

The First Murder and Its Consequences

Genesis 4:8-16

Review from last week

- **Even the lost and the condemned have hopeful beginnings.** Any child that comes into the world brings hope. She may have even thought; “could this be the one to fulfill Gods promise to bruise the head of the serpent?”
- **The unrighteous offer unacceptable worship.** How should we come to God? On what basis?
 - Woman at the well, “In spirit and in truth”
- **The unrighteous resent the true people of God.** True believers are a public rebuke to the unrighteous (1 John 3, and what reason did he slay him?)
 - *1 John 3:11-13, ¹¹ This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹² We must not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and killed his brother. And why did he kill him? Because Cain had been doing what was evil, and his brother had been doing what was righteous. ¹³ So don't be surprised, dear brothers and sisters,^[c] if the world hates you.*
- **The unrighteous reject the Word of God.** Remember God graciously told Cain what he had to do to be accepted? Does our Bible tell us what God requires from us?
 - *Luke 18:9-14, ⁹ Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: ¹⁰ “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer^[b]: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”*
 - Those who reject God’s Word make themselves vulnerable to the power of sin “Either you come to me and do what’s right or you lose the battle your whole life. You have a choice.”
 - Crouching Lion Metaphor: compare Gen 3:16 and Gen 4:7
 - *Gen 3:16 (NLT), you will desire (teshuqah) to control your husband, but he will rule (mashal) over you.^[a]”*
 - *Gen 4:7 (NIV), if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires (teshuqua), to have you but you must rule (mashal) over it.*
 - Rom 6:12, do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies. Was Cain born a sinner? Are we born sinners? We have a choice. Cain had a choice (follow

God or go his own way), and once he made his choice, sin pounced in him and turned him into a killer.

- *1 John 3:15, ¹⁵ Anyone who hates another brother or sister^[a] is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them.*

This week, Gen 8-16. ⁸ Cain ^[a]told (spoke to) Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³ Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear! ¹⁴ Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵ So the LORD said to him, "Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD ^[b]appointed a sign for Cain, so that no one finding him would slay him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and ^[c]settled in the land of ^[d]Nod, east of Eden.

- **The unrighteous refuse to admin their sin.** They either hide it or they deny it. Adam and Eve timidly hid,
 - Cain kills in v8 and then lies and denies in verse 9.
 - He lies to maintain a "pretense" of self-righteousness. "Am I my brother's keeper"? Well, yes!
 - We are commanded to love our brother.
 - He sarcastically calls God's questions irrelevant.
 - How should I know?
 - QUESTION? Has sin advanced in power since the garden?
 - QUESTION? Does Cain's coverup accomplish anything?
 - So He is self- deceived. He thinks God doesn't know
 - *Gal 5:23, ³ For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*
- He must have fled the scene of the crime because Abel's body is not right there, but (v10) his blood "cries out" (Personification). Undeified ground received Abel's blood
- V 11, God is not fooled. He calls Cain to account and has evidence to prove his case. It's like a court of law.
 - Every sin ever committed cries out to God and is recorded in the book (and the books were opened).
 - God interrogates the suspect
 - Calls the witness (the blood)
 - examines the evidence
 - prosecutes the guilty
 - in v11, ff. "From your hand" you did it!

- then God pronounces the sentence
- V12, Two curses: The ground is cursed for Cain, and He will become a wanderer
 - It will now be impossible for your efforts to cultivate to produce a living
 - The ground he tilled to provide a living, and which produced the self-righteous offering to God is now cursed and will not yield its “strength” (ie. the soil will no longer produce for you)
 - You will no longer have a place to call home and you will be a vagrant (ESV renders it fugitive) wanderer on the earth.
 - H5110. ַדָּן nûḏ: A verb meaning to flee, to wander, to mourn. It has the sense of aimless motion or actions. It refers to a person moving about aimlessly without a home.
 - MacArthur renders it this way, *“This is the pattern for the unbeliever, for the lost person. Meandering purposelessly, meaninglessly through the world, under divine judgment. Nothing they ever touch has any eternal value, nothing they ever touch has any lasting meaning. They cannot draw anything out of life that matters eternally.”*
 - Think about the murders that are described on the news every night
 - Selfish, proud
 - Fits of anger
 - Purposeless
 - Nothing they killed for has any lasting value
 - Then they become fugitives, fleeing the law, wandering about
 - QUESTION? Why do you think didn’t God put him to death?
 - Grace, God is always gracious and longsuffering
 - Government has been given the sword, not to set a pattern of vengeance
 - Example to others. Cain is an example to others of the life of an unbeliever: Unfruitful labor, and a wandering life
- **V13, The unrighteousness protest their punishment.**
 - “My punishment is too great”.
 - “This is not fair”.
 - Ever heard this: “Why would a good God send people to hell?”
- QUESTION? What could Cain have said to God?
 - I’m sorry, forgive me.
 - V 14, Instead, he repeats the curse, maybe hoping God will change His mind, and adds this: “Anyone who finds me will kill me”.
 - Not only is he angry and fearful of God, but he’s also fearful of others.
 - QUESTION? What others? Presumably other people born to Cain by this time
 - QUESTION? Why would others want to kill him?
 - Well, others on the planet may also be related to Abel, we don’t know
 - Even if they were only related to Cain, it’s all one family, vengeance!
 - Prov 28:1, *The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold as a lion.*
 - Similar curses are pronounced on sinning Israel

- *Rom 2:4-8, ⁴ Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵ But ^[a]because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: ⁷ to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; ⁸ but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.*
- The purpose of common grace is to extend to everyone the opportunity to repent
- It is also to make it perfectly clear that God is just and will render judgment accordingly
- *2 Pet 3:9, ⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*
- QUESTION? Does Cain take advantage of the opportunity? No.
 - V16, Cain went out from God's presence
 - And "settled" in the land of Nod (wandering)
- **The unrighteous are eventually indicted by God**
 - Cain, all his work, and all his descendants would be washed away in the flood
 - But there is also spiritual loss resulting from the rejection of God

SO, let's look at the rest of the chapter

¹⁷ Cain ^[a]had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city Enoch, after the name of his son. ¹⁸ Now to Enoch (NOT the same Enoch that was taken by God) was born Irad, and Irad ^[b]became the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael ^[c]became the father of Methushael, and Methushael ^[d]became the father of Lamech. ¹⁹ Lamech took to himself two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah. ²⁰ Adah gave birth to Jabal; 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 lyre and pipe. ²² As for Zillah, she also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of all implements of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

²³ Lamech said to his wives,

"Adah and Zillah,
Listen to my voice,
You wives of Lamech,
Give heed to my speech,
For I ^[e]have killed a man for wounding me;
And a boy for striking me;

*24 If Cain is avenged sevenfold,
Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”*

25 Adam ^[i]had relations with his wife again; and she gave birth to a son, and named him ^[a]Seth, for, she said, “God ^[h]has appointed me another ^[i]offspring in place of Abel, for Cain killed him.” ²⁶ To Seth, to him also a son was born; and he called his name Enosh. Then men began to call ^[i]upon the name of the LORD.

CAIN’s descendants

CAIN	possession	remember Eve said “ I have gained a possession”
Enoch	dedicated	Built a city named after him
Irada	fugitive	
Mehujael	smitten by God	
Methushael	one who makes an appeal to God	
Lamech	powerful	

Lamech’s Wives

Adah	pretty, decorated, or adorned	
Jabal	a stream or irrigation	Dwells in tents and has livestock
Jubal	a horn or trumpet	Those who play the lyre and pipe
Zillah	shade	
Tubal-Cain	coming from Cain	forgery of bronze and iron

- So, in just a few generations
 - A city was built
 - livestock became a profession
 - Music was invented
 - The Science of metallurgy was invented, requires mining, smelting
 - BTW – According to history books:
 - The Stone Age: 2M B.C to 3300 BC (no such thing)
 - The Bronze Age: 3300-1200 BC (the flood is ignored 2348 BC)
 - Iron Age: 1200-550 BC (650 years – post-flood)
 - So according to Genesis 4, bronze and iron smelting was just one guy!

- Job 28 (thought to be the oldest book of the bible, predating the writing of Genesis) describes the process
 - The date of the events Job is after the tower of Babel, but before Abraham
 - This puts it right at the end of genesis Chapter 11.
 - READ JOB 28!

Looking at dates

- The world was created in about 4004 BC (Usher)
- 1656 years later (Counting clear biblical description from Gen 5), the flood occurred in 2348 BC
- Everyone from Cain's line was drowned

What is noticeable in Cain's line is that they accomplished things, but God is not really a part of anything they did. This was the rise of secular society

- Everyone lived between 700-over 900 of years
 - What could we accomplish if we lived that long
 - They had amazing minds
 - They had strength and vitality
 - They were having babies as late as 400-500 years old
 - Can you imagine feeling like 25 when you're 300?
 - Noah was 600 when the flood hit
 - QUESTION? What could we accomplish if our lives were that long?
- Then there is Lamech's Poem (read it)
 - QUESTION? What does this tell you about Lamech?
 - HE was a proud, hateful man
- Also, what is clear is that what the bible says about the pre-flood life is the only record we have. Everything that existed was literally wiped out and buried under mountains of sediment.

Next time we'll touch briefly on Chapter 5, and then dive into Chapter 6, and the events that led up to the flood in Chapter 7.