

# In the Beginning

A Study Through the Book of Genesis



## Lesson 10: "Cain Murders Able" Chapter 4:1-15

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

### I. Cain and Able Are Born (1-2)

*4 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." <sup>2</sup> Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.*

#### A. The Process of Time:

1. Procreation has begun. Adam and Eve had relations and Eve bore Cain.
2. She acknowledges the blessing from the Lord in having a male child.
3. There is nothing in the Bible that tells us if Eve had any children before Cain and Able.
4. Chapter 5 helps us understand that Adam lived a total of 930 years and had "sons and daughters", but it does not tell us how many.
5. Verse 2 tells us that she bore a second son, Abel.
6. Time progresses to the sons' adulthood – Abel was a keeper of sheep and Cain was a tiller of the ground.

### II. An Offering to the Lord (3-7)

*<sup>3</sup> And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. <sup>4</sup> Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. <sup>6</sup> So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? <sup>7</sup> If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."*

A. Again, we see a process of time. We do not know how much time has passed.

B. Cain and Able bring offerings to the Lord for worship. These offerings are not of a sacrificial nature as the sacrificial system had not yet been established by God.

- Cain brought an offering of "the fruit" of the ground to the Lord.
- Abel brought of the firstborn of his flock to the Lord.
- God respected Able's offering, but not Cain's. Cain was angry and his countenance fell.
- Cain became angry and his countenance fell.
- God questions Cain about his anger and attitude.
- God tells Cain, "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."
- Able's offering seems to be from his devotion to the Lord and his worship of the Lord. He gave his very best with a heart to please the Lord.
- Cain's offering seems to be from obligation and not from a heart of devotion or worship.
- God is teaching that without devotion to the Lord and a heart to please Him, it is easy to get entangled in sin.

### III. Cain Murders Able (8-12)

<sup>8</sup> Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

<sup>10</sup> And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. <sup>11</sup> So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."

- A. Cain's anger drove him to take the life of his brother.
- B. God asks Cain where Able is and Cain gets sarcastic with God.
- C. But God knew what had happened!
  - God asked Cain what he had done.
  - The life that was in Able's blood was calling out to God.
- D. God cursed Cain by reducing the productivity of the earth and God caused Cain to be a fugitive and a vagabond – just wandering – because of the wrong that Cain had done.

### IV. Cain's Complaint and His Mark (13-15)

<sup>13</sup> And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! <sup>14</sup> Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me."

<sup>15</sup> And the Lord said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

- A. Cain's Complaint:
  - My punishment is greater than I can bear. (There is always consequence for sin.)
  - Cain acknowledges that God has driven him out and there is now a separation between him and God. (Sin causes a separation between man and God!)
  - Cain acknowledges his consequence and fears that he will be killed when people find out what he has done.
- B. God Places a Mark on Cain:
  - This "mark" shows God's protection over Cain, not a sign of the curse.
  - God demonstrated great grace and mercy towards Cain.
  - Verses 13 and 14 are seen as Cain's "repentance" and chooses to provide forgiveness, grace, and mercy.
  - However, the consequences for Cain's sin remain.