

HOPEWELL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Family Matters

Genesis Chapter 3 and Chapter 4

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* ^[a]pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves ^[b]coverings.

⁸ And they heard the ^[c]sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the ^[d]cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?”

¹⁰ So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

¹¹ And He said, “Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

¹² Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”

¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, “What *is* this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent:

“Because you have done this,

You *are* cursed more than all cattle,

And more than every beast of the field;

On your belly you shall go,

And you shall eat dust

All the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity

Between you and the woman,

And between your seed and her Seed;

He shall bruise your head,

And you shall bruise His heel.”

¹⁶ To the woman He said:

“I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;

In pain you shall bring forth children;

Your desire *shall be* ^[e]for your husband,

And he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’:

“Cursed *is* the ground for your sake;

In toil you shall eat *of* it

All the days of your life.

¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall ^[f]bring forth for you,

And you shall eat the herb of the field.

¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread

Till you return to the ground,

For out of it you were taken;

For dust you *are*,

And to dust you shall return.”

²⁰ And Adam called his wife’s name Eve,^[a] because she was the mother of all living.

²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore ^[a]Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the LORD.” ² Then she bore again, this time his brother ^[b]Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³ And ^[c]in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ 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* ^[d]for you, but you should rule over it.”

⁸ Now Cain ^[e]talked with Abel his ^[f]brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where *is* Abel your brother?”

He said, “I do not know. *Am* I my brother’s keeper?”

¹⁰ And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground. ¹¹ So now you *are* cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² 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.”

¹³ And Cain said to the LORD, “My ^[g]punishment *is* greater than I can bear! ¹⁴ 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.”

¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, ^[h]“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.

The Family of Cain

¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of ^[i]Nod on the east of Eden. ¹⁷ And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—Enoch. ¹⁸ To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech.

¹⁹ Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one *was* Adah, and the name of the second *was* Zillah. ²⁰ And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹ His brother’s name *was* Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and ^[j]flute. ²² And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain *was* Naamah.

²³ Then Lamech said to his wives:

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;

Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech!

For I have ^[k]killed a man for wounding me,

Even a young man ^[l]for hurting me.

²⁴ If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,

Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”

A New Son

²⁵ And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him ^[m]Seth, “For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.” ²⁶ And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him ^[n]Enosh.

Then *men* began to call on the name of the LORD.

The book of Genesis is first or at the beginning of the Bible not because it was written first or because it's the oldest book in the Bible...It's the first book because it applicably means beginnings. Genesis introduces us to all sorts of beginnings. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis, is also the place holder for the first marriage and family. From the beginning, the family unit was established and its from the beginning, in which we can see that the problems and issues that often confront us now, originated from back then.

The scripture states that there is nothing new under the sun...Family Matters and Matters within the family unit left unchecked, have the potential of destroying the growth of a church. Why? Because it's the family that makes up the local church—body of believers and the Body of Christ.

It is paramount that the church begin to address these issues—mental issues, toxic behaviors, jealousy, strife, blaming and accusations; all of which starts from the home.

Genesis Chapters 3 and 4 gives us a clear picture of where and how of these things began. It's in this book where we find the sin of Adam, Eve and Cain.

We will look at the following:

- Accountability
- Blame
- Deception
- Jealousy
- Anger
- Lies
- Murder—premeditated
- Hate
- Iniquity
- Transgression
- Sin

It's time for the Church to do some house cleaning—shaking the carpets out, pulling things, throwing things out! The house that's in need of cleaning starts within us. It' families that make up our communities, work places and more importantly—It's family that make up the Church—The Body of Believers that are embodied in the Body of Christ.