

INFINITE DEPTH: *REVISITING CLASSICS FROM GENESIS*

GENESIS 4

Cain and Abel

Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have

brought forth a man." 2 Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. 3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to

the Lord. 4 And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on

Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

6 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?

But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and

killed him.

9 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

10 The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. 11 Now you are under a

curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you work the

ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

13 Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is more than I can bear. 14 Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden

from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

15 But the Lord said to him, "Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the Lord put a mark on

Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. 16 So Cain went out from the Lord's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east

of Eden.

Many complain that Bible study is irrelevant, dusty, and boring as a high school history book. The book of Genesis is the genetic code of human history. There's really nothing new anthropologically after Genesis. Everything that happens in your life, happens in its original form, in Genesis. Nothing in human operation is new. So, these ancient stories are insanely revealing.

Question #1 The transition from Chapter 3 to Chapter 4 not only shows the transition from paradise to east of Eden, perfection to imperfection, it also shows the devolution of humanity. Clearly killing one's brother seems to indicate greater brokenness than the original eating from the tree. Adam had to be persuaded to sin by Satan himself. Cain couldn't be dissuaded from sinning, even by God himself. Do you see a continued devolution in our society, East of Eden? Discuss both yes and no.

Question #2 Pay attention to how Eve refers to the God who blessed her with a son. This spelling is different from 'Lord' in other Bible references. Lord means 'Master'. When LORD (all caps) is used in Scripture, God is giving us an insight into an aspect of His personality. This name means...God of free and faithful grace. It's His Yahweh covenant name. What did Eve demonstrate by using this name for God?

Question #3 How is Cain's mediocre offering a symptom of a bigger problem? Prove Cain believed in God. Evaluate Cain's faith in God? Check Hebrews 11:6a

Question #4 Verses 3-4 present a contrast of the way God sees church people giving offerings every week. Search to find two key words describing Cain's and Abel's offering. _____ and _____

Divide into groups and compile 4 key concepts which teach us about giving offerings that follow the example of Abel's. 1 Cor 16:1-2, 2 Cor 8:1-4, 2 Cor 9:6-7

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

Circle to complete this statement properly: We bring our offerings FOR FROM God's favor.

Christ has given us His wholeness. Now our hearts have that kind of capacity!

Question #5 Our Wonderful Counselor, our LORD(all caps), came to Cain BEFORE the murder. He wants Cain to rethink his proud attitude, and shines a flashlight on what's playing out in his heart. How is this metaphor of a crouching, predatory cat a cautionary tale for us? How does God also come to you BEFORE you sin, and treat you the same way? Notice where the lion crouches in your heart. Because if you see that it is coiled to spring you have a few steps, a few moments. Name some good strategies to deploy at this critical time.

**SIN=a declaration of war with God. Sin separates us from our true Father.
THE ESSENCE OF SIN IS TO SUBSTITUTE YOURSELF FOR GOD.
THE ESSENCE OF GRACE IS THAT GOD SUBSTITUTED HIMSELF FOR YOU!**

Question #6 The line between good and evil is not 'out there' somewhere, it runs straight through our hearts. What hangs in the balance when we flirt with sin?
Pastor Hein said, "You start doing sin and then, before you know it, sin is doing you." Learn what dual truths about each human heart are in these passages:

Jeremiah 17:9

Ephesians 2:13

Question #7 Satan has marked us in his spotting scope. Listen to the way people tend to defend their sinful behaviors and classify whether it is **DENIAL, MINIMALIZING, RATIONALIZING, or some combination.**

"It's not cheating, I'm just borrowing some else's answers for a quiz. It's not like I'm robbing a bank."

"It's just a website. It's just a little fantasy. It's not like I'm having an affair."

"Yeah, sex outside of marriage is probably not God's design, but at least we're really committed to each other."

"I'm not part of a church but I don't think I have to go to church to be a Christian. I'm a very spiritual person."

"I'm not a workaholic, I just have a strong work ethic."

"I'm not vain, I'm just health conscious."

"I'm not stingy, I'm just wise with my money."

"I'm not gossiping, I just want people to be informed."

"I'm not holding a grudge, I'm just morally outraged."

"I'm not materialistic, I'm just ambitious."

"I'm not arrogant, I'm just assertive."

Question # 8 How does Hebre 12;1-2 give you hope for victory?

Question #9 When we sin and rebel, we don't break God's laws as much as we break God's heart. His heart is relentless to bring us back. How is the question the LORD asked Cain(v9) a mirror of the question he asked his parents in the garden?(chapter 3v9) Explain why this fact builds your confidence?

"If God is this merciful to Cain, who shows no repentance, if God doesn't give up on Cain and protects Cain, if he cares that much for Cain...I guarantee he cares for you no matter what you've done." Pastor Hein

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Closing Prayer – Make sure to take prayer requests for one another.