

GENESIS 4:3-16 *And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain (“begotten”), brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.*

Gen 4:4 Abel (“frail”) also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

- Abel offered in faith, and Cain did not, Heb 11:4—“By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.”

Gen 4:5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

- Cain's proud rage and enmity against the accepted worshipper of God, led to the awful effects the same principles have produced in every age; the cruel persecution, and even murder of believers.
- Back of premeditated murder there always is anger. Our Lord said that, if you are angry with your brother without a cause, you are guilty of murder. Back of anger is jealousy, and back of jealousy is pride. There is no sense of sin whatsoever in spiritual pride. James put it in language like this: "Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death." (Jas 1:15).

Gen 4:6 So the LORD said to Cain "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

- THE CHOICE: - (Notice the universal choice that follows here – may we consider this well, every time we blow it!;
- If you choose to do well, your countenance will be lifted up, as it was previously, you first born!) -

Gen 4:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted?

- Is. 61:3- choose to put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness!
- 1 Thess 5:16-18-rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks!
- Phil. 4:8 – choose to think whatever is pure and lovely and praiseworthy!
- OR: And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door.
- Sin's desire is for you, but you should rule over it." Cain, sin lies at the door like a lion ready to attack. You will either be lifted up or you will be attacked. It's your choice- get mad, sulk, be bitter, let the root of bitterness and hatred grow! Don't treat jealousy or resentment lightly, because it is not a light thing. Let it fester and soon you will find yourself in the grip of a

power greater than you can handle, and you will do things that you didn't ever think you would do."

Gen 4:8 Now 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 killed him.

- The deed is done that cannot be recalled. The motives to it were various. Selfishness, wounded pride, jealousy, and a guilty conscience were all at work 1Jo 3:12 –“not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.” Here, then, is sin following upon sin, proving the truth of the warning given in the merciful forbearance of God.

Gen 4:9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

- Sin says, I don't care about him or her! He hurt me. He offended me. He wronged me! If there is anyone in your life or mine that we would just as soon have disappear—BE CAREFUL!--unless we walk the way of Cain, letting our hostility and bitterness alter the course of our life just like Cain!

Gen 4:10 And He said, "What have you done?" The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

Gen 4:11 So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

Gen 4:12 When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."

Gen 4:13 And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear!"

- Notice Cain didn't say, LORD, forgive me, but my punishment isn't fair! He remains in his cursed condition because he chose to be mad rather than to ask for mercy! How about us?

Gen 4:14 Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me."

Gen 4:15 And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

- Notice how the LORD looks on this unrepentant man, who continues to be so wrong and says not to let anyone bother or kill him—Oh, the grace and mercy and goodness of our LORD!!!

Gen 4:16 Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.