

Genesis 4

Verses 1

Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have obtained a male *child* with *the help* of the Lord.”

We know Cain and Abel were not the first two sons of Adam and Eve. We know this to be true because Cain was afraid that he would be killed, following the murder of his brother Abel.

See Verse 14

¹⁴ Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and I will be hidden from Your face, and I will be a wanderer and a drifter on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

Who was going to kill him? It had to be one of his brothers that was born before him. After Cain killed Abel, Eve gave birth to Seth and he was born when Adam and Eve were 230 years old. Since Adam and Eve were created as adults they could have had many more children in the 230 years prior to the birth of Seth.

These pre-Cain sons and daughters got married and moved away and these were the people Cain was concerned about. He assumed one of his older brothers would take vengeance on him for killing Abel.

Having said all of this it seems odd that Eve would say “**I have obtained a male *child* with *the help* of the Lord.**” However, even though she had had other sons, she may have had a number of daughters since her last son was born and she went to the Lord about her desire to have another son.

Verse 2

² And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a cultivator of the ground.

Cain became a farmer and his brother Abel was a keeper of sheep. It makes sense that after 230 years men had already begun to specialize in a given occupation. By this time the population was large enough that men could specialize in one area of work and trade with other families to get the supplies they needed.

Verses 3-5

³ **So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord from the fruit of the ground. ⁴ Abel, on his part also brought *an offering*, from the firstborn of his flock and from their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering; ⁵ but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his face was gloomy.**

³ **So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord from the fruit of the ground.**

We know that Cain will kill his brother shortly and then his brother Seth will be born so we know this happened before the 230th year after creation. Was this the beginning of men bringing an offering to the Lord? We don't know for sure but this is the first record we have of this happening.

⁴ **Abel, on his part also brought *an offering*, from the firstborn of his flock and from their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering; ⁵ but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his face was gloomy.**

Both men gave back to the Lord but the Lord was not pleased with the offering of Cain. So why was God not pleased with the offering of Cain? Some people think Cain should have offered an animal sacrifice while others think his offering was not in keeping with his income. All of this is speculation.

The N.T. states that Abel's sacrifice was offered by faith.

See Hebrews 11:4

⁴ **By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he was attested to be righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.**

Cain did not please God, because he was not a person of faith.

See Hebrews 11:6

⁶ **And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and *that* He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him.**

Verses 6 – 8

⁶ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why is your face gloomy?

⁷ If you do well, will *your face* not be cheerful? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.” ⁸ Cain talked to his brother Abel; and it happened that when they were in the field Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

⁶ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why is your face gloomy?

Isn't it interesting how often God starts a conversation by asking a question.

Cain had a visible reaction to his sacrifice being rejected. He became angry and his face was gloomy. This would seem to suggest that God's approval was important to him even though he was not a person of faith.

As far as we know Cain did not respond to God's question. When Cain offered his sacrifice and it was rejected there were two ways he could have responded.

1. Get angry with God for rejecting it **or**
2. He could have asked God why he didn't accept it.

Cain chose to get angry rather than talking to God about it.

⁷ If you do well, will *your face* not be cheerful? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

God wanted Cain to do the right thing so he could experience the joy that comes from doing what is right. But God also pointed out to Cain that the temptation to sin is always present so he must learn how to resist it.

⁸ Cain talked to **his brother** Abel; and it happened that when they were in the field Cain rose up against **his brother** Abel and killed him.

This was the first recorded murder in the history of mankind, and why did Cain kill his brother?

See 1 John 3:11-12

¹¹ For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we are to love one another; ¹² not as Cain, *who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And for what reason did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil, but his brother's were righteous.*

Verses 9 -15

⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” ¹⁰ Then He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying out to Me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a wanderer and a drifter on the earth.” ¹³ Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is too great to endure! ¹⁴ Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and I will be hidden from Your face, and I will be a wanderer and a drifter on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” ¹⁵ So the Lord said to him, “Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him seven times *as much*.” And the Lord placed a mark on Cain, so that no one finding him would kill him.

⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel **your brother**?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I **my brother's** keeper?”

Did you notice how many times the word brother was used in verses 8 and 9?

The answer to Cain’s response, “Am I my brother’s keeper” is self-evident. He had a responsibility to help and protect his brother but chose to do the complete opposite. Does anyone believe he would have done the right thing if there had been a written law against killing his brother?

¹⁰ Then He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying out to Me from the ground.

Where have we heard this before?

See Genesis 3:13

¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this *that* you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹¹ Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a wanderer and a drifter on the earth.

When one considers the crime that Cain committed this judgment from God is not too harsh as Cain will soon argue.

¹³ Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is too great to endure! ¹⁴ Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and I will be hidden from Your face, and I will be a wanderer and a drifter on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

Cain gives 3 reasons why the punishment was too severe.

1. I will be hidden from Your face.
2. I will be a wanderer and a drifter on the earth.
3. Whoever finds me will kill me.

The first punishment was not set in stone because God's mercy was still available if he decided to repent of his sin.

Concerning the 3rd punishment, God will soon guarantee his safety from an avenger which also gave him a reprieve from being a drifter (the second punishment).

¹⁵ So the Lord said to him, "Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him seven times *as much*." And the Lord placed a mark on Cain, so that no one finding him would kill him.

After God made this promise, Cain felt safe enough that he did not have to wander from place to place to avoid being killed. This will be plain to see in verses 16 & 17.

Verses 16 – 17

¹⁶ Then Cain left the presence of the Lord, and **settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. ¹⁷ Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and **Cain built a city**, and named the city Enoch, after the name of his son.**

These verses tell us that he did not wander around because he “settled” in the land of Nod and he “built a city”. A wanderer would not be around long enough to establish a city. This is a clear indication that the punishment of wandering was rescinded when God gave him the mark of protection from the avenger.

Cain was deserving of the death penalty but instead he received the Lords protection and was given the privilege to settle down. But after receiving this wonderful grace from the Lord he still decided to leave His presence.

Verse 18

Now to **Enoch** was born **Irada**, and Irada fathered **Mehujael**, and Mehujael fathered **Methushael**, and Methushael fathered **Lamech**.

We have five generations of Cain listed here. So what kind of time frame is covered in this verse? We are not given dates for his descendants but we can compare it to the descendants of Seth.

See pic 405 below.

Descendants of Adam & Eve

	Father	born	son	died	age
1	ADAM	5340	230	4410	930
2	SETH	5110	205	4198	912
3	ENOSH	4905	190	4000	905
4	CAINAN	4715	170	3805	910
5	MAHALALEL	4545	165	3650	895
6	JARED	4380	162	3418	962
7	ENOCK	4218	165	3853	365
8	METHUSELAH	4053	167	3084	969
9	LAMESH	3886	188	3133	753
10	NOAH	3698	502	2748	950

The 5 generations after Seth cover a period of 850 years. We can assume that the 5 generations of Cain were close to this same number of years.

Verses 19 – 24

¹⁹ Lamech took two wives for himself: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah. ²⁰ Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and have livestock. ²¹ His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and flute. ²² As for Zillah, she also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of all implements of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

²³ Lamech said to his wives,

**“Adah and Zillah,
Listen to my voice,
You wives of Lamech,
Pay attention to my words,
For I have killed a man for wounding me;
And a boy for striking me!**

**²⁴ If Cain is avenged seven times,
Then Lamech seventy-seven times!”**

¹⁹ Lamech took two wives for himself: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah.

So far we have had a number of firsts in Genesis 3 & 4

1. The first sin
2. The beginning of sacrifice
3. The first murder
4. The first city
5. And now the first act of polygamy.

As we will see in the following verses, Lamech was a violent and arrogant man that bragged about his godless character.

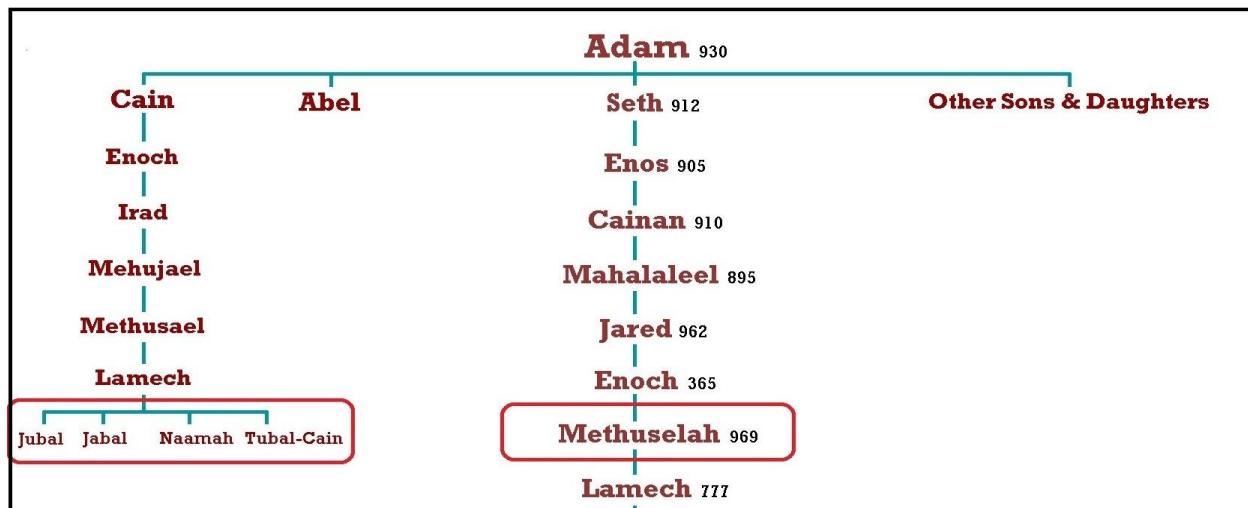
²⁰ **Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and have livestock.**

It is interesting that Cain built a city six generations (about 1,000 years) before men lived in tents.

²¹ **His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and flute.** ²² **As for Zillah, she also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of all implements of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.**

Jabal, Jubal and Tubal-cain lived during the time of Methuselah.

See chart 415



The technical skills of mankind progressed during this time with the making of musical instruments and metal tools.

²³ **Lamech said to his wives,**

**“Adah and Zillah,
Listen to my voice,
You wives of Lamech,
Pay attention to my words,
For I have killed a man for wounding me;
And a boy for striking me!**

²⁴ **If Cain is avenged seven times,
Then Lamech seventy-seven times!”**

Lamech was a violent man that took vengeance to a whole new level. According to his standard of justice anyone that harmed him in any way deserved the death penalty. He actually bragged that his standard of judgement was 11 times that of the Lord.

Verse 25

"And Adam knew his wife again; and she bore a son and called his name Seth: For, she said, God has appointed me another seed instead of Abel; for Cain slew him. And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enosh. Then began men to call upon the name of the Lord."

And Adam knew his wife again; and she bore a son and called his name Seth:

Now we jump back in time to 5110 BC, 230 years after Adam and Eve were created.

See chart 415

	Father	born	son	died	age
1	ADAM	5340	230	4410	930
2	SETH	5110	205	4198	912
3	ENOSH	4905	190	4000	905
4	CAINAN	4715	170	3805	910
5	MAHALALEL	4545	165	3650	895
6	JARED	4380	162	3418	962
7	ENOCK	4218	165	3853	365

For, she said, God has appointed me another seed instead of Abel

Cain and Abel reflect two distinct lines of mankind. The descendants of Cain are men of the world that leave the presence of the Lord and Seth is a continuation of the spiritual line of mankind.

And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enosh.

See chart 420

	Father	born	son	died	age
1	ADAM	5340	230	4410	930
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6	JARED	4380	162	3418	962
7	ENOCK	4218	165	3853	365

This is now 435 years after the creation of Adam and Eve.

Then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.

While the unbelievers where getting more and more evil, the believers were beginning to understand the promise that God had made to Eve about her descendant.

See Genesis 3:15

**¹⁵ And I will make enemies
Of you and the woman,
And of your offspring and her Descendant;
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise Him on the heel.”**

They called upon the name of the Lord knowing that He would provide a person that would win the battle against the evil one. We don't know how much they understood about this prophesy but it is clear that they trusted in the Lord to do what he had promised.