

Keeping Myself from Exile

1st Question in the Bible

“Where are you?” (Gen. 3:9)

2 Hebrew words for “where?”

Eiphoh

Ayeh

Genesis 3:9 says, “Ayeh” are you?

Examples of Eiphoh:

“Tell me please, where are they shepherding?” (Joseph looking for his brothers) (Gen. 37:16)

“Where did you gather grain today?” (Naomi talking to Ruth)
(Ruth 19:2)

“Where are Samuel and David?” (King Saul searching for David)
(1 Sam. 19:22)

Examples of Ayeh:

“A man dies, and then where is he?” (Job 14:10)

“Here’s the fire, but where is the lamb for the offering?”

(Isaac to Abraham) (Gen. 22:7)

“Where are their gods?” (Psalm 115: 2)

“To their mothers, [starving children] will say: Where are grain and wine?” (Lam. 2:12)

Eiphoh is a request for a location. Ayeh is expressing wonder that what should be there is not.

God was asking Adam:

“Where have you gone? Why are you not here?
You used to be with me, but now you are with the
snake. You should be here, but you are not.

“Adam, what has happened to you? Why are you
no longer with me?”

Questions for today:

How do we safeguard against straying from our calling?

How do we keep ourselves from exile?

Genesis 4: 1-16

Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. (The name Cain means, “To Acquire,” or “The Acquirer.”) **She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth** (It actually says, she acquired... She doesn’t say, “With God, I created a little man.” She says, “I acquired”) **a man.”**

Genesis 4: 1-16

2 Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

(Cain roots himself with the ground. It is what defines him.)

Genesis 4: 1-16

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.

Genesis 4: 1-16

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? (Or, “Do what is right and lift up your face,” or “Do well and you will be fine,” or, “Get over yourself, do what is right and it will change your entire outlook on life.”)

Genesis 4: 1-16

But if you do not do what is right, (If you don't do well) sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

(Either you do something to help you rule over sin, or sin will rule over you.)

Genesis 4: 1-16

**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?”
(Ayeh?) “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”
(YES!)**

Genesis 4: 1-16

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.”

Genesis 4: 1-16

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.” (Echoes of Eden. Adam also hid from God. God’s curse of Adam included a curse of the ground. Both Adam and Cain were sent into Exile.)

Genesis 4: 1-16

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.

Where are you? Ayeh?

You are responsible for the well-being
of others.

God never compares you to someone else.
God compares you to you. Are you giving
your best?

There are two kinds of gifts that people give:

- 1) Bargaining chip gift
- 2) Gift of Gratitude

There is no such thing as neutrality. When I do not give my best in gratitude, sin is crouching at my door.

How do we keep ourselves from Exile?

We give our best to God with Gratitude.