

Morning Sermon December 27, 2020

"The Calamity of Cain ..." – Genesis 4

I. *A beautiful baby, an acquired man, a prized possession for his parents –*

4 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." ² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. Genesis 4:1–2 (NKJV)

1. *The name came means "acquired one or possession" or prized possession, when compared to the meaning of Abel, his brother's name, meaning vanity, emptiness, or nothing! It is clear Cain was Adam and Eve's favorite!*
2. *Cain followed in his father Adam's footsteps; in that he is a "a tiller of the ground" just like Adam.*

II. *Cain's fall into sin –*

How did it happen? Thinking you are STANDING, when you are NOT -

¹² **Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.**

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV)

1. *Be careful when everyone praises you, especially when this happens over a process of time –*

³ **And 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. Genesis 4:3–5 (NKJV)**

- A. *By this time Cain and Abel are adults.*
- B. *They are bringing offerings according to the command of God.*
- C. *Both offerings are legitimate in their own way.*
- D. *However, a blood sacrifice was required for remission of sin –*

²² **And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV)**

2. *Reading between the lines:*

- A. *Cain and Abel seem to be instructed about offerings!*
- B. *In the process of time seems to indicate Cain may have done better with his offering in the past, as this seems to be the first time his offering is not respected by God!*

My thinking is that as children Cain and Abel were instructed about offerings. If there were previous offerings, Cain would have had to obtain a sheep from his brother Abel, as a sacrifice for sin. Through the years, the process of time, looking down on Abel, and thinking too much of himself, maybe even that he, Cain is or was "sinless" he eventually offers only the "fruit of the ground" to the LORD! This is as inadequate as Adam and Eve's fig leaves and probably their pampering parenting of Cain had a part in his downfall, he was their favorite! Some commentators conjecture that Adam and Eve may have considered Cain their Redeemer, the Promised Seed of Genesis 3:15!

3. *God disrespects Cain's offering and Cain is angry with God!*

III. *Running through God's "stop-sinning" stop sign, Cain viscously murders his brother –*

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 for you, but you should rule over it." ⁸ Now 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 killed him. Genesis 4:6–8 (NKJV)**

1. *The stop sign, repent, do well. Implication of this general wording is that Cain KNEW what doing well meant. Doing well meant humbling himself, acquiring a lamb or two from his brother, and making the correct offering.*
2. *Not free will, free fall! Cain had a will; he could make decisions; but his will was not free from sin –*

³⁴ **Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. John 8:34 (NKJV)**

A. *There is only one way of dealing with sin, God's way, which is ultimately Christ's cross, which for Cain would have meant humbling himself before his humble brother –*

B. *Cain chose the way which seems right to a man MURDER –*

¹² **There is a way *that* seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV) also Proverbs 16:25 (NKJV)**

3. *Cain rode sin like a horse he could not control, running FAST to HELL, even after murdering his brother, he sees God as the One in the wrong –*

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 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, "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. Genesis 4:9–15 (NKJV)**

A. *He answers God's question about his brother with a lie, and disrespectfully - :9*

B. *He complains God's punishment too harsh - :13*

³⁹ **Why should a living man complain, A man for the punishment of his sins? Lamentations 3:39 (NKJV)**

If you are alive, and not yet in Hell

You shouldn't complain, God's treating you well!

God is still gracious towards Cain - :15

IV. *Cain, a godless man, leads a godless clan –*

1. *Cain's leaving God's presence, for Cain this is a permanent move -*

¹⁶ **Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. Genesis 4:16 (NKJV)**

2. *Cain left God's presence for Nod, a place of wandering, roaming, in Christ we are to be settled, grounded –*

²³ **if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, ... Colossians 1:23 (NKJV)**

Outside of God, Christ is a place of wandering –

¹¹ **Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, ... foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. Jude 11–13 (NKJV)**

3. *Godless, pampering parenting led to Cain's naming a city after his son, Enoch -*

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. Genesis 4:17 (NKJV)**

4. *Down Cain's line we see increasing Godlessness, bragging about murder and misinterpretation of God's grace -*

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 Jubal. 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 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 killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me. ²⁴ If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold." Genesis 4:16–24 (NKJV)**

Note there are three areas, where three sons, have seeming success: :20 Jubal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock.

:21 Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute.

:22 Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron.

Lamech, the father of these seemingly successful men and a grandson of Cain misinterprets God's grace toward Cain as almost a reward for murder!

Arnold Brevick