

CAIN AND ABEL
(Genesis 4:1-26)

- I. The WICKEDNESS of Cain (4:1-15)
 - A. The FIRST CHILDREN born (4:1-2)
 1. Cain means "OBTAINED" (cf. 3:15), he was UNRIGHTEOUS (1 Jn 3:12), and became a FARMER
 2. Abel means "VAPOR/VANITY", he was a righteous PROPHET (Mt 23:35; Lk 11:50-51; Heb. 11:4), and became a SHEPHERD
 - B. Cain's faulty CHARACTER (4:3-5)
 1. Showed his heart was not RIGHT before GOD by his OFFERING the fruit of HIS OWN LABOR
 2. Showed by his REACTION to CORRECTION with ANGER for being HUMILIATED
 - C. Cain's faulty BEHAVIOR (4:6-8)
 1. God offered FORGIVENESS if Cain would REPENT
 2. God warned of SIN if Cain REBELLED
 3. Cain responded by MURDERING his BROTHER
 - D. Cain's PUNISHMENT (4:9-12)
 1. God gave Cain an OPPURTUNITY to CONFESS
 2. Cain LIED to God, defying God's right to QUESTION him
 3. God pronounced JUDGMENT on Cain
 - a. Lost his LIVELIHOOD
 - b. Lost his HOME

E. Cain's DESTINY (4:13-15)

1. RECOGNIZED the ENORMITY of what he had done
2. FEARED the RETRIBUTION of others
3. Received from God a "MARK" or a "SIGN" for his PROTECTION and to REMIND him of his SIN

II. The WAY of Cain (4:16-24)

A. Cain's DEPARTURE (4:16-17)

B. Cain's DESCENDANTS (4:18-24)

1. Lamech took TWO WIVES in DEFIANCE of God's design
2. Lamech had THREE NOTABLE SONS
 - a. Jabal invented TENTS and developed methods for RAISING and MARKETING "cattle"
 - b. Jubal invented STRINGED and WIND instruments
 - c. Tubal-cain invented metallurgy in BRONZE and IRON, perfecting and teaching both ARTISTIC and PRACTICAL applications
3. Lamech's BOAST of strength in COMBAT and determination of VENGEANCE (4:23-24)

III. A WINDOW of Hope (4:25-26)

- A. Birth of SETH ("APPOINTED" or "SUBSTITUE"), evidence of Eve's FAITH
- B. Birth of ENOS ("mortal FRAILTY" or "WEAKNESS of the flesh")
- C. Men "began to CALL upon the NAME of the LORD"
 1. Refers to PUBLIC WORSHIP
 2. Also implies PRIVATE PRAYER