

BIBLE STUDY LESSON: 10 PEOPLE IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Cain

I. The meaning of Cain's name – Acquired (Gen. 4:1)

- A. Eve having believed God's promise that her seed would crush the head of the serpent (Gen. 3:15)
- B. The birth of her first son, gave her hope that the promise would soon be fulfilled through her son, so she named him Cain "acquired", saying, "I have acquired a man, Jehovah."

II. Taught About God, but refusing to take God's way

- A. Adam and Eve taught their sons how they had:
 - been created by God,
 - been charged by Him not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil,
 - violated God's prohibition
 - been in fear and trembling as they awaited death.
- B. They taught their sons that God brought them good news, instead of judgment, promising them that the seed of woman would bruise the head of the serpent,
- C. They had, no doubt, taught Cain and Abel that God had provided sacrifices, which became their substitutes, using the skins to make clothing to cover their nakedness that they could stand before God and have fellowship with Him.
- D. Cain knew these things, yet he refused to take God's way.
 1. He failed to present an offering with the shedding of blood according to God's ordination according to redemption.
 2. According to his own preference he presented the fruit of the ground, the product of his own labour, as an offering without the shedding of blood. (Gen 4:3).
- E. As a result, he was not accepted by God, he lost God, and he was driven away and went out of the presence of God. (Gen 4:5, 16)
 1. His descendants thus moved toward a godless culture (Gen 4:17, 20-22)
 2. They murdered (Gen 4:23-24) and practiced polygamy (Gen 4:19)
 3. They became altogether godless; they had nothing to do with God, and they were without hope and were altogether empty in the world.

III. Caring only for his own existence, not for God's purpose

- A. Cain was a server of the ground (Gen 4:2b, lit.); to serve the ground is to earn a living, which is for the sustaining of one's own existence, not for God's purpose in His redemption.

- B. This indicates that although Cain knew God, he cared only for his own existence and did not care for God's purpose nor for God's satisfaction.
- C. Throughout the ages, all unbelievers have been toiling and labouring in order to earn a living, caring only for themselves, not for God or for God's economy¹

IV. Becoming the representative of all those who refuse to take God's way of redemption

- A. Cain served God religiously according to his own way and after his own will.
- B. He rejected the redemption of blood that was required and ordained by God, and according to the flesh he envied and murdered Abel, a faithful witness of God (Gen 4:4-5, 8).
- C. Eventually, he was rejected by God.
- D. Therefore, Cain took the godless way, which is not the way of redemption ordained by God.
- E. The way of Cain became a model (*Jude 11a*), representing the way of death taken by the godless people throughout the ages, a way that is out of death, in death and unto death.

V. Becoming the representative of all those who murder because of religious jealousy

- A. Cain is also the representative of all those who murder the real worshippers of God because of religious jealousy.
 1. This exactly corresponds to the word of the Lord Jesus in *John 16:2*: "An hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think that he is offering service to God."
 2. *Rev 17:6* says that the woman², was drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus.
- B. All these historical facts are represented by Cain's murdering of his brother Able. All such murderers are walking on the same pathway as Cain.

FOCUS: Cain, who had brought hope into the heart of his mother, took a way other than God's ordained way, establishing the principle of man made religion, based on the works of the flesh, and culminating in religious jealousy and a Godless culture and society

¹ God's purpose

² The sad, repugnant history in Christendom, of so-called Christians killing other so-called Christians, is a blemish on the name of Jesus Christ and a shame to the church. From the time of the apostles, then during the period of the Ante- and Post-Nicene Fathers, through the middle ages, the split between the eastern and western church, the conflicts during the Reformation, the Inquisitions and right up to recent history, this principle of Cain has prevailed.

Review Questions

Question 1 What two categories of Adam's descendants do Cain and Abel as a pair represent?

Question 2 Describe briefly how Cain knew God but refused to take God's way.

Question 3 What category of people does Cain represent?

Question 4 Contrast Cain with the Lord Jesus Christ?

Scriptures Reading

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman And between your seed and her seed; He will bruise you on the head, But you will bruise him on the heel.

Gen.4:1 And the man knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain and said, I have acquired a man, Jehovah.

Gen.4:3-5,8 (3)And in the course of time Cain brought an offering to Jehovah from the fruit of the ground. (4) And Abel also brought an offering from the firstlings of his flock, that is, from their fat portions. And Jehovah had regard for Abel and for his offering. (5) But for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. And Cain became very angry, and his countenance fell. (8)And Cain said to Abel his brother, Let us go into the field. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him.

Gen.4:16-17, 19-24 (16) And Cain went forth from the presence of Jehovah and dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden.(17) And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and

gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city and called the name of the city after the name of his son Enoch. (19) And Lamech took two wives for himself: The name of the first was Adah, and the name of the second Zillah. (20)And Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and raise cattle. (21) And his brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. (22) And Zillah also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of every cutting instrument of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. (23) And Lamech said to his wives, Adah and Zillah, listen to my voice; O wives of Lamech, hearken to my speech; For I have slain a man for wounding me, Even a young man for striking me. (24)If Cain is avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.

Isaiah 9:6 For a child is born to us, A son is given to us; And the government is upon His shoulder; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Acts 7:58 And they threw him outside of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man called Saul.

Acts 8:1,3 (1) And Saul approved of his killing. And there occurred in that day a great persecution against the church which was in Jerusalem; and all were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. (3) But Saul was devastating the church, entering house after house; and dragging off men and women, he delivered them to prison.

Acts 9:1-2 But Saul, still breathing threatening and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked for letters from him to Damascus for the synagogues, so that if he found any who were of the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

1Cor.3:11-12 For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble

Eph.2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; Not of works that no one should boast.

Phil.3:6 As to zeal, persecuting the church; as to the righteousness which is in the law, become blameless.

Heb.2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

Heb.9:22b ...and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness

Jude 11a Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain...

Rev.17:6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And I marveled with great marvel when I saw her.