

In the Beginning

Genesis 4:1-26

- In **Isaiah 5:1-4** God asked the question: “**what more could have been done to my vineyard that I have not done in it? “Why then when I expected it to bring forth good grapes did it bring forth wild grapes”?** This is God asking the rhetorical question of how could Israel be so disobedient to Him after all that he had done for them, as he gave them everything they needed to be successful and bear good fruit, and yet they chose the opposite and brought forth fruit that was rotten or inedible. This started in the garden, God has created this paradise for man to flourish only to see it compromised by sin, which brought in shame, fear and judgment.

V1-26

- **V1** two things happen here which are a first, one is the first specific mention of sex in scripture, the word “knew” meant to have sexual relations, and it indicates an act that contributes to the bond of unity and the building up on a one flesh relationship. We have no reason believe that before the fall Adam and Eve were incapable of sexual relations, because there is nothing inherently impure or unclean in sex itself, the problem is found in its misuse not the act itself.
- The second first is the first human baby on earth is born and enters the story a boy named “**Cain**”, his name means “**acquired**” which is why Eve said “**she had gotten a man from the Lord**”. Under normal circumstances most parents want good things for their children, but Cain had even greater expectations, as Adam and Eve when they looked into this little boys eyes thought here is the seed, the deliverer that God had promised would come through them, a Redeemer who would correct what they had done wrong, so naturally they thought this is him who was promised in **Gen 3:15**, so there is greater meaning to “**I have acquired a man from the Lord**” she thought this is “**the man**” which was promised to crush Satan’s head.
- **V2** later she has another son a boy named “**Abel**” which can mean breath or vapor, or “**empty or vanity**”. This meant that Eve found out rather shortly what all of us who have kids knows to be true, our beautiful wonderful little ones have a sin nature, and since Cain wasn’t what she hoped he’d be, Eve thought neither would her second son so she names him “**vanity or empty**”. What she failed to understand was **Gen 3:15** would not come from the seed of a man like her boys, but from a seed of a woman supernaturally like Jesus Christ many years from now.
- Also the boys had different duties Cain was a farmer a tiller of the ground, while Abel was a Shepherd a keeper of the sheep. **V3-5** through the course of time they both was given instructions on how to approach God even in their sinful state, it’s not like it was before when their parents could just walk with God without the barrier of sin, now that impasse must be addressed and has, so each one them brings God and offering but only one of them is accepted.

- According to **Heb 11:4** we were told that what Abel did he did it by faith, **Rom 10:17** says faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. That meant God had spoken clearly to both Cain and Abel concerning what an acceptable sacrifice would be, Abel chose to do what the Lord told him to do, Cain on the other hand chose to do something that was more pleasing to him and brought God something else that was rejected, and instead of Cain repenting and going back and doing it the right way we read that his countenance fell, meaning he got angry at God.
- Parents have you ever corrected a child for something their doing wrong and they become upset at you! Adults have someone ever approached you about something that you've done wrong and instead of acknowledging your part you begin to blame others maybe even the one who approached you and become angry at them. **V6-7** notice how God gently approaches Cain > **Is 1:18- "come let us reason together says the Lord, though your sins are like scarlet they shall be as white as snow, though they are red like crimson they shall be as wool"**
- He tells him **"if he does well it will be accepted, but if he doesn't do well sin is waiting at the door, its desire or intent is to rule you"**, but you should have rule over it > **Rom 6:14-** because of God's grace sin should no longer be our masters. **V8-14** Cain heard God but he didn't listen to God, and his anger grew into rage and jealousy causing him to murder his brother. To get back at God he takes out his brother, siblings do this all the time, and so do the body of Christ, instead of dealing with our own sin we cast our gaze at others and attack them and it hurts God.
- We see in this exchange a few things > **1st** we are responsible for each other, Cain says I don't know where he is, but he did, he just chose to lie about it, most of us if we were honest do know whether others are doing well or not, if you don't see them as much, or notice their distant, it's a sign their not doing well, but we choose often to ignore the sign and act like we don't know. **2nd** things done in the dark will come to the light, man may not see it but God surely does, **3rd** you can choose the sin but you sure can't choose the punishment, Cain thought God was being too hard on him, and here he's killed his brother but is telling God not to have him killed wow!
- **4th** sin will cost us something that God has previously given, like his father who also brought forth food from the ground now it would be even harder for Cain to do it, and like Adam who was driven out of Eden Cain is driven from his family and will find no resting place upon the earth. **V15-17** the Lord gives him grace and puts a mark on him telling the world that if they kill him then God will punish them seven fold, this tells us that **Gen 1:28-** has occurred as the population has soared. So Cain moves away gets married and builds a city for the first time.
- **V18-22** man is building and the human race is increasing as industry and urbanization begins to take place, **V22-24** as man has a tendency to do in all his progress he regresses away from the Lord. Through Cain's line of descendants we see the first polygamist, the second recorded murder, the father of the Canaanites Israel's future enemies, and the second misquotation of what God has said, Lamech misuses God's Word to justify his murder.

- **V24-26** but God's grace comes and he raises up Seth from where the line of the Messiah would come from, this after Satan tries and disrupt it through Cain and his disobedience by killing Abel and then raising up ungodly and sinful heirs. There is much typology here and one is how Abel is called a shepherd (like Jesus) was betrayed by someone he knew and was familiar with (his brother), who had given himself over to sinful attitudes and sinful ways, allowing Satan to control him (Judas).