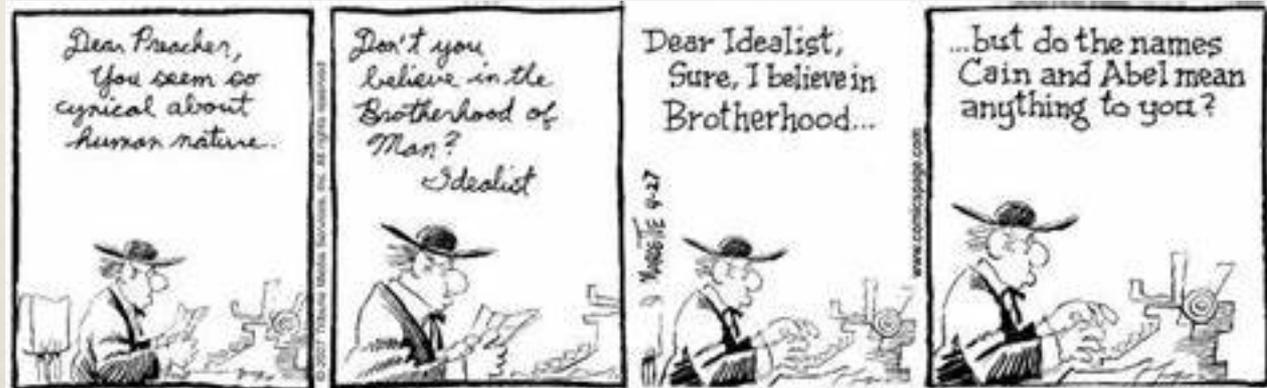


How cool
is it that
the same God who
created mountains
and oceans and
galaxies looked
at you and thought
the world needed one of you,
too.





Cain & Abel

The First Family to Have “Issues”

SHEE-ROO LA YA-WEHH,
KEE, GA-OL, GA-AH
SOUS, WA- RO- KA-- VO
RA MA, YA YAM

Amen.

שִׁירוּ

šî-rū Sing

לַיהוָה

La Yah-weh

כִּי־

kî- for

גָּאָה

gā-'ōh gloriously

גָּאָה

gā-'āh, He has triumphed

סוּס

sūs the horse

וְרֹכְבוֹ

wə-rō-kə-bōw and its rider

רָמָה

rā-māh He has thrown

בַּיָּם:

bay-yām. into the sea

Trivia: Where the the first use of the word "sin" in the Bible? Why is this so very important?

The Rev. Dr. John Dominic Crossan



Timeline of History *Years before the present*

13.5 Billion Matter & Energy appear. Beginning of Physics.

Atoms and molecules appear Beginning of chemistry.

4.5 Billion Formation of Planet Earth

3.8 Billion. Emergence of Organisms. Beginning of biology.

201 Million Jurassic Period of Dinosaurs

6 Million Last common grandmother of humans and chimpanzees

2.5 Million Evolution of genus Homo in Africa. First stone tools

2 million Hominids spread from Africa to Eurasia

500,000 Neanderthals evolve in Europe and the Middle East

300,000 Daily use of fire

200,000 Homo Sapiens evolves in East Africa*

70,000 The Cognitive Revolution: Emergence of Fictive Language. Beginning of "History". Sapiens spread beyond Africa. ("Tree of Knowledge" mutation?)

45,000 Sapiens settle Australia. Extinction of Aust. megafauna

40,000 "Lion Man" statue carved in Stadel Cave, Germany

30,000 Extinction of Neanderthals

16,000 Sapiens settle America. Extinction of American megafauna.

13,000 Extinction of Homo Floresiensis. Homo Sapiens the only surviving human species.

12,000 Agricultural Revolution. Domestication of plants and animals. Permanent settlements. Transition to grain-centered nourishment.

5,000 First Kingdoms, scripts, and money. Polytheistic religions. 60% Sapiens mal-nourished to support middle and upper classes.

70,000

The Cognitive Revolution: Emergence of Fictive Language. Beginning of “History”. Sapiens spread beyond Africa. (“Tree of Knowledge” mutation?)

45,000

Sapiens settle Australia. Extinction of Australian megafauna.

40,000

“Lion Man” statue carved in Stadel Cave, Germany

30,000

Extinction of Neanderthals

16,000

Sapiens settle America. Extinction of American megafauna.

13,000

Extinction of Homo floresiensis. Homo Sapiens the only surviving human species.

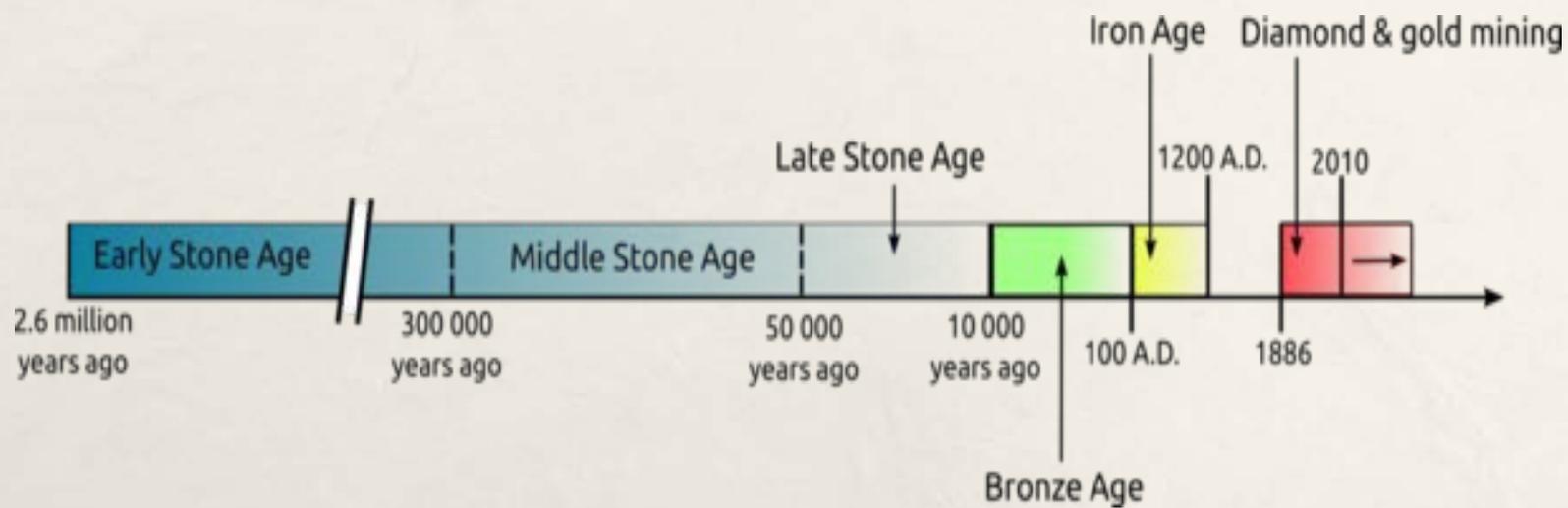
12,000

Agricultural Revolution. Domestication of plants and animals. Permanent settlements. Transition to centered nourishment.

grain-

5,000

First Kingdoms, scripts, and money. Polytheistic religions. 60% Sapiens mal-nourished to support middle and upper classes.



TIME LINE OF STONE AGE

2.5 MILLION YEARS

PALEOLITHIC

OR

OLD STONE AGE

15000 YEARS AGO

MESOLITHIC

OR

MIDDLE STONE AGE

11000 YEARS AGO

NEOLITHIC

OR

NEW STONE AGE

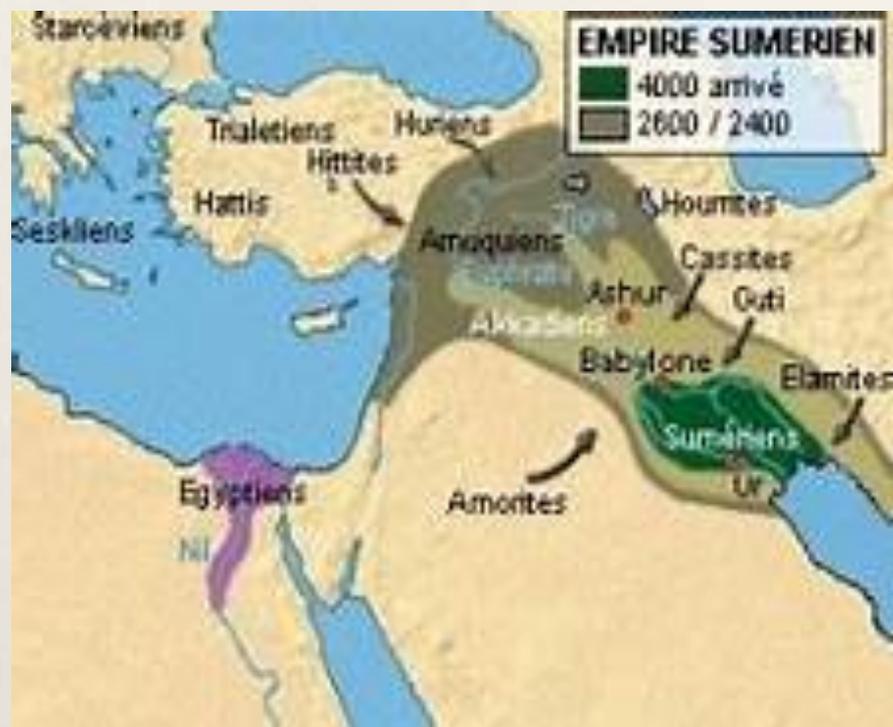


IN THE PALEOLITHIC AGE, HUMAN USED STONES FOR HUNTING WHICH WAS FOUND IN NATURE AND ALREADY HAD CUTTING EDGE. THEY USED TREE BRANCHES, LEAVES AND STONES TO MAKE SHELTER FOR LIVING. THEY ATE PLANTS AND MEAT, GATHERED BERRIES. THEY MAY HAVE EATEN FLESH OF DEAD ANIMALS LEFT BEHIND BY OTHER LARGER PREDATORS. THEY USED FIRE BY RUBBING STONES TOGETHER AND ROASTED MEAT.

IN THE MESOLITHIC AGE, HUMAN STARTED TO SHARPEN THEIR STONE TOOLS FOR HUNTING AND LOOKED FOR STONES (SUCH AS FLINT) THAT WAS HARDER AND COULD BE SHARPENED EASILY. THEY STARTED TO SETTLE IN ONE PLACE BUT STILL REMAIN HUNTER AND GATHERER OF MEAT, FISH, BERRIES, NUTS AND FRUITS.

DURING THE NEOLITHIC AGE, GROUP OF HUNTERS LEARNED ABOUT AGRICULTURE. AT FIRST THEY COLLECTED WILD CROPS AND DOMESTICATED WILD ANIMALS. BY 10,000 YEARS AGO THEY STARTED TO PRODUCE GRAINS, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FROM SEEDS. THEY MADE PLOW OUT OF ANTLERS, STONE AND WOOD AND STARTED TO CULTIVATE THE LAND WITH THE HELP OF HERDED ANIMALS. THEY USED STONE MORTARS AND PESTLES TO GRIND CEREALS AND GRAINS.

10,000 BCE	PALEOLITHIC AGE (Late Stone Age)	
	MESOLITHIC AGE (Pre-pottery)	
9,000 BCE	NEOLITHIC AGE (Pottery)	Jerico village
8,000 BCE		Both Hunter-gatherers & farmers live in villages
7,000 BCE	CALCOLITHIC (Copper-stone)	* (Conflict?)
6,000 BCE	BRONZE AGE	
5,000 BCE		
4,000 BCE		<u>Sumerian Civilization</u> : Gilgamesh Writing invented;
3,000 BCE		<u>Akkadian Civilization</u>
2,000 BCE	(" the 'Apiru migrate to Palestine) (" Abra-himm" appears in folk lore)	<u>Early Egyptian Civilization</u>
1,000 BCE	IRON AGE (1200-586 BCE)	<u>Assyria</u>
0		<u>King David</u> of Israel Babylon, Greeks, Romans



Cain- farmer

Abel — shepherd

God “had regard for Abel”

Cain kills Abel (“wins”?)

Farmer kills Shepherd?

Why did Yahweh “favor” Abel’s offering?

Traditional Answers:

1. God’s Sovereign choice.
2. It was not a “blood sacrifice” like Abel’s.
3. Poor Quality.
4. Attitude Problem.

Genesis 4:5-6

...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 [a]for you, but you should rule over it.”

What can we learn about sin in this story?

1. Sin is **DIRECTLY CONNECTED** to **VIOLENCE**, and all the human emotions---anger, resentment, envy, etc. that contribute to violence.
2. Human Beings **CAN OVERCOME SIN**. "You should master this," assumes that you are **ABLE** to master it. But Sin is "lurking at the door."

“What we see is that, from the very beginnings of civilization, there is ESCALATORY violence (escalating)...

“And so, from the very beginning, the God of these ‘beat up, underdog people’ (the Hebrews), is saying, *This is not what I created the world to be.*

“The message of Genesis Chapter 4 is that, when we walked out of the Garden of Eden with nothing but our conscience, the first thing we saw wrong was Escalatory Violence.”

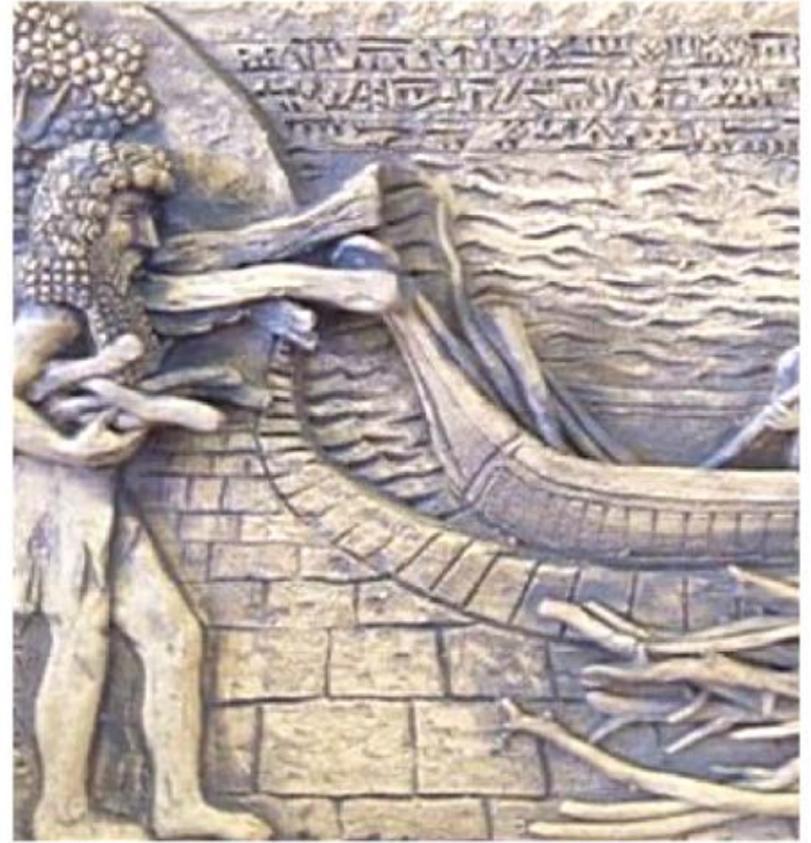
John Dominic Crossan

Sumerian “Logomacy” (i.e. “Word War,” or “Trash talk”)
Mythology between

Dumazid (Shepherd God) and **Enkimdu** (Farmer
God): Who will wed the Goddess Inana? (Farmer wins!)



The Sumarian Flood Myth



*Twelve hundred years had not yet passed when the land extended and the peoples multiplied. The land was bellowing like a bull,
The God got disturbed with their uproar. Enlil heard their noise.
And addressed the great Gods, 'The noise of mankind has become too intense for me,
With their uproar I am deprived of sleep... From the Sumarian Tablets*

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence....And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end to all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. Make yourself an ark of cypress... Genesis 6:11-14



What is the answer to Cain's
question,

“Am I my brother's keeper?”

נש לום