

**SCRIPTURE:**

Genesis 4

**SERMON NOTES:**

Recap - CREATION & FALL - The first 3 chapters can serve as the synopsis of life as we see it.

- Genesis 1 – The eternal Triune God created all things and said it was good.
- Genesis 2 – He created the pinnacle of creation, mankind, in His likeness and image to oversee and subdue the earth.
- Genesis 3 – Satan, a fallen angel, tempts Adam and Eve to sin, they sin and are cursed, but in the same breath, God promises to send the Messiah through Eve's offspring that will crush Satan.

Though our first parents were cast out from the garden, God would preserve His call for them to be fruitful and multiply. There is a continuation of God's call now with sinful creatures in the midst of God's grace. Everything, from the curse to the promises of God in the garden is manifested...

**EXEGESIS - GENESIS 4**

***VS1-5 -- 1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." 2 And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. 3 In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.***

God's glorious command to "be fruitful and multiply" is fulfilled; however, they get chaos before they get Christ.

Adam knew His wife and they multiplied. The curse of the labor pains was surely there, but is this the promise of the Seed as well? She's holding something that she has never

seen before; a baby. Is the baby the Godman that was promised to come and crush the head of Satan? This isn't far-fetched that Eve believed this.

Cain's name means "I've got him!" or "Here he is!" She's gotten a man with the help of the LORD. But as we just read, he is far from the Godman. She then bore another son named Abel. As they aged, they took on occupations:

Abel - Keeper of sheep - Sheep are not wild animals. They are property. So at this time, we see domestication of animals.

Cain - Worker of ground - Cain tilled the ground. He cultivated the ground to bring about crops. So we see both the domestication of animals and agriculture immediately.

Within their areas of work, they are bringing forth offerings to God. This was before the Levitical system that required God's people to do this, so there is some type of obligation from God that they are aware of is a good thing to do.

EXHIBIT A - Cain's offering - "AN offering of the fruit of the ground" Let's contrast this with what was expected. Deuteronomy 26:1-2 *1 "When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, 2 you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there.*

So, though this was a later command, we see a little bit of an expectation of a rightful offering. God's people were commanded to give the first of all the fruit of the ground. The text says Cain gave AN offering of the fruit of the ground. I don't believe this is a reach because Moses puts emphasis on the contrast of Abel's offering...

EXHIBIT B - Abel's offering - "THE firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions"  
Deuteronomy 15:19 -- *"All the firstborn males that are born of your herd and flock you shall dedicate to the Lord your God. You shall do no work with the firstborn of your herd, nor shear the firstborn of your flock.*

Again, we see another expectation from God about offering. The firstborn is not to be domesticated, but instead be sanctified to the LORD. It was to be set apart for the LORD. The firstborn was essentially thought of to be the best and God required that for Himself

as that would be a good sacrifice for the one who makes it showing that God is his portion and his hope and comfort was not in transient things.

Later in Leviticus 3:16-17 and 7:23-25, we see God declaring, regarding the sacrifices, that the fat portions belong to Him and they are to be offered to Him. If they were to partake of the fat portions, they would be cut off from the land.

Abel's offering of the firstborn of the livestock and their fat portions cost him more and it showed a deeper devotion to God.

So, here we are. The common denominator was that they both gave an offering. HOWEVER, God had regard for Abel's offering, but not Cain's. Why is that? Was it that God preferred animals over vegetables? NO, that would be me, but that wasn't the case with God. Was Abel's sacrifice prettier? Definitely not, it was a blood vs. a charcuterie board.

There is something deeper than the physical presentation of the offering in itself. It was the placement of the heart and intent behind the offering. Offerings return void if there is no faith. Let's do a little extra digging. Let's Hermanuke this thing!

Hebrews 11:4 4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

We see the difference plain as day there. The difference is faith. By faith Abel offered an acceptable sacrifice. Cain, due to the lack thereof, offered an unacceptable one.

**VS 6-7 -- 6 The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."**

The Word of God met Cain in his anger to challenge him to turn from sin and seek righteousness

Cain is angry that God did not regard his sacrifice but instead regarded his brother Abel's. God approaches Him and challenges Him. He says, "Cain, why are you angry?"

Why has your face fallen? You know if you do well, you will be accepted. But if you do not do well you're in a danger zone. SIDENOTE: This isn't a works based gospel that God is explaining to Cain. As we just saw, that isn't about the works, but the faith. Yet, as James' affirms that our works justify that we have faith in God. God still demands good works and they flow from our faith.

God says, when Cain is in a situation to not do well. When he is not in obedience to God and ascribing to His commands he is making himself vulnerable to sin. Sin is personified here. God gives Cain a report on sin and how he should respond to it:

### **#1 It is crouching at your door with a desire to rule over you**

- a) Crouching at your door - It is constantly in a state of deception, craftiness, and attack
- b) Desire to rule - Though sin lies and pretends it does, it does not look out for your best interests. It doesn't come to snuggle you, it comes to size you up. It came not to comfort you, but to kill you.

### **#2 You MUST rule over it**

As John Owen famously quotes, "Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you.". God is teaching Cain that the only proper dealing with sin is to not try and tame it, but to rule over it. We see the tenderness of God here. God is the one who did not accept the offering from Cain. Then He goes directly to Cain to warn Him about his attitude toward this outcome. Nonetheless, Cain was mad. He was blinded by his pride. Instead of seeing God's disregard of his offering as a wake up call to repent, Cain wanted his sin to result in good consequences. And it leads to the first murder in the bible.

***VS 8-9 -- 8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And 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?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"***

Cain disregards the word from God, is mastered by sin, and murders his brother.

The text says that Cain spoke with Abel. He's talking to his brother, likely to normalize the situation so that his brother did not suspect the upcoming actions. This is showing us that this is a premeditated murder which is something that has NEVER happened before. The only blood shed that they've ever seen was from animals. Cain treated his baby brother in such a manner. Cain heard the warning of God, and chose to ignore it, devised a plan to murder Abel and executed it.

Afterwards, the all-knowing God, questions Cain about his anger and fallen face and now about His brother. God knows exactly what happened, but this is something we also saw Him do with Adam. "Adam, where are you?" He questions Cain about His brother to get a response from them.

Cain responds that He doesn't know where his brother is, as if he's his brother's keeper or something which is an ironic statement because as the older brother, you actually were! But instead he did not keep his brother, he killed him. Instead of tending to his brother he took him away.

Think about the progression of sin here.

1. Presents a faithless offering
2. Grows angry at God for not regarding his faithless offering and angry at Abel for his righteous deeds - 1 John 3:12 - We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.
3. Hears a challenging word from God warning him about the dangers of sin
4. Disregards the word of God and murders his brother
5. God approaches him about what he does, only for Cain to show no remorse or repentance

Sin is not idle. It starts off as a calm stream then turns into a tidal wave.

Jude 11 summarizes the way of Cain's evil intentions: "Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion."

Cain had no faith, he pursued empty gain and showed an anger that led to murder.

**VS 10-16 -- 10 And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. 11 And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." 13 Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. 14 Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." 15 Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord put a mark on Cain,**

***lest any who found him should attack him. 16 Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.***

Cain is punished by the gracious hand of God.

God, again, knowing what Cain has done, began to announce his punishment. Even a skilled tiller of the ground like Cain, thought He could bury the body, but he could not bury his own sins. God explains that the blood of Abel is crying out to Him. Similar language to Revelation 6:10 -- *They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"*

Cain receives a sentence that mirrors the curse in Genesis 3:17-18 and it appears to be amplified. When Adam was cursed because of sin, the ground was cursed and Adam was no longer allowed to enjoy the abundance of it, and there would be hardships and pain when he labored. NOW, the ground that Cain once worked is now against him. Cain is no longer able to cultivate the soil, but is cast out as a fugitive.

Cain responds that this punishment is too much to bear and fears for His life. Still no sign of remorse of his sin, only his despair of the consequences. No sign of guilt from his brother's blood on his hands, only the inconvenience and dangers of wandering the earth.

Yet and still, God shows mercy and grace to Cain, marks him, and protects him. Cain's punishment is still soaked in mercy from God. Cain responds that "whoever finds me shall kill me" and God said, "Not so!". If anyone kills him, vengeance shall be taken sevenfold. Cain then goes "away from the presence of God", yet still marked by God. There was still mercy. God clothed Adam & Eve and marked Cain and though they were cast out of His presence, they were not completely removed from kindness.

***VS 17-24 -- 17 Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. 18 To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. 19 And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. 20 Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21 His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. 22 Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. 23 Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of***

***Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me.24 If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold.***

Families were built, cities were established, and sin ran rampant

Cain settled east of Eden, in the land of Nod, which, in Hebrew means “wanderer”. He knew his wife... HOLD UP. Yes, it was his sister. There could not have been another woman who was not a descendant of Adam, because that would imply that that woman is not under the curse of Adam and has no need for Christ. There’s no biblical evidence that that was the case. At that time it was not seen as weird or forbidden, though it later would be as we see in Leviticus 18:9. Pastor Nick has family devotional packets in the lobby on Leviticus 18 if you’d like to use that for family worship... I’m joking, please don’t ask him about those.

She conceived and bore Enoch and we begin to see good development and bad development. It says that Cain built a city and named it after his son Enoch. 7 generations later we get to Lamech (v19). One sister was not enough for him. He got himself two of ‘em (Adah and Zillah). Adah bore Jabal who was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. Jabal’s brother Jubal fathered those who played the lyre and pipe. Cain’s other wife Zillah bore Tubal-cain who would make instruments of bronze and iron. So again, we see these cultural developments. A city has been built, more animals other than sheep are domesticated and being bred, and music and craftsmanship are becoming prominent. We see a lot of good innovation and advancements. With that though, we also see sin advancing as well.

Lamech makes this arrogant, boastful speech to his two wives about killing a man for wounding him. He thinks back to what happened generations ago with his Cain and Abel. There are some of the descendants who would have heard about this story and felt bad for Abel, but Lamech leaned more toward the antagonist and desired to be even worse. He began to boast in his sinful ways saying “If Cain’s revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech’s is seventy-sevenfold.”, claiming his ways and his might are stronger and more efficient than God’s. And that is the last that we hear of him and his descendants. God stripped Him to nothing and showed His plan through another son.

***VS 26-26 -- 25 And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, “God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.” 26 To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord.***

A little church is born within a family that has abandoned God.

There is a climb back up the family tree to give some good news about another son named Seth. Eve declared that, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him." Seth would in some way replace Abel to fulfill what God has promised to send the Messiah through.

From Seth came Enosh, and we embark onto something where some scholars would refer to as the first revival. As we have gone from a generation of disregard of God and his commands to people calling upon the name of the Lord. We begin to see a picture of what the world would look like; God's people and a godless world.

## **APPLICATION**

### **#1 God does not approve of superficial worship**

Genesis Example: We saw in the passage that God demands the first and Cain did not give it. Abel's offering was accepted because of His faith.

Biblical Example: Luke 18:9-14 / Mark 12:41-44

Explanation: We have to be really careful to not just go through the motions. It is possible to tithe, serve, and do all the churchy things while still being condemned. The Pharisees fasted twice a week and gave tithes on all that they got, but Jesus called them white washed tombs. We are to worship God in spirit and truth.

### **#2 Sin has lost its dominion but still desires to rule over you**

Genesis Example: We see God's warning to Cain about the progression of sin. Then we see the effects of sin in this entire chapter from Cain down to Lamech.

Bible Example: Romans 6:11-14 -- *11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

Explanation: If God is not our master, sin will be. Sin has no limits. Sin has no rules. Trying to tame sin is like trying to tread water in a bottomless ocean with no shore in sight.



Praise God for His eternal victory over sin for us. The penalty and power of sin is diminished and soon the presence of sin will be, but that is not just yet. Sin has one place in the life of a Christian and it's in the grave. Sin has been defeated through Christ and it has no hold on us. Don't snuggle with the sin in the grave that Jesus rose from.

### **#3 A disregard to God's Word is a bridge to sin**

Genesis Example: Cain was just like his daddy. God came to Cain when he saw what appeared to be the early stages of sin which was unrighteous anger. God gave Him perfect counsel, Cain ignored it, and it led to catastrophe.

Biblical Example: Genesis 3 "Did God really say" lead to the fall of man. Matthew 4 "Man shall not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." preserved salvation for man.

Explanation: God's commands have never been burdensome to follow. However, since the beginning, Satan is really good at making what God calls "not good" an eye soar and we begin to disregard God's Word and seek our own way. We have to adhere to the word of God lest we drift from him. This is why it is vital to check your sin before it begins to wreak havoc. What feels innocent now is just masked chaos.

### **#4 God is pleased to show grace to the unworthy**

Genesis Example: Though the commandments and judicial system were not physically established at the time of this murder, God's holiness and justice was. He could have wiped out Cain instantly for what he did, but not only did He choose not to, He marked Cain to identify that Cain is not to be touched.

Bible Example: By the grace of God, we are who we are (1 Corinthians 15:10). Paul makes it clear that he was the foremost and chief of sinners (1 Timothy) and the least of all the saints (Ephesians 3:8). But still "received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life."

Explanation: Let us dare not believe that we are in some way more worthy of God than Cain is. We are by nature children of wrath, but before the foundation of the world, we are chosen as sons and heirs because He's kind.

### **# 5 The blood of Christ covers real sins for real people**

Genesis Example: It was clear that the early descendants were not where our hope was found, but one that would come from them; Jesus Christ, as was promised in Genesis 3.

Bible Example: Hebrews 12:24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

Explanation: The blood of Abel, referring to the animal sacrifice he made that was accepted by God, though it was good, it does not compare to the blood of Christ, the once and for all sacrifice. Because there will be another and greater innocent Shepherd, The keeper of His sheep, who too would die unjustly by the hands of sinners. The blood of Abel screamed, "Injustice! Justice must be served! This cannot be passed over! How long O Lord will you avenge our blood?" The blood of Christ screamed, "Mercy! The time has come! His bride has been pardoned and looked over. Justice has been satisfied!" The blood of Christ covers real sins for real people. Hallelujah!

#### **REVIEW:**

- ❖ Why did God reject Cain's offering but accept Abel's?
- ❖ Why was Cain angry after being rebuked by God?
- ❖ What does it mean that sin is crouching at the door?
- ❖ How does God both punish Cain and show him grace?
- ❖ Who is Cain afraid of?
- ❖ Who was Cain's wife?

#### **REFLECT:**

- ❖ Do you ever find yourself just going through the motions in worship or your time with God? How do you remedy that?
- ❖ What are some ways that you try to manage your sin? How's that working out?

#### **RESPOND:**

- ❖ What is your attitude toward God when he disciplines you?

#### **MEDITATE:**

- ❖ Genesis 4:4 -- *and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering*

#### **MEMORIZE:**

- ❖ Genesis 4:7 -- *If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.*"

#### **PRAYER FOCUS:**

- ❖ Young Adults Director - **Hunter Christian**
- ❖ Ministries - **The Fount**
- ❖ Pray for the lost - Unreached People Group (UPG): **Ho** in Bangladesh

- ❖ Population in country: 96,000
- ❖ Global population: 1,369,000
- ❖ Christian Adherent: 2.24%
- ❖ Evangelical: 0.00%
- ❖ Primary Religion: Hinduism
- ❖ Primary Language: Sylheti