

Mark of Cain

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This study is an continuation of Eve, Mother of All Living, in which there is an extensive discussion on the origin of the sin nature passed down through the womb. The basis of the sin nature is that we feel rejected by God. This is implied, if not outright stated, by the question asked over and over, “Why doesn’t God stop this evil?”; or, “If God loves me, why is He allowing this terrible thing to happen to me?” The same question can be stated many different ways. The inference is the same. The questions cast doubt as to the truth of God’s love for humanity and the reason why all this evil. Nothing can be more obvious than the immediate affect on Adam and Eve when they chose to disobey God’s command. They manifested fear, shame and blaming others for their own choice. The speed of degradation of sin and the monstrous effect is illustrated in the story of Cain and Able - children of Adam and Eve (Gen 4).

Good and Evil: Gen 4: *1. And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. 2. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. 4. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: 5. But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.* Adam and Eve were instructed to sacrifice a lamb and that it was a result of their disobedience. These instructions were passed down to Cain and Able. Now children exhibit the parent’s character. In Cain and Able we see the result of eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, i.e. mixing self’s thoughts with God’s. The sacrifice of Cain manifested the inward fruit of his own earth (self). He refused to receive the instruction of God. **Pr 21:** *24. Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who deals in proud wrath... 27. The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he brings it with a wicked mind?*

The Lord said to Cain: **Gen 4:** *7 If thou do well, shall it (Cain’s countenance) not be lifted up? and if thou do not well, (a) sin (of pride) couches at the door (of the heart, like a lion): and unto thee shall be its desire, but do thou rule over it.* (ASV) Cain received not the rebuke of the Lord and killed his brother. What do you think Cain and Abel were talking about? Abel was probably trying to convince Cain that he should obey the God’s instruction. But in his uncontrolled, haughty anger, Cain slew his brother.

Gen 4: *9. And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: am I my brother’s keeper? 10. And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother’s blood cries unto me from the ground.* Can you just hear Cain’s answer? AM ||I|| MY BROTHER’S KEEPER. (Caps indicate loud talking, the vertical lines are for emphasis). By this statement, Cain was sewing fig leaves for a covering. Cain had literally spilled the blood of Able. When the Lord confronted him, He described the inward guilt Cain was expressing (verse 10) out of his own earth (self).

Curse of the Earth: Gen 4: *11. And now art thou cursed from the earth¹²⁷, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother’s blood from thy hand; 12. When thou till the ground¹²⁷, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth⁷⁷⁶.* A more meaningful way to read the first part of verse 11 is: *And now art thou cursed by means of the earth.* The negative of the earth (self) is a symbol of the “old man”, the sin nature. What is the curse? **Zech 5:** *1. Then I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a flying roll. 2. And he said unto me, What seest thou? And I answered, I see a flying roll; the length thereof is twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof ten cubits. 3. Then said he unto me, This is the curse that goes forth over the face of the whole earth: for every one that steals shall be cut off as on this side according*

to it; and every one that swears shall be cut off as on that side according to it. The roll described is the ten commandments. It is a flying scroll in the heavens. The symbol is not speaking of the letter, but of the spirituality of the law (God's instruction). **Jn 3: 12.** *If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?* When God's voice is ignored as how to keep the law, the earth is cursed - the mind loses spiritual strength.

Cain put his own interpretation on God's instruction about sacrifice. Therefore his spiritual mind became defiled by the carnal. As God reveals truth it exposes our nakedness, and a person rejecting truth is spiritually defiled. We are responsible for hearing and doing. **Jn 9: 41.** *Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remains.* A vagabond is someone who wanders to and fro - they have no spiritual rest. Like Cain, a person refusing to walk in the truth cannot obtain rest in Christ or strength to overcome sin because they cannot plant the seed of God's word when they till the land of the mind. Why can they not receive God's word?

Cain's Mark: Gen 4: 13. *And Cain said unto the Lord, My punishment⁵⁷⁷¹ is greater than I can bear.* Of the 230 appearances, The Hebrew word ,5771, is translated 'iniquity' 220 times. The root, 5753, literally means to bend, twist, distort. When put inward of the mind, that which is bent, twisted or distorted in the thinking causes a person to do iniquity, sin, etc., resulting in guilt or punishment. When confronted by the Lord, Cain refused to accept responsibility for killing Able. Cain's distortions, our distortions, are greater than any can bear. Eventually Cain blamed God for all that happened to himself: **14.** *Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth...* Do you see the similarities of Cain's experience to that of his parents? Not taking responsibility and blaming others IS the mark of Cain, passed down by his mother through the womb. King David said: **Ps 51: 5.** *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity⁵⁷⁷¹; and in sin did my mother conceive me.* David knew the distortions of humanity are passed down through the womb.

Gen 4: 15. *And the Lord said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold (or seven times). And the Lord set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.* Put Cain inward, that is, his characteristics. Someone with the mark of Cain says, "God made me this way, I cannot change." This mark, or sign was put there to identify this attitude. When a person cries out to God for help, God will avenge him - vengeance is not against the person, but for them, to help them. **Rom 12: 19.** *...Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.* After Daniel explained a dream of Nebuchadnezzar's, he was told to *break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor*, Dan 4:27. A year later, while walking in the palace, the king said, **Dan 4:** *...Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?* This same attitude is described in Isaiah 14:4-14 in a parable of the King of Babylon (about Lucifer). As a result, he lost the kingdom until seven times passed over him, until he realized that *the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.* It is no different today. If we allow God to rule, we are allowing Him to be our right hand of strength, and He will keep us from sin.

Many today teach the mark of Cain, saying, "We cannot overcome sin in this life." Or, "We will be sinning until Jesus returns." These limit the power of God. Like Cain, they will not accept responsibility for their sins, and they point the finger somewhere else. **Ps 12: 6.** *The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.* That furnace of earth can be you... If... you turn self over to the Lord that He may cleanse you with the washing of water by words. The baptism of fire burns away the sin nature. AMEN!!