Eve.**

**Cain had not been overly concerned  
about taking his brother’s life,  
but now he is afraid that someone  
might come and take his own life.**



**Cain's Fears.**

**Gen 4:13-14;** “Cain replied to the Lord, “My punishment\* is too great for me to bear! You have banished me from my land and from your presence; you have made me a wandering fugitive. All who see me will try to kill me!”

**Is it possible** that the land surrounding and close to the garden of Eden was **a zone of comfort and plenty** compared to the rest of the earth? **To Cain, this was a great punishment.**

“I will be hidden from your presence.”

**Cain is the first to be "twice removed from Eden,"**  
or two stages away.

Now he feels that he is in some sense **out of the range of God's personal contact** with him.

**Gen 4:13-14;** “Cain replied to the Lord, “My punishment\* is too great for me to bear! You have banished me from my land and from your presence; you have made me a wandering fugitive. All who see me will try to kill me!”

**"Whoever finds me..."** He knew that his parents and all their other children would hold him guilty of **destroying their son and brother,** not just his brother.

The **vengeance** that the person who killed Cain would suffer **is not explained.**

But from what **Lamech said** later, I think it means that **if someone killed Cain,** he and **six of his descendants** would be exiled.

**Cain is Afraid  
for His Own Life**



**Gen 4:15;** “The Lord replied, “They will not kill you, for I will give seven times your punishment to anyone who does.” Then the Lord put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who might try to kill him.”

**This mark is for Cain’s protection.  
God’s work of protection on behalf of Cain  
is given on the basis of GRACE.**

**Cain does not deserve protection.  
His actions have resulted in the death  
of his brother and he is deserving of death.**

**On the other hand, the laws of capital punishment  
had not yet been given.**

**They would be established in Genesis 9:6;  
following the flood but, for now, Cain will be  
permitted to live and he will even be protected.**



**God's Mark  
on Cain.**

**Gen 4:15;** “The Lord replied, “They will not kill you, for I will give seven times your punishment to anyone who does.” Then the Lord put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who might try to kill him.”

**The Bible does not tell us what this mark involved** or how it appeared or even what part of Cain’s body bore the mark, though many have engaged in various sorts of speculation.

The **Hebrew word 'owth** (Strong’s Number OT:226) can mean a literal mark or simply a warning.

**There is no reason to think God changed his colour or looks in any way.**

One reason for the Bible’s silence on this matter might be due to **our tendency to label** those today **who might have a similar mark** and **think it a sign of their moral failings.**

**Gen 4:16;** “So Cain left the Lord's presence and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.”

This reference to **“the presence of the Lord”** is another indication that the Lord had made His presence known outside the garden.

**This may have been located at the entrance of the garden where the cherubim were stationed.**  
(Genesis 3:24;)

This would have been **the natural place for Cain and Abel to offer up their sacrifices.**

**But from this time on, Cain will be banished, not only from others of his family, but also from the presence of the Lord.**



**Gen 4:16;** “So Cain left the Lord's presence and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.”

**He travels to an area that is called Nod.**

This is a play on words, for in verse 12 God had said that **Cain would be a wanderer (Hebrew: Nad.)**

**He is a wanderer  
who travels to the land of wandering.**

**Instead Of Repentance, Cain Chose Sin. 4:7-8;**  
**Sin is ready to lunge, capture & control us! (1 Pet 5:8;)**  
**God brings sinners under punishment. Gen 4:11-12;**

**Cain:-** Would no longer succeed as **a farmer** but  
Is banished to **a life of wandering.** Gen 4:11-12;  
Even then, **Cain had no sorrow for his sins –**  
**Only sorrow & remorse over his punishment!**  
**Gen 4:13-14;**



**Gen 4:16;** “So Cain left the Lord's presence and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.”

**Cain Left The Presence Of The Lord. Gen 4:16;**  
**Sin severs fellowship with God. Isaiah. 59:1-2;**

“Listen! The Lord is not too weak to save you, and he is not becoming deaf. He can hear you when you call. But there is a problem - your sins have cut you off from God.

Because of your sin,  
he has turned away and will not listen anymore.”

**The hardening effect of sin - Eccl 12:1;**

“Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honour him in your youth before you grow old and no longer enjoy living.”

**Shall we allow sin to destroy  
our fellowship with God?**

**Cain's Wife.**



**Gen 4:17;** “Then Cain's wife became pregnant and gave birth to a son, and they named him Enoch. When Cain founded a city, he named it Enoch after his son.”

**Cain's wife has not been mentioned**  
prior to this point. **From where did she come?**

We read in Genesis 5:4;  
that Adam and Eve had other sons and daughters.

**Cain must have married one of his sisters**  
since there were no other families on earth.

We can naturally assume that **Cain**  
**took one of these other daughters to be his wife.**

It was **common** in the Patriarchal Period  
**for close relatives to marry each other**  
since **the genetic pool was pure at first.**

**Gen 4:17;** “Then Cain's wife became pregnant and gave birth to a son, and they named him Enoch. When Cain founded a city, he named it Enoch after his son.”

**Abraham's wife was his half sister.**

**(Genesis 20:12;)**

**Isaac and Jacob married relatives.**

**The laws against incest had not yet been given.**

**Even in Abraham's day, a marital union between brother and sister was not unknown.**

**Cain leaves the presence of the Lord and the community of mankind that lives in the shadow of that presence to go to another land where he builds a city.**

**He has been banished from humanity, so he will form his own human society.**

**Cain was faithless**

**He did not want to know God or obey God.**

**He Thought** he could worship God  
his way and still be accepted.

**He Thought** he could murder his brother  
without responsibility or accountability.

**He Thought**he could lie to God!

**Cain "acquired" his fate  
by choosing to disobey God.**

**What fate will we choose?**

**THE WAY OF CAIN -THE CHOICE IS OURS.**



**The Bible warns every Christian  
to avoid the way (path) of Cain.**

**Jude 11; “Woe to them!  
for they have gone in the way of Cain”**

**Can WE learn from Cain’s mistakes?**

**Do WE want to leave a memory like Abel or Cain?**

**We can DECIDE  
how WE want to be remembered.**

**THE CHOICE IS OURS.**



You?

or

You?

**Gen 4:1-17;  
Cain and Abel.**

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**Next in the series:-**

**Gen 4:18; to 5:32; The generations to the flood.**