

CAIN & ABEL – 2 BROTHERS LOST... GENESIS 4

Now for the sad story:

1. Different from the start!

Genesis 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

Genesis 4:2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

(Obviously this text is exceptionally compact & limited on detail.)

Thoughts:

- Cain **initially** caused Eve MUCH joy
- Cane & Abel were different
- Adam & Eve had little control over those differences

Examples

The State of Theology survey of Evangelicals:

64% said that everyone is born innocent in the eyes of God

53% said that everyone sins a little, but most people are good by nature

Fundamental denial of Original sin (not the original sin but the impact of that sin)

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; And in sin did my mother conceive me.

Psalms 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: They go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Takeaways:

- Your child was born a sinner
- Your child will sin
- Your child **must** be saved
- Your child still bears the image of God
- The Imago Dei hasn't been destroyed
- Potential for great nobility &/ beauty and potential for great cruelty / depravity

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man **in our image, after our likeness**: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. Genesis 1:27 So God created man **in his own image, in the image of God** created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;

Genesis 5:2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

Genesis 5:3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and **begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name** Seth:

2. Different in the heart!

Genesis 4:3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. Genesis

4:4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. **And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:** Genesis 4:5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Genesis 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, **Why** art thou wroth? and **why** is thy countenance fallen?

Genesis 4:7 **¶** thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and **¶** thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

[Genesis 4:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”] ESV

Lots of opinions but let's start with the facts:

- Both brothers brought an offering
- God respected Abel and his offering
- God rejected Cain and his offering

➤ Cain was furious & it showed up on his face

ABEL:	CAIN:
One was a believer	The other an unbeliever
One offered out of faith	The other out of not sure ???
One offered an animal	The other offered the fruit of the cursed ground
One offered as a righteous man	The other as an unrighteous man
The one followed the pattern God had established (3:21)	The other established his OWN pattern

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness **that he was righteous**, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

1 John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, **that we should love one another.**

1 John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

3. Different off the chart!

Genesis 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? **Genesis 4:7** If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Genesis 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Genesis 4:9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? **Genesis 4:10** And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

Genesis 4:11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

Genesis 4:12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth. **Genesis 4:13** And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear. **Genesis 4:14** Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me. **Genesis 4:15** And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him. **Genesis 4:16** And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. **Genesis 4:17** And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived...

4:6 THE QUESTIONS:

4:7 THE OPTIONS:

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore **choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live:

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose you this day whom ye will serve**; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**

4:8 THE DYE IS CAST | THE RUBICON IS CROSSED!

4:9-10

4:11-12

4:13-14

4:15

4:16

4:17