

Genesis 4: From Cain to Lamech

Forestgate Presbyterian Church ~ November 13, 2011

After the Fall in Genesis 3, the **downward progression** of sin is rapid.

There is an unmistakable theme of **death** starting in Chapter 4 and following with Chapters 5 and 7.

The guilt of Adam's sin is passed down by **imputation** and can only be removed by **imputation** to someone else.

Beginning with Cain and Abel, we see a **division** of **labor**. (Gen 4:2) This is further illustrated by the sons of Lamech and their descendants. (Gen 4:20-22)

Why was Cain rejected along with his offering? Why was Cain angry? Who was he angry with? How would a godly man have reacted to God's rebuke?

What made Abel's offering acceptable to God? (Heb 11:4)

When was the ceremonial law instituted? How do we know?

God warns Cain not to foment his feelings of anger. Cain promptly goes out to the field and **kills Abel**. (Gen 4:8) This is clearly an act of **premeditation**.

God's question to Cain implies that Cain **hid** the **body**. (Gen 4:9) Cain denies any wrongdoing. What was Cain's obligation toward Abel? (1 John 3:11-12)

At this point in time, it appears that the **death penalty** was not permitted. (Gen 4:15)

Cain departs to the **east** with his **wife**. (Gen 4:16-17)

Verses 17-22 provide a brief **genealogy** of Cain's family. There are **six** generations listed, with many more implied.

Among other things, genealogies provide a **transitional bridge** between main characters (in this case, Cain and his great-great-great grandson Lamech).

Lamech shows the hardness of his heart by committing murder and **writing a song** about it. (Gen 4:23-24)

How does the contrast between Cain and Lamech demonstrate the downward progression of sin? (In other words, how is Lamech more depraved than Cain?)

At the end of the chapter, the storyline shifts from Cain back to Adam.

After the death of Abel (*breath*), God provides Adam a new son named Seth (*compensation*).

Seth's line of descent is preserved all the way to **Christ**. (Luke 3:23)

Timeline:

Genesis 4 does not have a clearly defined timeline, but covers more than seven generations of Cain's descendants. Given the longevity of the early generations, Genesis 4 may cover on the order of 1,000 years of history. (The Flood came 1656 years after creation.)