

## A MAN NAMED CAIN

### Int.

1. Aim: To tell the story of his life and then learn some important lessons for us today and answer some questions asked about Cain.
2. Gen. 4 - First son of Adam and Eve - only man named Cain mentioned in the Bible - A town was named Cain as mentioned in Josh. 15:57
3. Cain is mentioned in 3 other passages Heb. 11:4, 1 John 3:12 and Jude 11 Besides Gen. 4
4. The name Cain means = "Made" Acquisition or possession

### Discussion

#### I. STORY OF CAIN AND HIS LIFE

##### A. Gen. 4:1-2

1. Cain was first born son - Abel was second - some suggest they were twins but no evidence of this
2. Cain was a farmer[ tiller of the ground] while Abel was a shepherd

##### B. Gen. 4:3-8

1. They each offered a sacrifice
  - a. Cain - from the fruit of the ground
  - b. Abel - firstlings of flock - best of the flock
2. God's response - Respect for Abel's - No respect for Cain's
3. Cain's anger -
  - a. The Lord explained that if he obeyed he would do well
  - b. But if you sin you will be ruled by sin
  - c. Cain allowed his anger to be directed toward his brother rather than self

- d. Slew his brother Abel - 1<sup>st</sup> death, beginning of Hades - place of departed spirits - this was the first murder

C. Gen. 4:9-15

1. God asks Cain about his brother
  - a. God asked him this to give him a chance to confess, to bring him to repentance
  - b. Cain refuses to confess his sin - I know not - he was now a liar
  - c. Asked a question: "Am I my brother's keeper"
2. Cain was cursed - would be a fugitive and a vagabond
3. He complained that his punishment was too hard - someone will kill me
4. God put a mark on him - warned that no one should kill Cain or vengeance would be 7 fold on that person

D. Gen. 4:16-18

1. Cain left and went to the land of Nod
2. He has a wife and they have a child named Enoch
3. Built a city in honor of their son
4. Tells about the descendants

## **II. FAILURES OF CAIN**

### A. He failed God

1. Abel offered a better sacrifice than Cain
2. 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."
3. Rom. 10:17
  - a. Abel and Cain received instructions as to what to offer, Cain refused to follow God's instructions and suffered the consequences.
  - b. Abel's sacrifice was by faith, and faith comes from God's word.
  - c. Cain had a wrong attitude toward God - that is the reason he did not obey!
  - d. The Marks of Real Genuine faith always
    - (1) Does what God commands,
    - (2) And does it in the way God commands it to be done.

### B. He failed himself

1. He caused his own fall - v. 7
2. It is his choice - he was angry about his sacrifice being rejected by God
3. But his anger should have been directed at himself
4. When we choose to sin we become enslaved by sin

### C. He failed Society

1. Unconcern for the welfare of his brother
2. Took the life of another - his own brother
3. Lack of regard for human life has always been a downfall of society

### III. LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF CAIN

#### A. If you do well you will be accepted - v. 7

1. God shows no partiality - Acts 10:34-35
2. The grace of God has appeared to all men - Tit. 2:11-12
3. God's message to us is that we can do what is right
  - a. Matt. 11:28-30 - come unto me
  - b. Jn. 7:37 - If any man thirst let him come unto me
  - c. Rev. 22:17 - The spirit and the bride say come
  - d. We have the responsibility - we can and should do what is right

#### B. You must rule over sin - "If thou doest well, you will be accepted" Gen. 4:7

1. Cain sinned when he sacrificed fruit
  - a. 1 John 3:12 "Not as Cain, [who] was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."
  - b. Cain knew what was right - but he refused to do it - Jude 11 - way of Cain
  - c. One sin leads to another - wrong sacrifice, anger, murder, lied
2. God expects us to control our sinful desires
  - a. You don't have to sin - 1 Cor. 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."
    - (1) Many times people make the excuse: "I can't help myself, I have to do it"
    - (2) But we can resist

- b. Ps. 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.
- c. We can find a way of escape - know God's word and apply it to our life!

C. Satan desires to have us - "Unto thee shalt be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him." V.7

- 1. Sin's desire is for us
- 2. Satan is looking to get us - 1 Pet. 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."
- 3. We must defeat sin - God expects us to - it is possible

D. Worship to God is critical in our relationship to God

- 1. God will not tolerate that which is not authorized. - Jn. 4:24
- 2. Whatever is offered as worship to God, which is not authorized by the New Testament, is not acceptable to him.
- 3. The fact that something is intended to be worship to God does not prove that it is in fact acceptable to God. Cain's worship (of Genesis 4:2-5) was not acceptable to God.
- 4. "But in vain do they worship me, teaching for their doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:9).
- 5. The Bible often uses the word "strange" in the sense of "not acceptable because not authorized."
- 6. Nadab and Abihu ". . . offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not" - Lev. 10:1

#### **IV. QUESTIONS ABOUT CAIN**

##### A. What was the Mark of Cain?

1. No one knows.
2. The word "mark" might be better translated by the term "a sign"
  - a. This was some miraculous sign or token that identified Cain to others, so they would not kill him
  - b. We have no way of knowing what the sign or mark was put on Cain
3. "I do not know what the mark of Cain was. It is impossible to tell whether it was some physical mark, some sign in his body, which indicated that he was God's property, or something else. I do not know. I think perhaps it was a hopeless, pathetic look, something that would stir pity in any individual's heart, so that Cain became (as man is, basically, everywhere in his guilt), an object of universal pity to those who saw him." Bible Study Textbook Series - Commentary on Gen.

##### B. What was the curse of Cain?

1. What then does he do? He sentences Cain!
  - a. He assigns a punishment to him, and the nature of it is very significant.
  - b. Notice, there are no thunderbolts of wrath here. God does not seize hold of Cain and take his life in vengeance.
  - c. What happens is what writers sometimes call "poetic justice," i.e., a strangely fitting result.
  - d. Cain was a man of the soil, a tiller of the ground; in this work he took pride and found joy. A man's work is always his pride. Cain was a farmer, who delighted in producing beautiful crops of fruit and grain.

- e. But now he has poured the blood of his brother upon the ground. So God says, the ground, the arena of your pride, will now be cursed toward you. It will no longer yield you its strength. You will find, in your attempts to work the ground, nothing but frustration, sweat, tears, and toil.
2. Cain, in other words, has lost his "green thumb."
    - a. The ground will no longer release its fruitfulness to him; his working of the ground will result in fruitless labor.
    - b. He would therefore, be forced to wander from place to place as the crops failed wherever he went.
    - c. He would find himself unable to extract a living and this would turn him into a wanderer on the face of the earth.
- C. Where did Cain get his wife ?
1. Some have suggested that God may have created other people and this woman was from one of those other groups
    - a. That is not possible
    - b. The Bible makes it clear that "... Eve is the mother of all living" - Gen. 3:20
    - c. The population of the earth came directly through the lineage of Adam and Eve
  2. His wife must have been a sister or other close relative
    - a. We are told in specific terms that Adam and Eve had three sons— Cain, Abel, and sometime later, Seth.
    - b. However, we are also told that Adam was the father of "other sons and daughters" (Genesis 5:4).

- c. Eve had borne Cain and Abel soon after leaving Eden (Genesis 4:1-2), but she could have had other children between their birth and Abel's death, and between that murder and the birth of Seth.
  - d. In any case, one female offspring could later have become Cain's wife.
3. Many people immediately see a problem with marriages that must, of necessity, be incestuous in nature.
- a. Remember, however, that incest itself was outlawed only with the coming of the Mosaic covenant (Leviticus 18).
  - b. There was no need for strict laws on marriage partners in the early Patriarchal Age (apart from the divine "one man, one woman, for life" institution), and for at least one good reason: during this time, man was in a relatively pure state, at least physically, having left not long before the perfect condition in which he was created, and the Garden that had sustained his life.
  - c. Adam and Eve could have lived forever had it not been for their corruption by sin, and their consequent expulsion from Eden (Genesis 3:1-6).
  - d. Hence, no harmful genetic traits had emerged at this point that could have been expressed in the children of closely related partners.
  - e. However, after many generations, and especially after the Noahic Flood (Genesis 6-9), solar and cosmic radiation, chemical and viral mutagens, and DNA replication errors, led to the multiplication of genetic disorders.
  - f. God protected His people by instituting strict laws against incestuous marriages in the eighteenth chapter of Leviticus.

- g. Needless to say, more genetic disorders have arisen in the world population since the time of Moses, and thus it is even more important to avoid marrying a close relative.
- h. Christianity thus far has insured that such rules have been carried forward into modern laws in the western world. <sup>1</sup>

## Conclusion

1. Cain was the first son and the first murderer
2. His life shows us
  - (1) That we must obey God in our worship
  - (2) That we must control our anger
3. Jude 11 "Woe unto them! for they have **gone in the way of Cain**, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core."
  - a. Disregard for God's word
  - b. Disregard for his brother
  - c. Concern for his own life - selfish, self centered
4. Follow the example of Abel instead of Cain - 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."

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