

# GENESIS CHAPTER 4

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This chapter lists a number of first time occurrences. Included are the first sacrifice, the first prophet, first murder, the first writing, the first polygamy, the first music, the first metalcraft, the first city, and the first prayer. Also the first pregnancy and the first poetry.

Dr. James E. Smith says that over a century elapsed between the events of Genesis 3 and those of Genesis 4.

## (1) Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."

- Relations were a choice, not an impulse of nature.
- This translation chooses *made love* to describe what older translations called *knew his wife*. This indicates some shift in the English meaning of love.
- Some think she might have given birth to daughters before this event. At any rate, she was delighted to have a son and honored the Lord because of him.

## (2) Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.



- She could have had other unnamed daughters in this span of time.
- Adam probably cared for domestic animals as well as working in the fields. The sons selected the work that interested them. The two pursuits existed at the same time. Agriculture did not follow the animal work as implied in the term hunter-gatherer.
- Keeping of flocks may imply that mankind could eat the meat. It is commonly thought that meat-eating was not introduced until following the flood. The other reason to keep flocks would be for their skins.

(19) Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. (20) Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock.

- This was certainly not a marriage “made in heaven.”
- Polygamy has been stamped out in those lands where Christ has been preached. It is contrary to God’s design.
- Jabal was a nomad and raised livestock.

(21) His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play stringed instruments and pipes.

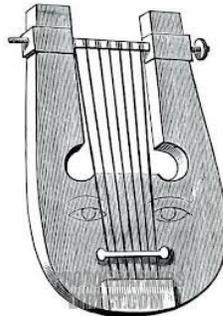
- He became head of a guild.
- The music arts are introduced.

(22) Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain’s sister was Naamah.

(23) Lamech said to his wives,

“Adah and Zillah, listen to me;  
wives of Lamech, hear my words.  
I have killed a man for wounding me,  
a young man for injuring me.  
If Cain is avenged seven times,  
then Lamech seventy-seven times.”

- Tools are designed (vs. 22).
- Zillah is Lamech’s other wife.
- Lamech’s poetry is recorded.



Cithar

• It is clear that God was not satisfied with Cain’s offering and this made Cain angry. It could be seen in his face, because anger and depression are related and depression may show on our faces.

• Was he angry with his brother because Abel did what he was asked to do?

• God warned Cain that his anger was like a mighty beast crouching just outside of his door. Cain made no response to the Divine warning.

(8) Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

• Abel cooperated with his older brother, but that led to his death.

• Jesus called this time period *the beginning of the world*. There was not a civilization before Adam.

Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all. (Luke 11:50-51)

• Jesus called Abel a prophet. Maybe God had revealed His will through Abel and this angered Cain.

• The Apostle John writes: **Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous.** (1 John 3:12)

(9) Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

• The Judge contacted Cain immediately.



(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.

- The narrative does not say *why* they brought offerings to the Lord. But the Lord had given some instructions on what to offer because in verse 7 he says “If you do what is right....”

- Abel believed what God said. God spoke well of his offering.

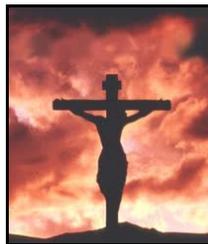
By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. (Hebrews 11:4)

- Like his parents in the Garden, Cain was not following God’s instructions.

- Like his parents, he was not making decisions by having faith in what God said.

- Verse 4 emphasizes the personal sacrifice made by Abel. Giving to God does require this component. Abel brought the firstborn of his flock.

- The shedding of blood was part of Abel’s sacrifice. This looked forward to the great principle that says “Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22)



(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.”

(25) Adam made love to his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, “God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.” (26) Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.

- Back to Grandfather Adam. Here begins unfolding the line of people who included God in their lives.

- James E. Smith suggests that Seth was not the third child of Adam and Eve. He was a replacement for the prophet Abel.

- This son was godly and carried the worship of God forward.

- Did they begin to pray because they had children?

- Was this group worship?

- How do we evaluate the parenting skills of Adam and Eve?

The chart on page eight shows when these patriarchs lived.

This lesson available for printing at: <http://goo.gl/rlpzUY>

- The murder was magnified by lying.
- Cain's response is a reminder that we have some responsibility for others. We are our brother's keeper.
- This is why many believers are involved in the Pro-Life Movement.

**(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."**

- The Lord cut off more evasion from Cain.
- Cain was driven from his beloved ground where he has sustained himself since that land held his brother's blood.
- God would cause crop failures for Cain.
- Cain would now be a restless wanderer. Even a sense of satisfaction with our work comes from God.
- His homelessness came directly because of his sin.

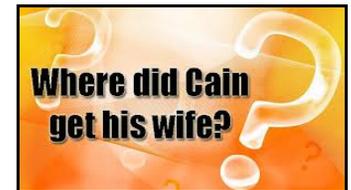
**(13) Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. (14) Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."**

- He complained about his punishment, but he really got off easy. He was not remorseful.
- Cain was concerned about losing his fellowship with God, but that concern came too late.
- He was afraid of being killed by some other relative. Evidently there were quite a few by this time.

**(15) But the LORD said to him, "Not so; 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, east of Eden.**

- Cain was given a mark to deter others from killing him.
- Any family get-togethers were without Cain being present.

**(17) Cain made love to his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch.**



- He married some relative. Marriage of close relatives was not forbidden nor was it genetically risky. Even as late as the time of Moses, his father married his own aunt (Exodus 6:20).
- This was later forbidden in the Law of Moses.
  - Some lady was willing to risk marriage to this man with the mark from God.
  - Savages do not build cities to house people. Genesis 5:4 show Adam and Eve having other children. Cain was building for his relatives.
  - The record now unfolds the line of Cain a people who were secular and did not fear God.

**(18) To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael was the father of Methushael, and Methushael was the father of Lamech.**

- This Enoch is not the same as one mentioned later in 5:21.
- There is no hint of God-fearing among these people.