

GENESIS 4:1-16 | _____

1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain saying,

I have produced a man together with Yahweh.

2 And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. **3** In the course of time Cain brought to Yahweh an offering of the fruit of the ground, **4** and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And Yahweh had regard for Abel and his offering, **5** but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. **6** Yahweh said to Cain,

Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? **7** If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.

8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. **9** Then Yahweh said to Cain,

Where is Abel your brother?

He said,

I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?

10 And Yahweh said,

What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. **11** And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. **12** When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.

13 Cain said to Yahweh,

My punishment is greater than I can bear. **14** Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.

15 Then Yahweh said to him,

Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.

And Yahweh put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. **16** Then Cain went away from the presence of Yahweh and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Observation: What does it say?

1. What are some observations about Cain?
2. What are some observations about Abel?
3. What are some observations about Yahweh?
4. What are some observations about sin?
5. What consequence does Cain receive as a result of his murder?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

1. Why does Yahweh accept Abel's offering?
 - a. **Ge 3:21** 21 Yahweh God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.
 - b. **Heb 11:4** 4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.
2. Why does Yahweh refuse Cain's offering?
 - a. **Ge 3:7** 7 Then the eyes of both [Adam and Eve] were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.
3. Why does Cain kill Abel?
 - a. **1 Jn 3:11-12** 11 This is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.
4. Why doesn't Yahweh allow anyone to kill Cain?

Application: How should we live?

1. How can we ensure our offerings to Yahweh are accepted by him?
 - a. **Ps 51:17** 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
2. How do we overcome sin that is crouching at our door?
 - a. **Ps 119:133** 133 Establish my footsteps in your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.
3. About whom have you been feeling envy or jealousy? How does your mindset towards that person need to change? What actions can you take to show love to that person?