

## **Beginnings—Genesis 4**

### **Cain Kills Abel**

#### **I. Additional Scriptures...**

1. Hebrews 11:4
2. 1 John 3:12
3. Jude 11
4. Matthew 23:35
5. Find [EXTRA STUDY posts](http://LemmonsAid.WordPress.com) for Genesis 4 at: <http://LemmonsAid.WordPress.com> by entering the following in the **SEARCH BOX**: Genesis 4 Links

#### **II. Chronology.**

**BIBLE PERIOD: Before the Flood.**

#### **III. Summary.**

The first couple is blessed by the Lord with two sons through the God-ordained system of reproduction. The two boys were different; Abel was a keeper of sheep and Cain was a tiller of the ground.

An offering was brought by each of the boys and God had respect unto Abel's offering, but had not respect for Cain's. Cain was angry as a result. The Lord spoke to Cain and stated facts about how He always deals with man. Cain killed Abel because his own works were evil and his brother's were righteous (1 Jn 3:12; Mt 23:35). God asks Cain about the whereabouts of his brother and Cain says, "Am I my brother's keeper." Abel's blood cried out from the ground and God cursed Cain. Cain protested that the punishment was too great and God placed a mark on Cain and vowed vengeance 7-fold upon anyone who killed Cain.

Cain's descendants are listed in this chapter. The first polygamist is introduced to us in the person of Lamech. Jubal is listed as the father of those who handle the harp and organ. Tubalcain was instructor of every artificer in brass and iron. Lamech evidently killed a man in self-defense. Adam and Eve have another son, Seth.

#### **IV. Outline.**

1. Cain and Abel are born (Gen 4:1-2).
2. Cain and Abel make sacrifice to the Lord and only Abel's is accepted (Gen 4:3-5).
3. Cain is angered and God speaks to him (Gen 4:6-7).
4. Cain kills his brother (Gen 4:8).
5. The Lord confronts Cain (Gen 4:9-10).
6. A curse is placed upon Cain (Gen 4:11-12).
7. Cain protests the punishment as greater than he can bear (Gen 4:13-14).
8. The Lord places protection upon Cain's life (Gen 4:15).
9. Descendants of Cain listed (Gen 4:16-24).
10. The birth of Seth and his offspring (Gen 4:25-26).

## V. Questions.

**True or False**

01. \_\_\_\_\_ Abel was the first child of Adam and Eve.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Adah was Cain's wife.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ Cain lied to God.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Cain built a city and named it Abel.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ The sign or mark God set upon Cain was for his protection.

**Who Am I? Who Did It? Who Said It?**

06. \_\_\_\_\_ "If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold."
07. \_\_\_\_\_ His countenance fell.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ Cried to the Lord from the ground.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ Father of all such as handle the harp and organ.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Took unto him two wives.

**Fill in the Blanks**

11. "...and if thou doest \_\_\_\_\_ well, \_\_\_\_\_ lieth at the door."
12. \_\_\_\_\_ 11:4—"By faith \_\_\_\_\_ offered unto God a more \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was \_\_\_\_\_, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."
13. Matthew 23:\_\_\_\_, "...from the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, ..."
14. "When thou \_\_\_\_\_ the ground, it shall not henceforth \_\_\_\_\_ unto thee her strength..."
15. "then began men to \_\_\_\_\_ upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord."

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers will be found on next week's handout*

**ANSWERS to Genesis 3...** [01—False, Gen 3:24; 02—True, Gen 3:10; 03—False, Gen 3:20; 04—True, Gen 3:14; 05—True, Gen 3:18-19; 06—c, Gen 3:3; 07—a, Gen 3:23; 08—b, Gen 3:16; 09—c, Gen 3:13; 10—b, Gen 3:1; 11—12, man, sin, death; 12—2, serpent, beguiled; 13—sweat, eat, ground, Gen 3:19; 14—cherubims, flaming, sword, Gen 3:24; 15—head, heel, Gen 3:15].

## VI. Lessons &amp; Applications.

1. **...And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground** (Gen 4:2). Children are going to be different, we can be assured of that. For parents to expect that all of their children will have identical interests and behavior is unrealistic. In the beginning this truth is seen and it has been so all through history. When parents begin to show partiality as did Isaac and Jacob, problems are sure to be the result.
2. **And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof** (Gen 4:4). The description of this offering is revealing. There is no further description of Cain's offering than that it was of the fruit of the ground. **FIRSTLING** indicates that, in some way, Abel made a selection out of that which he had available. We are informed that God had respect unto Abel and his offering, but unto Cain and to his offering He had not respect. There was something about the selections made by these two boys that made the difference. With the additional revelation from Hebrews 11:4, coupled with Romans 10:17, we can know that there was instruction about the offerings given and

that Abel followed the instructions, whereas Cain did not. We might could wish that we knew more, but we can know this much.

3. **And Cain was very wrath, and his countenance fell** (Gen 4:5). Rather than inquire of the Lord (if he needed further instruction) as to why his offering was not pleasing, there was a sullen and angry reaction from Cain. The Lord patiently seeks to teach Cain further, but the instruction “didn’t take.” Cain’s decision was to live in rebellion to the will of the Lord. His choice brought to him unwanted fruit. He was sent off to till the land and the land would not yield as it once did for him (v. 12). His true character is described in two New Testament texts (1 John 3:12; Jude 11). Read an article online at: <http://lemmonsaid.wordpress.com/2007/05/14/0104-cains-complaint/>
4. **And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper?** (Gen 4:10). Of course, the Lord was not asking Cain for information of which He was ignorant! He is focusing Cain’s attention on that which he had done. In the manner with which Cain answers the Lord, again his true character is seen. He was willing to tell a lie and express a cold-heartedness which is truly remarkable. Indeed, Cain was his brother’s keeper in the sense that he should have had enough love for his brother to prevent his anger from taking his life. The question raised here is a good one for all of us to ponder. One way to consider this question regards the fact that there are so many in this world who are DEAD IN SIN and we have the truth which can save them from eternal separation from God. Are we our brother’s keeper? Well, certainly we cannot make decisions for others, but we can show our love for them and use our influence and strive to teach them the good news of the gospel.
5. **...My punishment is greater than I can bear.** (Gen 4:13). With the judgment passed, Cain begins to appeal for mercy. There is no indication of repentance here, but he does make a pitiful request. Our God is a merciful God and He does, in this instance, give some peace of mind to Cain by assuring him that his physical life will be spared.
6. **And Lamech took unto him two wives...** (Gen 4:19). Here in the Book of Beginnings is the beginning of bigamy or polygamy. Why man has to change God’s order of things is a great mystery. The peace of the home of Elkanah was greatly disturbed by following the example of Lamech (1 Sam 1:6-7).
7. **...I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt. If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold** (Gen 4:24). Here it seems is the first instance of killing a man in self-defense. This seems to be in the form of a Hebrew song.
8. **then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.** (Gen 4:26). Many estimate this to be some 240 years after the creation of Adam. It seems strangely placed, but it is not strange that men would praise and call upon the name of Jehovah for all of the bountiful blessings He had provided them.

## VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

Q A Z X S W E D C V F R T G B N H Y U J  
 M T K I U J M N H Y T G B V W R O T H F  
 R I F V C D E W S X Z A Q M N B V C X Z  
 L L Z X C F I R S T L I N G S L K F J H  
 H L G F D S A P O I U Y T R E E W L Q A  
 S E D F G M N B V C X Z A Q W S X O C D  
 E R R F V B G T Y H N M J P U I K C M U  
 J M N H Y T G B V F R E E D C X S K E W  
 Q A Z X S W E D C V F E R T G B N H C Y  
 U R E S P E C T U J H M N H Y T G B N R  
 F V E D C X S R W S Q A Z A B E L X A S  
 W E D C V F E R F T G B N H Y U J M N I  
 O P M J U H Y O Y T G B V F L K J H E G  
 G F D S T A R M C O N C E I V E D B T V  
 C X Z O P E I O U Y T A R E W Q A S N M  
 N B R V P C X Z L K J I H G F D S A U F  
 O B L E M J U Y H N T N G B V F R E O R  
 X S E E D C T G B U J M L K J H G F C U  
 F K M N B V O F F E R I N G R F V B G I  
 T G B N H Y U J M U I K O L P Y H R F T

[The highlighted words can be found above. One series of words is run together.]

**Gen 4:1-6** And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she **conceived**, and bare **Cain**, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. (2) And she again bare his **brother** Abel. And **Abel** was a **keeper of sheep**, but Cain was a **tiller** of the ground. (3) And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the **fruit** of the ground an **offering** unto the LORD. (4) And Abel, he also brought of the **firstlings** of his **flock** and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had **respect** unto Abel and to his offering: (5) But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very **wroth**, and his **countenance** fell. (6) And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?