

GENESIS

IN THE BEGINNING...

3/3/24

Text:
Genesis 4:1-16

"Cain and Abel"

I. The Crime (vs. 1-8)

A. Cain and Abel are born.

Genesis 4:1-2 - Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." ² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

B. Cain and Abel bring offerings to the Lord.

Genesis 4:3-5a - And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering.

C. God's concern for Cain.

Genesis 4:5b-7 - And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. ⁶ So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?" ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

D. Cain murders Abel.

Genesis 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.

II. The Punishment (vs. 9-16)

A. God confronts Cain.

Genesis 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?"

B. God punishes Cain.

Genesis 4:10-12 - And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. ¹¹ So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 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."

C. Cain receives mercy from God.

Genesis 4:13-16 - And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! 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." 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. ¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.

Next Sunday's sermon: Genesis 4:17-26

If you were to share a key insight from today's sermon with a friend, what would you say in a sentence or two?

Discussion Questions: Are we letting sin fester Instead of putting it to death? Are we humbly receiving biblical counsel or stubbornly continuing in our own path? Are we trying to get right with God through His means or through our own means? In what ways did God show care and mercy to Cain? In what ways did God show care and concern for Abel? How did Cain's responses to God reveal the condition of his heart?

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