

BABIES, MURDER, & CURSES

GENESIS 4

¹Now the man knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man (Heb- Ish); YHWH."

²And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³In the course of time Cain brought to YHWH an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And YHWH had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶YHWH said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be uplifted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

- 1- X "knew" Y – a biblical idiom for intercourse
Cain sounds like the Hebrew for "I have gotten/acquired"

I have gotten a man, Yahweh. OR I have gotten a man with Yahweh.

+ If it's the first one, Eve may be thinking that Cain is the promised seed of 3:15 (Luther)

- 2- + Abel- is a Hebrew word for vanity, a breath, vapor- ironic given his short life, also demonstrates the parents preference for the first son!
+ A keeper of sheep- what other younger brother was a shepherd?
+ A worker of the ground- in keeping with his father's punishment in Gen 3:17-19
+ Still the crop work is preferable to the cattle work... and Cain is the preferred son
- 3- Cain brings an offering/gift from the fruit of the ground- why was this rejected?
- 4-5 Why would God accept Abel's offering? Hebrews 11:4
What other younger brothers received preference?
- 7 "uplifted" –*objects* have upward motion, a *concept* is removed (Psalm 32:1)

-this is a word for Forgiveness!

"sin is crouching at the door"- sin's rule over our lives is not by God's initiative

Luther: "We should fear God because sin lies at the door; and we should trust God because He is merciful." Fear and Faith!

⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and slaughtered him. ⁹Then YHWH said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰And YHWH said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³Cain said to YHWH, "My punishment is too great to uplift. ¹⁴Behold, 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 slaughter me." ¹⁵Then YHWH said to him, "Not so! If anyone slaughters Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And YHWH put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

¹⁶Then Cain went away from the presence of YHWH and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

8 Cain ignores God's admonition and is overcome by Sin

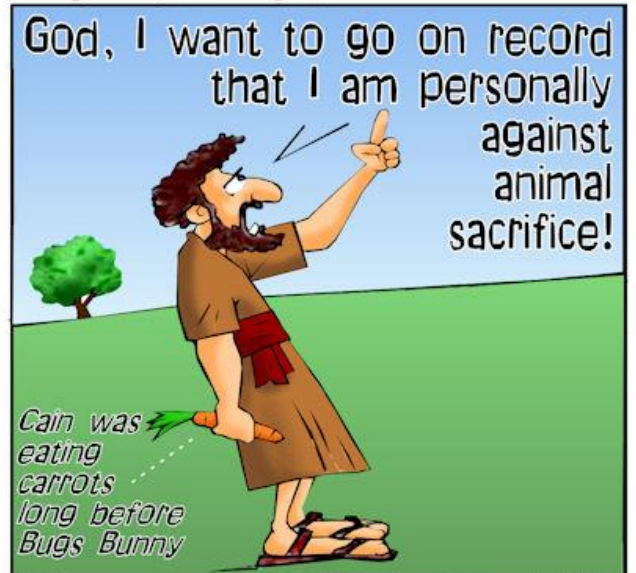
9 Compare Cain's reaction to his sin with his parents' in 3:8

10 The blood cries out → Hebrew 12:18-24

11-12 How does Cain's punishment compare to his parents' in chapter 3?

"fugitive and wanderer"- words for insecurity where one is and uncertainty of where one might go

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Cain was a card carrying member of PETA from waaaaayyy back. **Ge 4:3**

- 13 “Punishment” or “Guilt” – this could make a BIG difference!
 “too great to uplift”- same word as 4:7, could be removal or simple carrying
 14 “from your face I shall be hidden”- a true *excommunication*
 “whoever finds me...”- Who else is there?
 15 “YHWH put a *mark* on Cain” - a “sign” or “omen” NOT the “mark” in Ezek 9:4
 16 If Cain “settled in the land of Nod” how is he a “fugitive and a wanderer” ????

Luther: Adam's situation had been different and better. He had sinned, and through sin he had sunk into death; but when he was expelled from Paradise, God assigned him a definite work of tilling the ground in a certain place and clothed him with a garment of skins. This, as we said above, was a sign that God would take care of him and would defend him. But the glorious promise given to the woman concerning the Seed who would crush the serpent's head surpassed everything else. Not one of these things is granted to Cain. He is simply sent away to any indefinite place and work without the addition of any promise and command, just like a bird which roams uncertainly in the open air. This is really wandering and being unsettled!

¹⁷Cain 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. ¹⁸To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. ¹⁹And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. ²⁰Adah bore Jubal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. ²²Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

²³Lamech 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.

²⁴If Cain's revenge is sevenfold,
 then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."

²⁵And the man 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." ²⁶To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of YHWH.

- 17 “his wife”- marriage of siblings was common in the early period (Gen 12:13)
 19 “two wives”- polygamy first appears in wicked Cain’s line and contradicts God’s design
 23-24 Lamech’s song- boastful about his act of vengeance
 25 -Seth is called “a son” but Cain and Abel were not called sons. Why might this be?
 26 “At that time people began to call upon the name of YHWH.” – Prayer and Repentance
 Is the name of YHWH revealed yet? Or does that not happen till Exodus 3:14?

Psalms 105:1-6

All: ¹Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

M: ²Sing to him, sing praises to him;

W: tell of all his wondrous works!

M: ³Glory in his holy name;

W: let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

M: ⁴Seek the LORD and his strength;

W: seek his presence continually!

M: ⁵Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

W: his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

M: ⁶O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

W: children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning,

is now and will be forevermore Amen.