

## Genesis: Chapter 4:1–16

**Opening Question:** Why does this scene focus on Cain and what new information does the author reveal that the reader will need to know as the story continues?

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. Moving forward, the entire story of the Bible is now looking for the Seed of the Woman, the one promised by the LORD in Genesis 3:15–16 to come through Eve and “mashal” or “be like” the LORD in representing and ruling on His behalf.
2. In this next scene, Genesis 4:1–16, Cain, Eve’s firstborn, is evaluated to see if he is this promised one.
3. Eve says, “I have gotten a man the LORD” (ish et YHWH) indicating that she believes that Cain is the one promised in Genesis 3:15–16.
4. If Cain were the promised one, he would have offered himself as the sacrifice, but instead he follows the example of his father, Adam’s unacceptable offering.
5. When it is evident that the first born, Cain, fails to be the promised one, Abel imitates the LORD in offering a first born in the likeness of the LORD’s offering from Genesis 3:21.
6. The “crouching one” in Genesis 4:7 is not sin (a feminine noun) but is the serpent.
7. The serpent’s desire is for Cain, just as the woman’s desire was for the one coming from her to rule. The grammatical construction of Genesis 3:16 and Genesis 4:7 is nearly identical except for the pronouns.
8. Genesis 4:7 sets the framework for the rest of the story as the serpent steals from the woman’s offspring to populate his side and the enmity described in Genesis 3:15 now begins to play out through Cain’s murder of Abel.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Read aloud together Genesis 3–4:16. Discuss the ways that 4:1–16 tie directly back to Genesis 3.
2. Relisten to 00:17:09–00:22:30 of this week’s podcast where Genesis 4:7 is explained. Now reread Genesis 4:1–16 and discuss what the author is saying.

### **Practical Application:**

1. Reread Genesis 1:1 through Genesis 4:16 and list all that you know about the story so far. Identify the main character, the antagonist, the problem, the solution, and any other details the author has included.
2. Why is learning the details of the beginning of the story critical to understanding the rest of the story? In what way will remembering these early details inform how you read the Bible going forward?
3. Who was the original audience of Genesis? Why did this audience need to know these things that the author, Moses, was telling them?

### **Closing Prayer:**

Father, Thank You for the beginning of the biblical story and all the details it contains that point to the hope for the one true image-bearer Whom You have promised will come and remove the curses on creation, restore the way back to the Tree of Life, and give eternal life to all who place their faith in Him. May we be careful readers and diligent students of Your Word so that we may know You and share Your Story and the hope we have in Your Son, Jesus. Amen.