

The
Land of
Nod

Genesis Chapter Four



~ We took a very long walk with Satan and Eve in our last report from our Spiritual Safari; and, while we tried to lose the devil, we just couldn't. In fact, that long walk took us right on out of the Garden of Eden! In this report, we are going to consider ourselves on a spiritual reflecting pond as we sail across it. Remember how Winston Churchill always referred to the Atlantic Ocean as a "pond?" Well, we're going to take a sincere look back as we move away from the creation account and away from Eden and watch it all disappear in our rearview mirror. We saw very clearly and succinctly the "Root of Sin" in one excruciatingly long report that spanned the entirety of chapter three; and if you have not read all six of our previous safari reports from this book of the Bible, then I can only suggest you go back and do so now.

The "Fruit of Sin" is what we must examine here in chapter four as we begin to follow this beautiful river of truth and wisdom that we found in our last report. If you are actually reading this so called safari, then you will also want to drink from that river of Living Water - and we will – and it is the same river that we will drink from all the way until that last Word of the Bible. This is really a very scenic, strange, supernatural and exotically sensational place for me. I love this place, friends; although, I must warn you, our sailing forecast is very high, rough and dark seas. I doubt that many of you truly understand how dark things are going to get – so very dark – and the blackness of darkness will become so thick that it wouldn't require any effort at all for us to become hopelessly lost. So, if you're really with me on this Spiritual Safari – let's go!

How *BAD* is sin? – Well, man is not suffering from a common cold or the flu, to be sure. What we just witnessed happen between Satan and Eve was not merely some *little* problematic something. By disbelief and disobedience

man has now turned from God, sinned in such a way that he has been “banished” from a perfect environment and removed altogether from the presence of the True and Living God. Further, man has now sinned in such a way that he has brought the judgment and wrath of God upon himself and the entire human race for millennia to come; that is, you and I have inherited Adam and Eve’s natural and sinful nature. Daddy Adam and momma Eve certainly gave us terrible DNA, by the way. You don’t have to have a DNA test to determine if you’re a sinner, my beloved. You are. God said so; and now God is going to take the time, effort and space to explain this culmination effect to us in detail in the story of two sons, Cain and Abel, the apparent first children of Adam and Eve. They certainly had more children - but only these are named here; although we’ll see another child of theirs, Seth, by the end of this report....

1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

~ Remember, God has promised Eve a son in her line that will be enmity between the serpent and her seed - Genesis chapter three verse fifteen. Adam and Eve thought this little baby was the one. They had no idea that their struggle with the effects of their sin would last so long or that the ramifications would be so deeply entrenched in their lives – or in the lives of their children. When Cain came along, Eve must have said to Adam, “....well, I’ve begotten the one God promised.” They probably packed their bags in anticipation of returning to Eden. Unfortunately, Cain turns out to be a killer, not a Redeemer. You dear readers probably immediately have the foresight to understand that their faith will now be tested – and you would be right. Cain was no divine savior – he was a huge disappointment – and, as we know, it will be a long time before our Savior makes it on the earthly scene. See, after a minimum of six thousand plus years, this struggle between the seed of the woman and the seed of Satan continues and rages – even as I type this report and you read it. My personal estimation is that this struggle has been supervening a whole lot longer than that – but I digress....

2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

~ “In process of time” means: “end of days” or “Sabbath Day” – on the day that God completed His work and rested. “Brought” means “to an appointed place.” So, they both brought an offering to God - to an appointed place - to worship on the Sabbath Day. This was all revealed to them by revelation, too, by the way. How do we know that? – Well, we know it because the writer of the epistle to the Hebrews wrote, “...by faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain...” How could Abel offer unto God by faith? – Faith cometh by hearing; and hearing comes by the Word of God, which is written, you know. God had to have given His Word to Abel or he would never have been able to come to Him in faith!

That’s the only way Abel was redeemed by God, friends – by faith in the blood sacrifice that God had commanded. Cain, however, brought his offering from the fruit of the ground. Cain knew the specific acceptable sacrifice that the Lord had declared; but Cain decided he was going to come to God on his own terms and do it all his own way. Now, there was nothing wrong with the fruit that Cain brought. I am absolutely sure that was county fair blue ribbon prize-winning fruit – believe me. He wasn’t giving old second hand clothes to some homeless mission. No, the fruit Cain brought was the best of the best of the primo stuff. Tragically, that’s just not what the Lord had revealed to Cain to be brought as a sacrifice....

4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

~ So, why did God not have respect unto Cain and his sacrifice? – Well, the eleventh verse of Jude told us that apostates in the last days will have gone the way of Cain; but what exactly is the way of Cain? – When Cain brought that offering to God, he did not come by faith. That was Cain’s way –

unfaithfulness. He came to God in his own power by his own might and the offering that he brought denied that human nature is evil. So, Cain called God a liar. God had instructed both men to bring a sacrifice that pointed to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ; a sacrifice that pointed to our Redeemer, Who had been promised to their mother, and, thereby, to the entire world. Today, you and I still must come to God on that basis alone – HIS basis - as sinners. We don't come to Him by the works of our own hands. We cannot come to God in our own righteousness – because we have no righteousness, and we have nothing acceptable to offer – and, even if we did, God isn't accepting it.

Cain's sacrifice flatly denied that man had become separated from God through the disobedient and sinful actions of his mother and father. Cain acted like there was no problem at all in his relationship to God! Sound familiar, friends? That's liberalism today; that is, they talk about the "universal fatherhood of God" and the "universal brotherhood of man" - but things are *NOT* alright between God and man today - and they weren't right in Cain's day, either. We are not born children of God - we only become children of God when we are born *AGAIN*. Man is utterly and abjectly separated from God today. Cain refused to recognize that truth; and multitudes of highly religious people still refuse to recognize it today, too.

Another chilling aspect of disobedience that the sacrifice of Cain reveals is that he refused to accept that man cannot offer works to God for salvation. Salvation is not by works of righteousness, which we have done, but it is according to His mercy that ye are saved! Well, Cain didn't think so. In fact, Cain HATED that tenet of Scriptural truth. So, what we are going to find now is not a character flaw or some profound difference between these two children of Adam and Eve. No, the only difference was their offerings. These two boys had the same background, same heredity, same environment, received the same upbringing - there was literally no other difference between Cain and Abel except what they brought to the Lord. Cain didn't get his bad disposition from some freaky uncle – and Abel didn't get his goodness from some fine Sunday school aunt on the mother's side, either. They didn't even have aunts and uncles yet. No, friends, we must recognize that the *ONLY* difference was in the *offering*.

That offering makes all the difference in the world between men today, too. No Christian should ever take the position that he is better than anyone else. The mark of a genuine Christian is the self-recognition that he is a sinner *LIKE* everyone else. Man needs an offering. Man needs a sacrifice; and man needs someone to take his place in death. That's why Paul said, "*...whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his Blood*" – *Romans chapter three verse twenty-five*. Being ignorant of God's righteousness, Cain went about to establish a righteousness of his own. This is a picture of multitudes of people today who are attempting to make themselves acceptable to God through religion and doing this and that - but who have no fellowship with God. The righteousness of God will only come to you when you have a perfect sacrifice - and there is only One Perfect Sacrifice – the Lord Jesus Christ - Who is it and Who provides it for us. Jesus was delivered for our offenses. He was raised for our justification; that is, for our righteousness. Christ took our place and was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him! Paul also said, "...that I might be found in Him not having mine own righteousness, but the righteousness which is by faith" – Jesus Christ. The sacrifice that Abel made pointed to *Him!*

The late Dr Harry Rimmer took the position that Cain and Abel were twins. I would say they were a little closer than any set of twins ever have been in history because their blood-line did not reach way back on both sides "polluting" the DNA, for lack of better phrasing and terminology. So, while we have established that there were absolutely no factors that would have caused a difference in Cain and Abel, paradoxically, there *WAS* a difference – a big difference! A huge diversion between the two undeniably exists; but, again, it is not necessarily a character divergence. It was a difference that we will learn was on the basis of one accepting the Word of God by faith and the other bringing his own works with little or no recognition of God's Word at all – and brother or sister – this is so critically important to understand that I cannot stress it enough in your reading – and you can just write it down....

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

~ Cain was an angry man; angry enough that he would soon murder his brother. There is always an anger element in murder. Jesus said, "if you are angry at your brother ye are guilty of murder." Behind anger is jealousy - and behind jealousy is pride! Spiritual pride means there is no awareness or sense of sin in any way, shape or form. Cain is as angry as a man can get - which always happens in religion, too, by the way - and now it has led to murder. When we get to the Book of James, he will put it like this, "*....then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death*" - James chapter one verse fifteen.....

There is another translation to the original text for verse seven where we read "be accepted" which translates like this: "*....shalt thou not have excellency?*" The eldest son always occupied a place of preeminence. Cain was afraid of losing that position in the family; but, what does God mean when He says, "to do well?" - Well, "well" would have been to bring that sacrifice which God *had* accepted from Abel; that is, the proper sacrifice in confession that he was a sinner - but, oh, no, not Cain; he would have no part of doing it Gods way, my beloved - even when given a *second chance*. Likewise, an acceptable interpretation for the phrase "*....sin lieth at the door*" has been "an offering for sin" - or "a sin offering" - ...lies at the door; that is, there is the Little Lamb. That makes sense, but don't think it means "*sin offering*" in the strictest sense of the phrase here - because it doesn't! See, up to this time, and beyond this time - in fact, up to Moses time - as far as I can tell from the Word of God, there was no sin offering specified. The sin offering was made known in the animal skins God prepared for Adam and Eve - but no instructions were given - and won't be given until we get to the Book of Leviticus. So, our reasonable conclusion is that the sin offering did not come into existence until the law was given.

Romans 3: 20for by the law is the knowledge of sin ~

The only offering we find before the sin offering commanded in Leviticus is the *BURNT* offering. It certainly also spoke of the coming of Christ to die on the cross; but it was not in ANY WAY a sin offering. Remember, Job, who, obviously, lived before Moses, brought a burnt offering for his children. The problem with Job is that he never brought a burnt offering for himself! If you want to search that all out in Scripture you will find that this is true. It is said of Cain, "...not as Cain, who was of that wicked one and murdered his brother, and wherefore slew he him? – Because his own works were evil and Abel's works were righteous." So, "if thou doest *NOT* well, sin lieth at the door." As we have said, to do well would have been to bring the acceptable sacrifice, which God had Personally instructed them both - the same offering that Abel had offered - a burnt offering. There could be no sin offering until the law was given – and, of course, that hasn't happened yet. Sin will not become a *TRESPASS* against the law until much later. These things are very, very important to understand; and that's why we are spending so much time repeatedly reflecting on all of these truths....

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, How do I know: Am I my brother's keeper?

~ Cain gives God a sarcastic, flippant, irreverent and impudent answer to His question as you can see. He simply could not have cared less about what he had done to harm his brother. Cain tries to cover up by answering God's question with a question; and we saw how doing that never works out well in the prophecy of Malachi, you may recall. That reveals that man was doing the same thing all the way through the Old Testament, by the way – from Genesis to Malachi – but, again, I digress. There is nothing that is covered that shall not be revealed; and neither hid that will not be known. That's really something for each of us to think over very carefully today. If you have some secret sins you better deal with them right now down here because, if you don't, then they are going to be completely exposed at your judgment. He already knows about them, my beloved, you just won't tell Him in prayer about them because you are in denial concerning them. You can't hide yourself or your sins from Him! Even so,

Cain is sticking by his “not guilty” plea to the judge. Well, Abel’s blood was evidence of murder committed; the blood of Christ speaks of redemption - salvation. The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews said, “....and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel” – Hebrews chapter twelve verse twenty-four....

10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground.

11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother’s blood from thy hand;

12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

13 And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

~ The earth, of course, depletes in fertility and must be renewed when cultivated. We are very near depletion without replenishing resources today. Honestly, I’m glad I won’t be around this earth much longer; but we’re not really interested in looking at earthy stuff anyways when such spiritual revelation is being given out. So, my question is: why didn’t Cain just turn to God and cry out for mercy if he was unable to bear this judgment? Why didn’t Cain just cast himself upon the mercy of God and skip the excuses? – See, the punishment WAS too great for Cain to bear – but God had provided a way to salvation – a way that was repeatedly rejected by Cain! As a result, Cain was to be hidden from the face of God – and that is exactly how it all worked out....

14 Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.

15 And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

~ The apostle John said, "...not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous" – first John chapter three verse twelve. Alright, now Cain is hidden from the face of God, but notice this strange protection that a good, loving and merciful God still gives an evil Cain at this point. It's almost scandalous as it would now seem as though God were harboring a murdering fugitive. Well, you better pray about that. Now, we don't know what "the mark" is because we are not told; and we're not told because it is not important. There has been a lot of speculation about that mark, indeed. Therefore, I don't think adding my speculation will help anyone. What I do know for sure is that God protects this man who has been disobedient; but we must remember that no law has been given against murder yet – so he is, technically, not a *transgressor*. Cain's one and only sin is STILL that he didn't bring the only offering instructed by and acceptable to God.

Here we see the downward progression of disobedience all the way to murder. Cain's deeds were evil in what he brought to God; and those evil deeds were made manifest in the slaying of his brother. That's how religion works, my friends – today – and all the way back to the first religion of the offspring of Adam and Eve! From here we will see man move out and away from God and establish civilization. The civilization of man will be one that is apart from God altogether. The children of Cain establish a most Godless civilization from the very beginning of man's technological development. In verse sixteen it would appear that Cain goes where many church members are on Sunday morning; but I don't know where the land of Nod really was. I have wondered - and there is much speculation about this, too....

16 And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

17 And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.

~ Man has been building cities after his own name ever since chapter four of Genesis in the Word of God – and man absolutely loves to develop and construct things. Not just cities, but parks, museum's, schools, streets, sports and government buildings, theater's, restaurants, you-name-it and man names himself after it. Here is where all of that began in history - and where urban life began as man builds his first city. Our modern day cities have become one of the biggest problems that we have today. We hear how cities are far too overcrowded; but people are still moving to them in droves from all over the world. Interestingly, right along side with these cities and so called modern day technical advancements, polygamy is introduced in verse nineteen – let's call it sex in the city. Well, God never approves of polygamy - He always condemns it. The following account is given on the basis of HISTORICAL record only....

18 And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael: and Mehujael begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech.

19 And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

20 And Adah bare he was the father of all Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle.

21 And his brother's name was Jubal: such as handle the harp and organ.

22 And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubalcain was Naamah.

23 And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.

24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold.

~ Now, Adah means “pleasure” or “adornment.” Zillah means, “to hide” – she was a coquette! This man Lamech takes a couple of real winners as wives, and later, we’ll see something happens. In the meantime, in the final few verses of this chapter, we see the first General Contractor making tents, the first herdsman keeping cattle, the beginning of the family of musicians and the first smiths and craftsmen. Civilization and culture are hereby born; and here is the first man that looks to another man and says, “if he can get away with murder, I can get away with murder.” Lamech says, “....Cain didn’t slay in self-defense, but I have.” Honestly, because I always am honest with you dear readers, I don’t know if Lamech did slay in self-defense or not. He says he did; and it would seem that there was some nagging reason to tell his wives – whereas he wouldn’t have been obliged to give them the time of day, ‘ya know? Maybe Lamech was defending one of them? Who knows? – What we do know is that Lamech thinks some mystical, Godly number multiplied by Cain’s unfaithfulness will avenge him. The Lord Jesus Christ, however, told Simon Peter that seventy-seven fold is how much YOU should *forgive* YOUR enemy. So, any way we cut it, Lamech was completely wrong in his religious philosophy....

25 And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.

26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD ~

