

The First Family

Genesis 4.1-16

Day we Begin 2012 – Return to Book of Beginnings > In the Beginning GOD

Word GENESIS – Greek for “BEGINNINGS” > World - Man – Woman - Marriage

- Lying - Deceit – Murder – Salvation – Family – Government – Covenant

GENESIS is HISTORICAL NARRATIVE by MOSES - REAL People & PLACES

FALL 2010 – Began Series GENESIS 1-3: “As it WAS in the BEGINNING”

Next TWO Months – CONTINUE in Genesis – Chapters 4 -11

Family Dedication: EXPECTING A BABY / Time of Great HOPE & Anticipation

“Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him.” Psalm 127:3

HIGH HOPES FOR THIS FIRST BABY TO BE BORN ON PLANET EARTH

FIRST PERSON WITH A BELLY BUTTON WAS COMING > Ch. > 3 Births

NEVER BEFORE BEEN a PREGNANCY – Wonder Increased Each New Day

1. Two Gifts from God

a. Anticipation

v. 1 Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.

TERRIBLE Effects of their Sin, JUDGMENT of God, On Them & Their WORLD

PATH to TREE of LIFE BLOCKED by FLAMING SWORD

CURSE of DEATH on God’s CHILDREN AND God’s CREATION

v. 1 LIT. “Here he is, the deliverer from the Lord!” > HOPE of Promise KEPT

BELIEVED HIM TO BE THE FULFILLMENT OF God’s Promise of SAVIOR

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” Genesis 3:15

b. Affection v. 1 Adam *knew* Eve his wife; and she conceived (KJV & ASV)

SEX was LOVING EXPRESSION of KNOWLEDGE within MARRIAGE

CANNOT KNOW Naked Person on your COMPUTER SCREEN

Do NOT KNOW RANDOM Person you HOOK-UP With

TRUE INTIMACY goes together with TRUE UNDERSTANDING

MORE FUNCTION of SEX ACT, Man & Woman Life-Long COMMITMENT

“You only have I known of all the families of the earth” Amos 3.1 (KJV & ASV)

Of ALL NATIONS – God put UNIQUE, SAVING, ELECTING Love on ISRAEL

God has INTIMATE Knowledge of HIS REDEEMED / We can KNOW HIM

SEX in MARRIAGE with LOVING, LIFE PARTNER is Expression of True Love

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

John 17.3

THIS IS Eternal Life > BOTH NATURE and PURPOSE of Eternal Life

ETERNITY > KNOWING God, More and More, GROWING in Wonder & Praise

GROWING Wonder of KNOWLEDGE of God > Adam & Eve BEGAN thru Faith

c. Exasperation BABYHOOD WAS NOT ALL IT WAS HOPED FOR

SOON Son CAIN APPEARED TO BE MORE LIKE “offspring of the serpent”

NO ONE HAD TO TEACH HIM TO DISOBEY – sinful by nature from birth

WONDER WHERE CHILDREN – YOUNG ONES – GET BAD IDEAS??

Not Sinner because we Sin / SIN BECAUSE WE ARE SINNERS

DID NOT HOLD SMALL DELIVERER / HELD IN THEIR ARMS MURDERER

History of Human Struggle – WRITTEN IN BLOOD – Was Begun

v. 2 Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

ABEL means “Vanity” / Meaningless – “Enough Already” – Not Again!!

First Parents > FELT LIKE THE PREACHER in Ecclesiastes

"Meaningless! Meaningless! Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED ENOUGH / FELT REALITY of JUDGMENT

"I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth

Genesis 3:16

NOT NEED SERPENT TO REPRESENT EVIL - EVIL IS WITHIN HEARTS

d. Declaration

DON'T KNOW how MANY Children – Adam & Eve had > THREE Sons Named

Had DAUGHTERS > Only way HUMAN Race could PROPOGATE

THEOLOGICAL Shift of Eve thru Genesis 4

v. 1 She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."

Eve is Good PELAGIAN – Emphasis on HUMAN ABILITY “What I DID!”

Eve is Good CAT > Owner Loves ME, Feeds Me, Shelters Me, Gives ME ALL!

Cat says “I must be God” > Cat is the CENTER of their OWN Universe

vs. 25,26 Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him"...At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.

Bitterness of SIN & EVIL in OWN Family > Eve Theological SHIFT

Eve is Good AUGUSTINIAN – Emphasis on GOD “God GRANTED me Child”

Eve is Good DOG> Owner Loves ME, Feeds Me, Shelters Me, Gives ME ALL!

“OWNER must be God,” Dog’s Kind, Providing Owner CENTER of Universe

2. Two Gifts for God

v. 2 Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

MANY THINGS WE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS SITUATION

SOCIOLOGISTS SEE BEGINNING of STRUGGLE btwn Farmers and Herdsmen

EARLIEST DIVISION OF LABOR AND ECONOMICS

Bible focuses on their Spiritual Standing / Gifts they give to God

a. Reception THE ONE WHOM MAN DESPISES GOD RECEIVES

v. 4 Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering

PERHAPS God Sent Fire from Heaven to Consume Offering / Elijah: Mt. Carmel

REASONS FOR THIS ACCEPTANCE??

1) Faith v. 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?

faith comes from hearing the message

Romans 10:17

ABEL had EARS to HEAR WHAT GOD REQUIRED / Attentive to Word of God

ABEL A HERO OF FAITH By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. Hebrews 11:4

2) Blood – God had performed the FIRST SACRIFICE / in Crime Scene of Eden

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them

Genesis 3:21

PRINCIPLE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPTURES

Noah built an altar to the LORD...he sacrificed burnt offerings...The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma

Genesis 8:20,21

without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Hebrews 9:22

ABEL CAME TO GOD as He Instructed / THROUGH BLOOD AND BY FAITH

b. Rejection of Cain's Offering // Surprising? Unfair?

1) Beautiful OFFERING

v. 3 Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.

CONTRAST WITH THE GROTESQUE, SICKENING OFFERING OF ABEL
ISN'T GOD THE AUTHOR OF ALL BEAUTY

CHURCH I Pastored in HAWAII – Beautiful Flowers in Sanctuary every Week
BULLETIN: FLOWERS GIVEN "to the glory of God" by the So & So Family
THAT WAS A GOOD THING / Act of Devotion / Sacrifice of Time and Money

SPECIAL MUSIC Church / "Musical Offering" / Good Thing / Inspiration
"God gave me this song, IF YOU DO NOT LIKE IT, BLAME HIM!"

SERMON – Offering to God / Product of Time and Study

To Pastor at Door "Thanks for Sermon" RESPONSE "Don't thank me, thank God!"

COMEBACK "It was not THAT good!"

GOD HAS X-RAY VISION / Sees from the Inside Out

Man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

FOR SOME THE BEAUTIFUL OFFERING MAY ONLY BE

"a form of godliness, but they deny its power" 2 Timothy 3.5

"Many good, religious people want to be received by God because of their beautiful offerings. But God rejects them and their godless worship. There is no blood, no Christ, and hence no true Christianity, however beautiful their service might be. On the other hand, if one comes first through faith in Christ and His shed blood, then he can present all the beautiful things he is capable of finding or creating. And God will be pleased by this, because the person does not trust these things for salvation but rather is offering them to God just because he loves Him and wants to show affection. It is only on the basis of the sacrifice of Christ that one can come."

James Boice

2) Wicked Intentionally Chose Word for its Sting / Offering Worst Possible Result
PEOPLE DO THINGS FOR GOD / PERHAPS WELL MEANING / GO TO HELL

Walk on Hot Coals / Swallow Glass / Even Nailed to Crosses

NO LIMIT TO THEIR MISGUIDED DEVOTION

v. 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

HOLIDAYS – ZGC family get Airplane/ fly to THAILAND / Envious

SOME PEOPLE WOULD DO ANYTHING TO GET to Tropical Weather

Crawl on their Knees to Airport / Roll around Naked in Snow or Melted Mud

SING SONGS / PREACH / PRAY / OTHER ACTS OF DEVOTIONS

Keepers of the Airplanes / DIM VIEW OF ALL THOSE THINGS

THERE IS ONLY ONE THING THEY ACCEPT / Slip of Paper called a Ticket

No Ticket / No Thailand – No Exceptions – ONLY ACCEPTABLE MEANS

GOD HAS A SIMILAR PLAN – One Way of Acceptance / Exclusive Demand

REPEATED AND DISPLAYED from Genesis to Revelation /

MOSES “Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so that we may obey it?” Nor is it beyond the sea so that you have to ask, “Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so that we may obey it?” No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your hearts so that you may obey it. See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction...Now choose life, so that you and your children may live”
Deuteronomy 30.11-19

SO NO MATTER HOW BEAUTIFUL OUR OFFERING / No Faith, No Blood
all our righteous acts are like filthy rags Isaiah 64:6

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith Abel was commended as a righteous man
Hebrews 11:4

Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.
1 John 3:12

IT MAY BE WELL MEANING - SACRIFICIAL - EXPENSIVE
IF PROMOTES any OTHER WAY TO GOD EXCEPT CHRIST IT IS WICKED
BECAUSE IT WILL LEAD THEM TO HELL

c. Election ROOT OF ISSUE OF THIS ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION

MANY QUESTION GOD'S FAIRNESS ON THIS POINT

1) Person GOD WANTS YOU AND NOT JUST YOUR OFFERING

vs. 4,5 The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.

NOTICE the ORDER / GOD SEES the PERSON, THEN the OFFERING

GOD LOOKS TO THE HEART OF THE GIVER FIRST

Samuel replied (TO SAUL): "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams."
1 Samuel 15:22

2) Plan - BOTH Brothers BORN in SIN – Neither One has CLAIM on GRACE

WHY WOULD GOD ARBITRARILY RECEIVE ABEL AND REJECT CAIN??

PAUL TELLS US THE POTTER HAS FULL RIGHTS OVER THE CLAY

“Rebekah's children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad--in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls--he was told, "The older will serve the younger." Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."... Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.”
Romans 9:10-25

JESUS TEACHES THIS SAME SOVEREIGN PREROGATIVE OF GOD

"All things been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”
Matthew 11:27

GOD'S KINGLY SCEPTRE OF GRACE IS EXTENDED TO ALL WHO COME

“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.”
John 6:37

IF YOU WANT to COME to GOD – Come! Come Now! He is INVITING YOU!

3. One Goes Out From God

a. Warning God did not Accept Cain's Offering / But He still Seeks for Cain

1) Reality God sees REAL CAIN / No Matter his Condition / Nothing to HIDE

Even when tries to HIDE from God > God sees HIM > Right INTO his HEART!

SACRIFICIAL System in Bible – We OWE God the FIRST and the BEST

Last Book of OT – Going thru EMPTY MOTIONS, MEANINGLESS RITUALS

Malachi CONDEMNS bringing SICK, DYING, BLIND, LAME, Animals to God

On this 1st Day of 2012 – Will we give God the FIRST & the BEST THIS YEAR?

Or Whatever I HAVE LEFT-OVER for God – Time, Passion, Energy, Resources?

MANY Times we have ATTITUDE of MINIMAL OBEDIENCE –

How much to HAVE to Give? To PRAY? How FAR can I go with Boyfriend?

How much can I GOSSIP and Still KEEP My SALVATION?

Are we giving GOD MAXIMUM Glory? – Like Widow who Gave All She Had!

Offerings to God MEASURED NOT by HOW BIG? How much it COST YOU?

ABEL's OFFERING Cost God MORE than CAIN's > Abel gave HIMSELF to God

2) No Reason / Cain NO REASON for Anger / Fault NOT OUTSIDE HIMSELF

v. 6 God to Cain “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?”

NEEDED to make Confession of POGO “We have met the enemy, and he is us!”

ONLY HAD HIMSELF TO BLAME FOR HIS TROUBLES

3) Reminder - God Reminds him of – RIGHT COURSE OF ACTION

v. 7 “If you do right, will you not be accepted?”

NOT LACK OF KNOWLEDGE – LACK OF FAITH, HUMILITY, OBEDIENCE

No need to be a Rocket Scientist to know God and His Will for us

4) Refusal - CAIN FLIRTED WITH DISASTER BY REFUSING TO REPENT

v. 7 “But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it”

"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first." Matthew 12:43-45

IF we are to MASTER SIN / Must be MASTERED by Him who MASTERED Sin

ONE WHO CRUSHED SERPENT’S HEAD / WE MUST BE THE MASTER’S

b. Slaying MURDER ONE / Premeditated / CALCULATED, COLD-BLOODED

v. 8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

ALMOST NOBODY SAW THIS SECRET ACT / EXCEPT GOD

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. Psalm 116:15

JESUS SAW “the blood of righteous Abel” Matthew 23:35

FIRST DEATH ON THE EARTH / BROTHERLY MURDER

c. Lying > SEE THE GROWTH OF SIN ON THE EARTH

ADAM PLAYED THE BLAME GAME

"The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit" Genesis 3:12

CAIN 1st Human LIE IN BIBLE / and 1st Human Question / Both directed to God

v. 9 God to Cain “Where is your brother Abel?” LIE “I don’t know”

HE LIED TO GOD BEFORE WHOM ALL SECRETS WILL BE UNCOVERED
 QUESTION “Am I my brother’s keeper?” / QUESTION WORSE THAN THE LIE
 REVEALS COMPLETE INDIFFERENCE to SIN, to LIFE, to GOD – Hard Heart

DOG EAT DOG WORLD / EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF

MAN LYING ON SIDEWALK / JUST ANOTHER DRUNK

WOMAN SCREAMING IN NEXT APT / JUST ANOTHER BEATING

ELDERLY BEGGAR IN FRONT OF STORE / JUST ANOTHER NUISANCE

“Am I my brother’s keeper?” / Cain’s Obvious Answer “OF COURSE NOT”

JUDE SAYS “Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain” Jude 11

d. Cursing NO ONE CAN INJURE his BROTHER w/out Wounding HIMSELF

v. 10 “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will not yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth”

ELOQUENT Voice of ABEL’S BLOOD / HIS BLOOD was GOD’S PROPERTY

GOD HEARS SILENT SCREAM OF AN ABORTED BABY

For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not ignore the cry of the afflicted.

Psalm 9:12

e. Complaining NO LONGER AT PEACE IN THIS WORLD

COULD NOT SING WITH CONFIDENCE "This is My Father's World"

...separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. Ephesians 2:12

“the heart of man is restless until it finds its rest in God”

St. Augustine

vs.13,14 Cain says to God “My punishment is more than I can bear. Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

TRAGIC – Hidden from Presence of God / Source of all Goodness, Joy, Light

WE ARE SOCIETY OF RESTLESS WANDERERS – going from thrill to thrill

Next Great Movie to See / Video game to Play / Vacation to Take / ALL EMPTY!!

The first result of sin is aloneness...sin kills community...to be forsaken. Tim Keller

f. Protecting GOD WILL RESTRAIN VENGEANCE / CONTROL EVIL

vs.15,16 But the Lord said to him, “Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him”

MARK – same word used 2 place in Genesis for “Sign” of the Covenant

Only SPECULATE: Red Spot on Forehead / Gorbecheav –God’s PROTECTION

Then the LORD...said, "Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it." As I listened, he said to the others, "Follow him through the city and kill, without showing pity or compassion. Slaughter old men, young men and maidens, women and children, *but do not touch anyone who has the mark*. Begin at my sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were in front of the temple. Then he said to them, "Defile the temple and fill the courts with the slain. Go!" So they went out and began killing throughout the city. Ezekiel 9.3-7

POINT – God of JUSTICE > Will not Allow Vengeance to Get out of Hand

BEGINNING OF GOVERNMENT / Purpose: Restrain Evil / Control Sinful Man

CAIN COULD HAVE BEEN JUSTLY EXECUTED

"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man." Genesis 9:6

CONTEMPORARY Question: DEATH PENALTY

SCRIPTURE ALLOWS IT - “the murderer shall be put to death” Numbers 35:16

18 CRIMES IN THE LAW OF MOSES WERE WORTHY OF DEATH

BUT SCRIPTURE DOES NOT DEMAND IT

Example of Cain – Premeditated, Calculated Murder – No Death Penalty Imposed
 GOD IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SOULS both Victim and Victimizer
 LIST of BIBLE HEROES includes MURDERERS = MOSES / DAVID / PAUL

PAUL THE MURDERER WROTE - Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.¹ Timothy 1:15

PASTORED in Hawaii / PREACHED Every Month in STATE PRISON

“CHURCH BEHIND BARS” / Awesome Worship, JOY even in the JAIL!

All the Prison Church ELDERS were MURDERERS / Prerequisite? No GUFF!

Way of Cain was Hard / “He started with human reason as opposed to divine revelation; he continued in human willfulness instead of divine will; he chose human pride to divine humility; he sank to human hatred instead of rising to divine love; he presented human excuses instead of seeking divine grace; he went into wandering instead of seeking to return; he ended in human loneliness instead of divine fellowship”
 Donald Grey Barnhouse

“And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead” Hebrews 11.4

BLOOD OF ABEL STILL SPEAKS a better word / Type of the Saving Blood of X
 DIED AND ROSE AGAIN / Mercy for Sinners, even Murders / Gift of Salvation
 PROTECTION – NEW COVENANT of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

You have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
 Hebrews 12.22-24

Abel’s Blood CRIED Out for God’s JUDGEMENT and VENGEANCE

Jesus' Blood calls to God of Justice for PARDON and FORGIVENESS

Abel's Blood PROVED GUILT for Cain

Jesus' Blood PLEADS GRACE for GUILTY CHRISTIANS like ME & You

Abel's Blood shouts that Cain is CONDEMNED – CLOSED Way to God

Jesus' Blood shouts "Come" – He has OPENED the Way – NO Condemnation in X

Genesis 4

1. Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man." 2. Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. 3. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. 4. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5. but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. 6. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7. If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." 8. Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. 9. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" 10. The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. 11. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth." 13. Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. 14. Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." 15. But the LORD said to him, "Not so ; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. 16. So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.