

Immediately after the fall that occurs in Genesis 3, we come upon the story of Cain and Abel. The rebellion of Adam and Eve spirals downward in this particular chapter as we see Cain taking the life of his brother, resulting in a further distance from the Holy presence of God.

Genesis 4:1-26

Cain and Abel

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Familiar stories like Cain and Abel can lose their punch as we tend to forget the weight of what's unfolding. The impact sin's curse and consequences are far-reaching, and yet so is God's grace and redemptive hope, even in the midst of such brokenness. While sin works to distance us from God, His love draws us in close, restoring all of that which we've caused.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT tends to be most familiar in your mind when you consider the story of Cain and Abel?

HOW did the fall of Adam and Eve catapult Cain into his own rebellion?

DESCRIBE how sin seeks to pull us from God's presence, and **EXPLAIN** how God restores His presence with us despite our "efforts".

DOES sin's strategy of separating us from God change when we become Christians? **EXPLAIN** your response.

Genesis 4:1-26 Read Genesis 4:1-26

Cain and Abel

OBSERVATION

What were Cain and Abel's vocation (vs. 2)?

Compare/contrast the two offerings brought by Cain and Abel in vs. 3-4.

How does the LORD respond to each offering?

According to vs. 5, what can you observe regarding Cain's attitude to the LORD's response to his offering?

What is God's warning to Cain in vs. 7?

Upon killing Abel in the field, what observations can you make regarding the interaction between Cain and God in vs. 9-14?

How does God choose to deal with Cain in his sin (vs. 15)?

Are there any particular observations you can make from the genealogy in vs. 17-22?

What details are worth noting in Lamech's poem in vs. 23-24?

As the chapter ends, what began to happen at this particular time?

INTERPRETATION

Why was God not satisfied with Cain's offering, but was with Abel's?

What do we learn about sin and its power from this passage? Consider too 1 Peter 5:8-9.

What does Cain's response to his actions in vs. 9 reveal about his attitude toward what's happened?

How is God's character revealed in the consequences given Cain?

What comparison can you make from the details given about Lamech in vs. 19 and God's original design of marriage in 3:24-25?

Why do you think Lamech's poem in vs. 23-24 draws a comparison to Cain's "revenge"?

What is the meaning of vs. 26? Consider Genesis 12:8, 13:4, 21:33, and 26:25 for insight.

APPLICATION

How does sin in Genesis 3-4 undo God's creative work from Genesis 1 and 2?

How do we know and understand God's redemptive presence when we sin as Christ-followers?