

## Chapter 4

### 4:1-5

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the LORD.” She may have been thinking this was the fulfillment of God’s promise in 3:15. **2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep,** maybe because he saw how necessary they were for sacrifice (3:21)? Leviticus 17:11 later informs the reader that God has an economy requiring bloodshed for sin.

**but Cain was a tiller of the ground.** Probably also learned from his parents. Adam was quite the worker of the ground. **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.** This is often allowed, but not if this was an offering for the soul (Leviticus has many such offerings). **4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,** Hebrews 11:4 tells us why: Abel offered his offering “by faith.” It could be, given Genesis 3:21, 4:7, and Leviticus 17:11, that this has a contextual flow leading us to Cain’s faithless sacrifice being the wrong substance because he was of no such faith. **5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.**

### 4:6-7

**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? The word here carries the idea of being “lifted.” Psalm 3 says that God is the “lifter of our head.” And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you,** much like Eve’s desire is for her husband—she wishes to usurp his authority—probably out of a fear of being dominated. **but you should rule over it.”**

### 4:8

Now Cain <sup>5</sup>talked with Abel his <sup>6</sup>brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and <sup>f</sup>killed him.

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where *is* Abel your brother?”

He said, <sup>g</sup>“I do not know. *Am I* <sup>h</sup>my brother’s keeper?”

<sup>10</sup> And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground. <sup>11</sup> So now you *are* cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. The earth is having a reaction to the blood? This sounds much like Romans 8:20-22 where the earth responds to sin. Leviticus 18:22 say much the same. **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.”**

### 4:13-14

**And Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment This is the only time in Genesis that this word is not translated “iniquity.” is greater than I can bear! 14 Surely You have driven me out this**

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<sup>5</sup> Lit. *said to*

<sup>6</sup> Sam., LXX, Syr., Vg. add “*Let us go out to the field.*”

<sup>f</sup> Matt. 23:35; Luke 11:51; [1 John 3:12–15]; Jude 11

<sup>g</sup> John 8:44

<sup>h</sup> 1 Cor. 8:11–13

day from the face of the ground; <sup>k</sup>I shall be <sup>l</sup>hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen *that* <sup>m</sup>anyone who finds me will kill me.”

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<sup>k</sup> Ps. 51:11

<sup>l</sup> Deut. 31:18; Is. 1:15

<sup>m</sup> Gen. 9:6; Num. 35:19, 21, 27