

Genesis 4 and 5

**This is a summary please download the audio file for a complete sermon**

1. Genetics
2. Population
3. Sin and Trust- the character of those involved

In chapter 3, we have man sinning against God by disobeying His Word; in chapter 4, we have man sinning against man.

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Ge 4:6–8.

### **Genetics**

Who was Cain's wife? The explanation of why that is will be discussed on Wednesday. The prohibition comes down to an ever increasing problem with genetic faults, which exists in the people of today, but was not prevalent in the first humans born on earth.

Later, sibling marriage was unnecessary, and it was soundly denounced in Mosaic tradition (e.g., Lev 18:9).

K. A. Mathews, *Genesis 1-11:26*, vol. 1A, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 284.

### **Population**

Explanation of "who are all the people."

What we know about the first humans born.

Cain was born first,

Eve brought new life into the world, and she thought her child was the promised Seed. "I have gotten a man—the Lord!"

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Ge 4:1–5.

Able was born sometime after him

Abel means "vanity, vapor"—it suggests the futility of life apart from God, or perhaps Eve's disappointment that Cain was not the promised Seed.

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Ge 4:1–5.

Seth was born when Adam was 130 years old (and EVE)

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Genesis 5:1-5 (NIV) When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them "Mankind" when they were created.

3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. 4 After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. 5 Altogether, Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then he died.

Thus Seth replaces the murdered Able, it makes sense to assume the murder took place roughly 129/130 from the beginning of the world. This means Seth was mentioned at this point as the first Son to be born after the murder of the first human being!

Adam and Eve had other sons and daughters.

Cain (and his wife), have Enoch, and he was building a city (walled settlement)

Genesis 4:17 (NIV) 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.

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If, as you have suggested, human beings have been on earth for 130 years and produced another generation each 20 years, that would mean that 6 generations have passed since humans first "arrived" on earth. If we started with 2 people, and each couple in each generation had produced 8 children, with 100 percent of those living long enough to in turn reproduce, the population of the earth for the current generation would be 8,192 people.

If, as you have suggested, human beings have been on earth for 130 years and produced another generation each 16 years, that would mean that 8 generations have passed since humans first "arrived" on earth. If we started with 2 people, and each couple in each generation had produced 8 children, with 100 percent of those living long enough to in turn reproduce, the population of the earth for the current generation would be 131,072 people.

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Genesis 4:18-22 (NIV) 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.

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

The population problem for the evolutionist.

We will discuss this when looking at the account of the flood.

Cain and Able (Seth)

Symbolic of those who do not trust God, a "worldly way of life", vs those who do "call upon the name of the Lord."

From the very beginning, we see a division of work: as Cain is identified with the ground, Abel with the flock. God had already cursed the ground (3:17), so Cain is identified with that curse.

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Ge 4:1-5.

God provides a place for them to sacrifice, they are old enough to be working and to bring this to God with a mature heart.

Genealogies are designed to celebrate life and accomplishment by tracing the continuation of a family from one ancestor to the next, but Cain's record involves the cessation of life, as represented by the murderers Cain and Lamech

K. A. Mathews, *Genesis 1-11:26*, vol. 1A, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 279.

### **The Character of Cain**

Taking Offerings, When did it all go wrong?

Regular gatherings, offerings as taught by their parents, by sheep off Able, does he get jealous and then only offer crops as an act of defiance.

"This means that God must have taught Adam and his family how to approach Him, and 3:21 indicates that sacrifice of blood was involved. Hebrews 9:22 states that there must be the shedding of blood before there can be the remission of sin, but Cain brought a bloodless offering from the cursed earth. His offering may have been sincere, but it was not accepted. He had no faith in God's Word or dependence on the sacrifice of a substitute. God probably "answered by fire" (Lev. 9:24) and burned up Abel's offering, but Cain's offering lay there on the altar"-Warren W. Wiersbe.

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

Cain is cursed ( the land was cursed because of Adam's sin), NB murder brings a curse to Cain, the land no longer will produce as it is meant to- (Aside, some places are affected by the way we treat them.)

Cain told to wander the earth- first thing he does is build a city.

"The Hebrew construction "he was building," however, is ambiguous, permitting Cain or Enoch as the subject. Since the name of the city is "Enoch" (v. 17b), the traditional rendering has attributed the building of the first city to Cain, who names it after his firstborn. Following this reading, Cain's action is in direct violation of the injunction of God that has restricted him to the life of a vagabond. However, there are two alternative understandings: (1) although Cain built the city, it is for Enoch to inhabit; or (2) as mentioned, the subject of the verb may be taken as "Enoch," who would then be the first builder."- K. A. Mathews,

"Cain's family is a microcosm: its pattern of technical prowess and moral failure is that of humanity."- K. A. Mathews

Lamach (descendant of Cain)  
Proverbs 16:18 (NIV) Pride goes before destruction,  
a haughty spirit before a fall.

Where sin has lost its shame.

Lamech's gloating over a reputation more ruthless than infamous Cain's shows the disparagement of human life among Cain's seed that was fostered by his murder of Abel. God's promise to avenge Cain's life "seven times" (v. 15) is interpreted by Lamech as a badge of honour for Cain rather than as a merciful provision by God for a shameful criminal

K. A. Mathews, Genesis 1-11:26, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 289.

Genesis 4:23-26 (NIV) 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.

24 If Cain is avenged seven times,  
then Lamech seventy-seven times. "

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.

### **The Character of Abel**

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Matthew 23:35-36 (NIV) And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 Truly I tell you, all this will come on this generation.

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Luke 11:50-51 (NIV) Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, 51 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.

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Hebrews 11:1-4 (NIV) Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

4 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.

Enosh a descendant of Seth.

"Seth" (šēt) is related by sound (if not etymology) to "granted" (šāt). Eve attributes the birth of the child to the mercy of God

K. A. Mathews, Genesis 1-11:26, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 290.

Enosh was born according to the MT in the year 235 after the beginning of the world, it was at this time that people started calling on the name of the Lord.

The name "Enosh" (ʿēnôš) in Hebrew can function both as a common noun and as the name of an individual, like the word for "man" or "Adam"

K. A. Mathews, Genesis 1-11:26, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 291.

Application

### **The Character of God**

The growing effects of sin.

Cain became a carbon copy of his sinful father. And Cain is a picture of us all. Why do we find ourselves alienated from God? Why are we weighed down with selfishness, bitterness, envy, and the like? Because we have inherited Adam's sin nature; "through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners." And, in inheriting Adam's sin nature, we have inherited the death that comes with it.

Kurt Strassner, Opening up Genesis, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2009), 37.

Cain had a form of godliness and religion, but he denied the power  
Warren W. Wiersbe, Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament  
(Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Ge 4:1-5.

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2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV) But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.  
2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive,  
disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving,  
slandrous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous,  
rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of  
godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

There are only two religions in the world today: (1) that of Abel that depends on  
the blood of Christ and His finished work on the cross; and (2) that of Cain that  
depends on good works and man-pleasing religion. One leads to heaven, the  
other to hell!

Warren W. Wiersbe, Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament  
(Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Ge 4:1-5.

God's hope, his desire is for us, not to punish us. (grace upon Cain)  
The help that is available  
The "pride" we all face in asking for this help.

Jesus takes this step of opening the way back towards the heavenly hope-  
Knocking of heavens door for us, and making the perfect sacrifice, himself, to the  
altar.

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Revelation 5:1-10 (NIV) Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the  
throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I  
saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the  
seals and open the scroll?" 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth  
could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because no one  
was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. 5 Then one of the  
elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of  
David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."  
6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the  
throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven  
horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the  
earth. 7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the  
throne. 8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four  
elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding  
golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. 9 And they  
sang a new song, saying:  
"You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,

because you were slain,  
and with your blood you purchased for God  
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.  
10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
and they will reign on the earth.”

A simple choice for us, presented with the same situation as Cain, sin is  
crouching at your door, but you must master it., are we going to call upon the  
name of Jesus to find the salvation of the perfect sacrifice so we to can re-enter  
the place of perfection and experience the rest he has promised for us.