

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #18

Genesis 4:8-15

God challenged Cain to do right (4:7), but Cain said “no.” Cain is of the Devil (I John 3:12) and the Devil does not want any one on earth who truly worships God. He wants to rid the world of those right with God.

It was Jude, the brother of our Lord, who described the life of Cain as a “way” (Jude 11). It is a way that, as Dr. C. I. Scofield said, “... worships in self will; is angry with God; refuses to bring a sin offering; murders his brother; lies to God and becomes a wanderer.”

ONE WHO WILL NOT HUMBLE HIMSELF IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD’S WORD WILL SIN GREATLY AGAINST GOD AND BE PUNISHED GREATLY BY GOD.

The way of Cain is the way of pride, rebellion, sin and punishment. It is not the way of humility, of obedience, of righteousness and of blessing. To live life the way of Cain is to live life as a fool.

SEGMENT #1 - The response of Cain to the LORD. **4:8**

God challenged Cain to get a proper offering and bring it to Him (4:5, 7). God gave Cain two options - do well or sin (4:7). Cain chose to sin - he did not offer a proper sacrifice and he killed his brother.

When a person’s conscience is negatively pricked by God’s Word and the person does not properly respond - there are at least seven Biblical possibilities of negative response:

- 1) The conscience is convicted, but non-repentant, leading to further deterioration. John 8:9
- 2) The conscience is weakened and one becomes a hypocritical judge. I Corinthians 10:28-29
- 3) The conscience is defiled and given to unbelief. Titus 1:15
- 4) The conscience is seared and given to evil ways. I Timothy 4:2
- 5) The conscience is cut and moves toward vicious anger toward one righteous. Acts 5:33
- 6) The conscience is remorseful, but not truly repentant. Matthew 27:3
- 7) The conscience is revengeful and seeks to hatefully destroy one righteous. Genesis 4:7-8

Notice the noun “brother” is used twice in this verse, emphasizing this was Cain’s little brother, his own flesh and blood. The text does not say how Cain killed his little brother - there were no guns. Perhaps he crushed his skull with a rock or farm implement; or stabbed him with a knife; or strangled him with his own hands. The real reason he did this was because he hated God and his brother was right with God.

John Calvin said hypocrites are to be dreaded the most when they pretend to be your friend. People like Cain go to church and worship God, but what they are in public **is not** what they are in private.

SEGMENT #2 - The questions of the LORD to Cain. **4:9-10**

Cain forgot that the Lord sees all and knows all, including the heart. The two questions asked by God are designed to get Cain to admit the truth.

Question #1 - The question of Abel's location. **4:9a**

God knew where Abel's body was located, but this question is designed to get Cain to confess, to demonstrate some guilt or shame.

(Response #1) - Cain blatantly lies to God. **4:9b**

Cain, when confronted with his sin, dared to look God directly in the face and lie. Those who lie about their sin will never fool God and will only receive punishment from God.

(Response #2) - Cain sarcastically questions God. **4:9c**

When Cain asks if he is his keeper, he uses a word that describes the work of a shepherd, which is exactly what Abel had been. The word means to keep, to watch, to guard. It was this very issue that Abel offered a sheep that started this entire scenario. One who thinks like evil Cain takes no responsibility for his brother. He does what he wants and doesn't care who he hurts.

Question #2 - The question of Cain's Action. **4:10**

The question "what have you done" is followed up by the statement that Abel's blood cries out from the ground to God. The words "cry out" mean crying out for help or for aid. Sin cannot be covered up, it cries out to the Holy God for punishment. Sexual sin cries out to God (Genesis 18:20-21); mistreatment of others sin cries out to God (Exodus 3:9); mismanagement of people sin cries out to God (James 5:4). **This verse absolutely proves that no murder goes unnoticed by God and innocent blood cries out to God for revenge.**

There is a blood that cries out to God, which is greater than the blood of Abel- it is "the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 12:24). That blood either cries out for you or against you.

SEGMENT #3 - The punishments of the LORD to Cain. **4:11-12**

To this point, God cursed the serpent (3:14), and the ground (3:17); but now He curses a person. God cursed Cain which means God would **never** bless Cain no matter what he did.

Area #1 - God's punishment would affect Cain's occupation. **4:11-12a**

Cain was a tiller of the ground (4:2). That is what God created him to be, but from now on he would never succeed because God had cursed him. He could farm all he wanted but his ground would not produce. It is interesting that Cain will go into the construction business and will be forced to relocate to the city (Genesis 4:17). If we remember he loved to farm, we see that God would never permit him to enjoy his work again.

Area #2 - God's punishment would affect Cain's location. **4:12b**

Cain's curse would be such that he would be forced to move, as Dr. Allen P. Ross said, "a ceaseless wanderer."

SEGMENT #4 - The response of Cain to the LORD. **4:13-14**

Cain does not admit he deserved his punishment, but instead he protests his punishment. Instead of being grateful that God spared his life when he had committed murder, a sin that later would demand the death penalty (Genesis 9:6), Cain complained that someone on earth would kill him.

SEGMENT #5 - The response of the LORD to Cain. **4:15**

This verse proves as Dr. S. L. Johnson states, that "God not only cares for the saint; He cares for the sinner too!" The words "appoint a sign" refer to some type of mark that basically said "do kill by order of the LORD."

There have been many speculations as to what the "sign" or "mark" was - some say a tattoo, or hairstyle or some deformed growth - the text does not say, but whatever it was it guaranteed that Cain would live.

Cain would never know true happiness, peace or blessing. He would live his entire life under the curse, with a dark cloud over his head as a murderer. No matter what he achieved there would always be something lacking - he would never know the tranquility of God because he would never be honest with God about his sin.

These two boys - Cain & Abel, were in the same family; worshipped the same God; had access to the same revelation; knew the same people - had many similarities, but one major difference - Abel had a heart that wanted to be right with God on God's terms and Cain did not. His heart eventually became so hard and dark that he killed his own brother.

There is a blood that either cries out for you or against you - it is the blood of Jesus Christ. Just as Abel's blood cries out for vengeance, Christ's blood cries out for forgiveness. Which is it for you?

God says in Deuteronomy 30:19 that He has set before us one of two options, the way of life and the way of death, the way of blessing and the way of cursing. Then He says, "So choose."