

Cain and Abel



Genesis 3:21 - 4:15

Cain and Abel –

Everything in the Bible has a purpose. Whether it is a sad story, angry story or a happy one. God intends for us to learn from it.

There is a verse in the Bible that says just that. This is from the King James Bible translation:

2 Timothy 3:16 - All scripture is God Breathed , and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

And from a simpler translation (sometimes that helps me to understand)

[NIRV](#)

God has given by inspiration, all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right.

Now read the story of Cain and Abel found in Genesis 3:21 through 4:15. See if you can find out God wants us to use it for instruction, correction and training. (If you have the whole family reading it, I have sectioned it out in colors so that each person can read a colored section)

[Genesis 3:21 – 4:15](#)

Genese 3:21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” ²³

So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side^[e] of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 4:

Adam^[a] and his wife Eve lived together, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.^[b] She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth^[c] 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 And Abel also brought an offering—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 rule over it.”

If you want, lets stop right there and see how much you can remember:

Questions:

1. Do you know how many “special” trees did God put in the Garden of Eden? 2
Do you know the names of them? *The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life.*
2. In what way did Adam and Eve become like God? *Knowing good and evil (Gen 3:22)*
3. What would happen if Adam and Eve ate of the Tree of Life? *They would live forever.*
4. How did God protect the entrance to the Garden of Eden? *Put a cherubim with a flaming sword (v 24)*
5. What did Adam and Eve do to be banished from the Garden? *Disobeyed God.*
6. What was the name of Eve’s first son? *Cain (Gen 4: 1)*
7. What was the name of Eve’s second son? *Abel*
8. What kind of job did Cain do? *Farmer*
9. What kind of job did Abel do? *Shepherd*
10. What offering did Abel bring to God? *Fat portions from the firstborn of his flock (the sheep had to be killed to get the fat portions and the firstborn were the best)*
11. What offering did Cain bring? *“some” of the fruits (not the first fruits)*
12. Whose did God find favor with? *Abels*
13. Why do you think God found favor with Abel’s offering?

We don’t really know why God did not accept Cain’s offering. There are likely several reasons. One reason is the difference in the character of Cain and Abel. Abel is referred to as a righteous man in Scripture ([Matthew 23:35](#)), but Cain is called an evil man ([1 John 3:12](#)).

We also can say this is a foreshadowing of Christ's blood shed for us. Even though the sacrificial system would not be instituted until Moses.

Reading on:

⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field."^[d] While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

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^{le}!; anyone who kills Cain 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,^[f] east of Eden.

Questions:

1. Abel went with Cain into the field and what happened? *Cain Killed him.*
2. Why do you think he did that? *Jealous, angry*
3. God asked Cain "Where is your brother, Abel" Do you really think that God didn't know?
God sees it all. *There is no hiding anything from God. Cain learned this lesson the hard way when God confronted him after killing Abel. God knows what we do, what's in our hearts, what we think, say, and more.*
4. And what did Cain say? "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?"
This response by Cain has come to show how people do not want to accept responsibility for the welfare of their fellow man. While we cannot be the keeper of others in our absence, Christianity believes we have a collective responsibility to care for others when we can and not commit or allow acts of

violence if we can prevent such. Jesus says that we should “love another” **John 15:12 says: This is my commandment, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you.**

Let’s think deeply:

5. Do you think Cain understood what he had done? Had he ever seen a person die?

Cain had never seen a person die. Abel was the first. Maybe he just hit him. Have you ever hit your siblings? Maybe not hard or maybe you have.

6. Do you think Cain was sorry? Why? Look at verse 13.

7. How did God provide safety for Cain? *He put a mark on him.*

8. What do you think that was? *We are really not sure, some think it is sort of a birthmark, and others think it was a spiritual protection.*

A little more information:

When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters.” ([Genesis 5:3–4](#)).

Seth being the third named son means little in regards to birth rank. And think about it: 130 years is a long time for Eve to have had a mere three children! That’s only one child every 43 years. Seeing that Adam and Eve were commanded to reproduce ([Genesis 1:28](#)), it might be assumed that Cain was born pretty early, perhaps a year or two after Creation Week. Abel was born after that, but not necessarily next. His name appears next, but this is because he is an important part of the story. Yet even if Abel was the second child, it is unlikely that Seth was the third.

By the way, God did not institute any law against marrying close kin until 2,500 years later, in the time of Moses ([Leviticus 18:10](#))