

**GENESIS 3:8-4**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Genesis chapter 3 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

In our study last time we saw Satan tempt Eve to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, something that God warned them not to partake of.

And we are told that both Adam and Eve partook of this tree and the result is found in Genesis 3:7 where we are told, **“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”**

This evening, as we continue our study here in Genesis chapter 3, we will see the consequences of sin, how it not only affected both Adam and Eve, but these consequences will be passed on to future generations!

Now I do realize that many people deny the fall of man, that sin entered this world, and that this sin nature has been passed down to all of us.

But if we are honest with ourselves, we sin all the time before God. And it may start out with just a temptation. And then it moves to a lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and then the pride of life where we think we know better than God, that we can handle this, it will not place us in bondage.

But just as it did to Adam and Eve, it does to us, and our nakedness is exposed before God! We can't hide our sin before God! And there are consequences to our sin as we will see.

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Genesis chapter 3, beginning in verse 8 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

**GENESIS 3****VERSES 8-9**

How sad this is. At one time they had enjoyed intimate fellowship with God, they walked with God in the Garden of Eden, and now sin broke that fellowship, and they were afraid!

What is interesting to me is that it is God who is seeking Adam and Eve and not the other way around.

That just tells me how much our God loves us and is seeking us.

And when God said, “... **‘Where are you?’**” it was not that God lost Adam and Eve. No, these were the words of a heartbroken Father as He called out for them.

God was not hiding from them, they were hiding from God because of their sin. And what we see here is God calling out to them in love and sadness, not in anger, over what they did. And God will show us what He will have to do to reconcile this issue of sin separating man from God! He wants that relationship restored and that is exactly what Jesus has done for us!

**VERSES 10-11**

Now when some read this about God asking Adam who told him that he was naked, they come to the conclusion that God does not know everything and here is the evidence.

Let me say this. God did not ask this question for His benefit but for Adam’s.

What do I mean by that?

God wanted Adam to be aware of what he did, what caused him to be afraid. He wanted Adam to repent of his sin and not ignore it!

And as we will see, the answer that Adam gives to God is the one we see often today, and it is blaming others for our actions. We will see that as we read on.

But our God loves us so much that He shows us our sin so we are aware of it and can confess it before Him or we can harden our heart to Him and that is a dangerous thing to do!

I like the way that one writer summed this up. He wrote, ***“If the best of men had his innermost thoughts written on his forehead, he’d never take his hat off.”***

How true that is. We tend to look at the outside of the cup, what we do and what we say. But the problem is not with the outside of the cup, it is the inside that is filthy, and that filth is then manifested outwardly, in the things we do and the things we say. We can cover it for a time, but in the end, it will be manifested in our lives!

Think of it like this. The basic fundamental issue of humanity is not what is happening outside, but what is happening inside, within.

### VERSES 12-13

Keep in mind that the book of Genesis is the book of beginnings and what we see here is the beginning of ***“Passing the buck!”***

And they are very good at it.

Adam answers God’s question about how he knew he was naked by blaming the woman that God had given to Adam.

He basically said to God, ***“You gave her to me, this woman and now look at what she caused me to do! It is your fault God!”***

And we are no different today, we blame others for what we do.

What Adam needed to do was what David finally did when he sinned, “... **I have sinned against the LORD.**” II Samuel 12:13.

God then asks Eve what she did, and she was the first one to use the line, “*The Devil made me do it!*” And you thought it was Flip Wilson who used that line first!

Talk about your dysfunctional family. God was looking for confession and repentance and all He got was excuses!

And please understand that it was not because of their parents that they did these things, who made them this way. Why? Because GOD was their parent!

It was not the environment that they grew up in that made them like this. They lived in the Garden of Eden!

They had a choice, and they chose to disobey God and do what they wanted, and in the end, sin broke their fellowship with God!

#### VERSES 14-15

Why didn't God question Satan here like he did Adam and Eve?

Because there was nothing to teach him, he rebelled against God and took 1/3 of the angels with him and thus, there is only the pronouncement of judgment for him.

The first part of this judgment is against the serpent Satan used to deceive Eve; he will slither on the ground instead of walking on legs!

Boice put it like this, “*The creature that tempted Eve became a serpent as a result of God's judgment on it, and it went slithering away into the bushes.*”

The second part of the curse is against Satan himself.

And in this I see a hint of the coming Messiah, the seed of the woman. You see, it is the man that has the seed and thus, I see here the virgin birth.

We are told in Isaiah 7:14, **“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”**

And we can read in Matthew chapter 1 of Mary, a virgin, giving birth to Jesus and they will call Him, **“Immanuel”** or **“God with us.”** (Matthew 1:18-25)

And look at that battle that will take place. We are told that Satan will bruise the heel of the Messiah, not a mortal wound.

And as we can see in the New Testament, Jesus was crucified but He rose the third day from the grave conquering death! Not a mortal wound!

It is as Paul said in Galatians chapter 3, **“Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of one, ‘And to your Seed,’ . . . What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.”** Galatians 3:16, 19.

And it is this seed, the Messiah, Jesus who will bring a mortal wound upon Satan; he will ultimately be cast into the Lake of Fire for eternity! And there is no coming back from that!

#### VERSE 16

God now brings a curse upon the woman – she will have pain in childbirth, pain with children, and the start of the battle of the sexes began here, it is part of the curse.

I know that some see this here in Genesis 3:16 as something good when the Lord said to Eve, **“ . . . Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.”**

And they will tell you, ***“Isn’t that wonderful. Her desire will be for her husband, how beautiful that is!”***

First of all, this is a curse upon Eve and her descendants, so this is not something that is good. The relationship between Adam and Eve prior to sin was good and Adam was the spiritual leader of the family.

Then what is this speaking of here in Genesis 3:16?

It is speaking of usurping the role of the husband!

That word **“desire”** is also seen in Genesis 4:7 where we are told, **“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”**

The word **“desire”** in the Hebrew means *“to seek control.”*

The Lord was warning Cain that sin wants to rule his life, control his life, don’t let it!

So this curse here in Genesis 3:16 is speaking of the wife wanting to lord over her husband, to take control of the family.

And sadly, we see that so often today, even in Christian homes where the wife runs the family, and the husband does whatever the wife tells him to do! That is not the order of the family, sorry.

Again, this is part of the curse, so it can’t be good, and it is not good!

Then we are told, **“And he shall rule over you.”**

Again, this is part of the curse. And I keep saying that, but people try to put a positive spin on this and there is none.

Then what is this saying?

The husband will now try to lord over his wife. You see, the battle of the sexes where each person tries to usurp the role that God has given to him or her.

Susan T. Foh wrote, *“As a result of the fall, man no longer rules easily; he must fight from his headship. Sin has corrupted both the willing submission of the wife and the loving headship of the husband. The woman’s desire is to control her husband (to usurp his divinely appointed headship), and he must master her, if he can. So the rule of love founded in paradise is replaced by struggle, tyranny and domination.”* (Susan T. Foh, cited in Boice).

I get her point but here’s the thing. Adam is not a good guy in all of this either. This wonderful relationship that Adam and Eve had is now affected by sin. Yes, Adam was the spiritual head of the family, but he did not have to lord over his wife. Yes, Eve submitted to the leadership of her husband and there was no fighting for position.

Now all that has changed, and it continues on today where we see the role of the husband changed to toxic masculinity! Foolishness!

So that was Eve, and we now move onto Adam and how this sin, this curse will affect him.

#### VERSES 17-19

Now God curses Adam. Why?

Because, instead of listening to God he listened to his wife and here are the consequences to his rebellion.

Now please understand that the Bible is not saying that we are to not listen to our wife, we are! They too have wisdom, but spiritually speaking, in the end, it rests upon our shoulders you might say.

But if there is a disagreement, pray about it, don’t rush into something men, because we might be wrong!

Here we see that the ground is cursed, and we see that today in our gardens, how weeds grow even without rain! The labor we must do – no longer tending the garden but laboring!

And the final curse is he will die, he will go back to the dust of the earth, as will all of creation. Yes, there is a point where there is no more toil, no more labor on the earth, it is called ***DEATH!***

Job made that point of life being hard, difficult as he said in Job 7:1-2, **“Is there not a time of hard service for man on earth? Are not his days also like the days of a hired man? Like a servant who earnestly desires the shade, And like a hired man who eagerly looks for his wages.”**

Spurgeon summed it up like this, ***“Although the sentence took away from Adam the luscious fruits of paradise, yet it secured him a livelihood. He was to live; the ground was to bring forth enough of the herb of the field for him to continue to exist. Albeit that henceforth all he ate was to be with the sweat of his face, yet still he was to have enough to eat, and he was to live on.”***

Now let’s look at this for a minute. All that Satan promised Eve did not come to pass – what a shocker!

He is the father of lies, it is his natural language, his native tongue and he has come to kill, to destroy people’s lives!

On the other end of the spectrum, we have Jesus who has come to give us life and life more abundantly than we can ever imagine!

Thus, listen to God and not the lies of the Devil!



VERSE 20

Think about this for a minute. Eve was not a mother yet, but Adam knew that she would be.

The name “Eve” means “*the giver of life.*” And how prophetic is that!

You see, God also said that He would defeat Satan by the seed of the woman – it was a promise of God and Adam was trusting in that promise, thus, he named his wife Eve.

VERSE 21

Why did God have to do this?

What about those fig leaf jeans they sewed together?

God did not even acknowledge man’s attempt of salvation through his own works.

Instead, God killed an animal, I believe it was a lamb, and made them lambskin clothes to wear.

Thus, every time they saw this, every time they moved, it reminded them that there had to be the death of the innocent to cover the sins of the guilty!

Spurgeon put it like this, “*Some creature had to die in order to provide them with garments, and you know who it is that died in order that we might be robed in his spotless righteousness. The Lamb of God has made for us a garment which covers our nakedness so that we are not afraid to stand even before the bar of God.*”

Exactly! Remember what John the Baptist said of Jesus, “. . . ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” John 1:29.

And Peter tells us in I Peter 3:18, **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”**

You see, without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins! You can't work your way into heaven because you are already bad and just by being good does not take away the badness. But we see that Jesus has to pay in full the penalty for our sins, pay for our badness, and He completed the work on the cross of Calvary!

A. W. Pink put it like this, *“How beautiful and perfect is the type! It was the Lord God who furnished the skins, made them into coats and clothed our first parents. They did nothing. God did it all. They were entirely passive . . . And so it is with every sinner. ‘For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God’ (Eph. 2:8).”*

Remember what we are told in Isaiah 61:10, **“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”**

That is what Jesus has done for us, clothed us in His righteousness!

#### VERSES 22-24

What is this all about, that we are like God?

First of all, we are a triune being as God is.

But now we see God speaking of man's awareness of evil here, and that is not a good thing.

Innocence is good and look at how we have taken that away from our children today!

But, in mercy God is protecting them and us for living forever in these bodies of flesh, of sin which would be horrible, thus, God removes them from the Garden of Eden and the tree of life.

Now that sin was introduced into this world, Satan would now work on doing away with this idea of good and evil. There is no standard for right or wrong. And thus, what ends up happening is that everyone does what is right in their own eyes and we see that evil growing and growing today!

God also placed Cherubim with a flaming sword at the east gate of the Garden, why?

Yes, to keep Adam and Eve out but I also think to keep Satan from coming and destroying the way to the tree of life.

You see, one Cherub would be enough to keep man out; he would not need a flaming sword to do that. I believe that sword was to keep Satan out! Remember in II Kings 19:15 we see one angel kill 185,000 Assyrians in one night!

Again, I think this was to prevent Satan and his demonic forces from getting in!

Donald Grey Barnhouse summed it up like this. ***“As soon as man sinned, God found him and provided him a Savior. He opened a way back to himself and guards that way jealously lest anyone should close it . . . Any angel of the lowest rank could have dealt with Adam. The flaming sword was pointed against Satan to keep him from destroying the way of access . . . which God had set up.”***

The paradise lost here in Genesis; we see it regained in Revelation as there is the tree of life in the midst of the New Jerusalem!

**GENESIS 4****VERSES 1-2a**

For the first time we see the mention of sexual relations between a husband and a wife with the word “**knew**” used to speak of this relationship.

Today we have all kinds of words to describe this kind of relationship, and most of them are not really accurate and some of them can't be repeated.

The idea here is not just the act of sex, which there is nothing wrong between a husband and a wife, but it also speaks of an intimate relationship with each other. They were truly one flesh!

And we see here that Eve has two sons.

The first she named “**Cain**,” which means acquisition or acquire.

In other words, she believed in the promise of the Messiah from the seed of the woman and either Cain was the man or one of his descendants would be the Messiah.

Her next son she named “**Abel**,” which means nothing, or empty or vanity, frail. Why did she name her second son like this?

Possibly, even this early on after sin entered the world, she could see the effects of sin in the world and the only hope was in the coming Messiah, the seed of the woman! Maybe she saw how Cain was acting and felt hopeless in the coming Messiah since Cain was not the man!

Or maybe Abel was just a sickly child, we are not sure. But I do believe that Eve thought Cain was the one even though now she may be having some doubts and those doubts will become a reality shortly!

VERSES 2b-5

Here is something that many miss. When these children were born there were other children born to Adam and Eve, not just Cain and Abel. And at this point, after their birth, by the time we get to Genesis 4:2b, some 100 years or more have passed by. So there could be a lot of people on the earth by now.

Also, what I want you to see is that Cain and Abel were not hunter-gatherer's, cave men but as they grew, Cain's profession dealt with agriculture, and Abel's profession was with livestock.

Neither were wrong with the profession they were involved in, even though some like to make a big deal out of this.

Both these labors were just part of the curse, working hard for a living.

Besides working hard for a living, they also took some time to worship the Lord and bring unto Him a sacrifice.

Cain brought an offering from the fruit of the ground and Abel brought the first born from his flock.

And God rejected Cain's sacrifice, but accepted Abel's, why?

Some feel that it is because God required a blood sacrifice before Him, even though He did accept grain sacrifices. We need to remember that nowhere in these Scriptures we read do we see these offerings as a sin offering.

I think there is another issue here that is just as important.

You see, the word used for "**offering**" in the Hebrew is *MINCHAH* and it speaks of any type of offering, not just a blood offering.

Then what is going on here? Why did God reject Cain's sacrifice and accept Abel's?

I think Hebrews 11:4 gives us some insight to what is going on here.

We are told, **“By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.”**

In other words, Abel’s sacrifice was done out of love, to please God, while Cain’s was done out of duty, there was a lack of love.

Abel had faith, Cain did not.

Again, Paul tells us in Hebrews 11:6, **“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”**

How did they know that Abel’s sacrifice was accepted by God and Cain’s was rejected by God? There had to be something that showed them this because Cain was well aware that his sacrifice was not accepted by God but Abel’s was!

It could be that fire came down from heaven and consumed Abel’s sacrifice, while Cain’s just sat there.

We do see this in the Scriptures. Remember Elijah’s encounter with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. He challenged them to see whose God would accept their sacrifice and Elijah let these prophets go first.

They were at it all day, yelling, screaming at their god to respond, and Elijah had enough, and he mocks them, which makes them cut themselves and yell even more, but nothing happened.

Then Elijah comes forward, has the sacrifice covered with water three times and calls upon the Lord and in I Kings 18:38 we are told, **“Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.”**

It is possible that is what we see here going on, but we are not told that for sure. Obviously there was something that alerted them of whose sacrifice was accepted and whose was not. (See also Judges 6:21, I Chronicles 21:26, II Chronicles 7:1)

And we are told in Genesis 4:5 that Cain was **“very angry”** and the idea here is that he was burning with anger!

Because of Cain’s disobedience, his countenance fell, he was depressed. His pride was hurt, he was angry, and it affected his whole life. That can happen to us as well.

I like what David did in Psalm 42:11, **“Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.”**

What lifted David’s spirits?

The Lord did and he focused back on Him, lived in obedience to Him. Don’t be down, focus on the Lord.

It is as Jeremiah tells us in Lamentations 3:40-41, **“Let us search out and examine our ways, And turn back to the LORD; Let us lift our hearts and hands To God in heaven.”**

Examine your heart, look at your actions and if they are wrong, repent and return to the Lord because, as you do, it will lift up your countenance!

One last point and that deals with worship, which really ties this all together. And keep in mind that worship is not just singing, it is a way of life.

Paul put it this way in Romans 12:1, **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service [spiritual worship].”**

Our lives should be lived in such a way that it is our spiritual worship unto the Lord as we give our lives to Him, to be used as He sees fit.

And here is the key, listen to what Jesus said in John 4:24, **“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”**

In other words, you must be saved for God to accept your worship – *IN SPIRIT*.

And it must be according to God’s Word – *IN TRUTH*.

If it is not, then God will not accept it.

Abel’s sacrifice was accepted because it was done in faith, according to God’s Word.

Cain’s sacrifice was not, it was rejected because it was done according to his own ideas and efforts, his heart was not right with God!

And listen to what the Lord tells Cain, the warning that God is giving to him!

#### VERSES 6-7

I know that some believe that the God of the Old Testament is a God of vengeance, but what we see here in Genesis is the love of God towards sinful man.

God gets no pleasure in the death of the wicked and thus, He is pleading with Cain to turn from his evil ways.

But here is the free will of man; to do well, to obey the Lord and be accepted or not to obey the Lord, not do well and let sin control your life!

You see, if you don’t submit to God and His authority, sin will rule your life.



And the only way we can do this is by the empowering of God's Spirit in our lives. To walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. There is a battle going on and whatever you feed the most is what will be manifested in your life! (Galatians 5:16-25)

And God warns Cain that “**. . . sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.**” Genesis 4:7.

In the Hebrew the idea with sin lying at the door of his heart gives us a picture of a crouching animal waiting to pounce upon him, like a lion waiting to get its prey.

Also, the Lord says that sins “**desire**” is for you, the same Hebrew word used in Genesis 3:16 where the woman will “**desire**” her husband as part of the curse.

The idea in both these verses is to rule over.

The woman wants to rule over her husband and here sin wants to rule over Cain's life.

Don't open the door; don't allow it to come in!

And let me say this, any time you allow anger, envy, strife to grow, you are prey for the Devil. God says you don't have to go down that path of destruction, but it is your choice. Don't open that door and let sin rule over your life!

May we be wise!

#### VERSE 8

As I read this I get the idea that Cain planned this murder out. He caught Abel by surprise, engaging him in a conversation and then killed him. In other words, Cain committed premeditated murder as he opened the door and allowed sin to come into his life!

Now we might think we are doing great, but Jesus spoke of murdering someone with the words we say. James also dealt with this in his epistle, how the tongue is not very big and yet it can cause great destruction! (Matthew 5:20-26, James 3:2-12)

In Hebrews 12:22-24 we are told, **“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.”**

Abel’s blood spoke of death, of judgment, of what sin has done but that is as far as it can go.

The blood of Jesus speaks of forgiveness, the forgiveness of our sins.

Yes, the shed blood of Jesus speaks of better things than the shed blood of Abel!

#### VERSES 9-10

Did God not know what happened to Abel?

Of course He knew, but He was looking for a confession from Cain, repentance for what he did to his brother.

And Cain, instead of confessing says, **“Am I my brother’s keeper?”**

The answer to that is ***“Yes!”***

You see, we are to watch out for each other.

Paul put it like this in Philippians 2:3-4, **“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”**

The problem for Cain and for many today is it is all about them. If someone says something wrong, something they don't like, the knife comes out and the person is murdered with words, and they don't care what happens to their brother or sister.

Folks, you have to let it go and allow love to flow from you or like Cain, this thing will build inside of you until it overflows in your actions and your words!

And make no mistake about it, God knows our hearts, our motives, and our actions, and the cries of these injustices we have brought upon others reaches the ears of God!

Listen to how shocked Spurgeon was to the way that Cain replied to God. He wrote, *“The cool impudence [boldness] of Cain is an indication of the state of heart which led up to his murdering his brother; and it was also a part of the result of his having committed that terrible crime. He would not have proceeded to the cruel deed of bloodshed if he had not first cast off the fear of God and been ready to defy his Maker.”*

You can harden your heart so much to what God desires that you don't even see the wrong you are doing, and Cain was at that point!

It is interesting because in Jude 11 we see a warning of going the way of Cain, which is nothing more than unbelief, and empty religion that leads to all kinds of ungodly behaviors!

Vain religion, having this form of godliness and yet not knowing the power of God is empty. Dead religion sends more people to Hell than anything else, even humanism or atheism!

#### VERSES 11-12

The judgment or curse that God decreed upon Cain was that his labor would be in vain. His crops would not grow, and he would walk aimlessly through life, not really able to rest. He would be a vagabond or a vagrant!

And think about this. All his relationships with his family were broken. He was a hated man, an outcast from his own family because he murdered his own brother. This is the first murder on the earth besides what Satan did to man!

#### VERSES 13-15

As you read this you can clearly see that Cain is not sorry for his sin, he was just upset about the consequences of his sin. No remorse, no confession at all.

It is as Paul said in II Corinthians 7:10, **“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”**

And The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, **“For godly grief and the pain God is permitted to direct, produce a repentance that leads and contributes to salvation and deliverance from evil, and it never brings regret; but worldly grief (the hopeless sorrow that is characteristic of the pagan world) is deadly [breeding and ending in death].”**

Of Cain’s response towards God, Barnhouse wrote, *“One of the consequences of sin is that it makes the sinner pity himself instead of causing him to turn to God. One of the first signs of new life is that the individual takes sides with God against himself.”*

How true that is or at least it should be in our lives.

And Boice tells us, *“One of the clearest marks of sin is our almost innate desire to excuse ourselves and complain if we are judged in any way.”*

That was Cain and it is true of almost every person in prison, they are sorry they got caught but not for what they did, the sin they committed!

Let me share this with you and you will see what I mean. We are told,

*Katherine Power was a fugitive for more than twenty-three years. In 1970, during the heyday of student radicalism, she participated in a Boston bank robbery in which a city policeman, the father of nine children, was shot in the back and killed.*

*Pursued by federal authorities for murder, Ms. Power went into hiding. For fourteen years she was one of the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives. Finally, in late 1993, she surrendered to authorities.*

*In a statement she read to the press, Katherine Power characterized her actions in the bank robbery as "naive and unthinking." What motivated her to surrender? "I know that I must answer this accusation from the past, in order to live with full authenticity in the present."*

- John MacArthur, *The Vanishing Conscience*, p. 18

And if you still don't get it, listen to what her husband said as he explained the reason she came forward, *"She did not return out of guilt. She wanted her life back. She wants to be whole."*

In a perceptive piece about Katherine Power's surrender, commentator Charles Krauthammer wrote, *"Her surrender - for the sake of 'full authenticity' - was a form of therapy, indeed the final therapeutic step toward regaining her sense of self."*

That is where our society is at, it is not our fault, there is no need to repent, let's just move on! Let's get back to living and what you are doing is hardening your heart to God and trying to feel good about doing evil!

In John MacArthur's book *The Vanishing Conscience* he wrote,

*That kind of thinking has all but driven words like sin, repentance, contrition, atonement, restitution, and redemption out of public discourse. If no one is supposed to feel guilty, how could anyone be a sinner?*

*Modern culture has the answer: people are victims. Victims are not responsible for what they do; they are casualties of what happens to them.*

*So every human failing must be described in terms of how the perpetrator has been victimized. We are all supposed to be "sensitive" and "compassionate" enough to see that the very behaviors we used to label "sin" are actually evidence of victimization.*

*Victimism has gained so much influence that as far as society is concerned, there is practically no such thing as sin anymore. Anyone can escape responsibility for his or her wrongdoing simply by claiming the status of a victim. It has radically changed the way our society looks at human behavior.*

- John MacArthur, *The Vanishing Conscience*, p. 21

What we see here with Cain and what we see today is a worldly remorse that is focused on self and is feelings oriented but that is not true repentance!

What is true repentance?

First, understanding that our actions were wrong, that we sinned!

Secondly, we should feel bad about what we have done and not make excuses for them.

And thirdly, there needs to be a change in the direction we are going. We were moving away from God when we were sinning. Now we need to turn back to God! **REPENTANCE!**

I don't see Cain turning away from sin and to the Lord. How can I be so sure?

Because when his name is mentioned in the New Testament it is always in a negative sense!

It is as Paul wrote, “**. . . Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**” II Corinthians 6:2.

And here again we see the grace and mercy of God as He sets a mark upon Cain so that no one will kill him.

We don't know what kind of mark it was, but it did not identify him with God, he did not walk with God but moved away.

But whatever it was, it protected him.

It is funny to read what some feel that this mark was, some say a dog, but that is just speculation, and we really have no idea, but it did identify him so that others would not kill him.

#### VERSES 16-17

Notice the actions of Cain here.

He sins and refuses to repent, and where did he go?

He went out from the Lord. It is an act of defiance, shaking his fist against God and going his own way. Instead of receiving salvation he received sentencing!

And he moves to Nod, which means wandering or restless.

You see, there is no peace apart from God! And here in Nod he built a city and instead of dedicating the city to the Lord, he dedicates it to his son, Enoch.

Do you see the slippery slope he traveled upon after he made his decision to reject the council of God and go his own way!

It is as the Lord said to Cain, **“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”**

Genesis 4:7.

Now we are told that Cain got married and here is a question that people love to throw out.

***“Where did Cain get his wife?”***

That is easy, it was either a sister or cousin, obviously it was a relative! The earth was populated, and God did not prohibit marrying a brother or sister until the time of Moses.

(Leviticus 18:9,11; 20:17, Deuteronomy 27:22).

Keep in mind that at this point in time the gene pool was pure enough to allow this, but as time went on, the gene pool was corrupted and marrying relatives can cause many types of birth defects!

We are told in Genesis 5:4 that Adam had many sons and daughters by this time, and some have estimated the earth’s population at this time to over 200,000 people. So there were plenty of people for him to marry!

#### VERSES 18-22

Here we follow the lineage of Cain, but only for a short time for his lineage is cursed, the Messiah won’t be coming from Cain’s descendants!

Now names are important, and the reason God listed the genealogy of Cain was to show the life of a person apart from God.



Let me show you what I mean:

***CAIN = ACQUISITION***

***ENOCH = DEDICATED***

***IRAD = FUGITIVE OR WILD ASS***

***MEHUAEL = "BLOT OUT THAT YAH IS GOD" OR WIPE OUT THE  
NAME OF GOD***

***METHUSHAEL = THEY ARE DEAD WHO ARE OF GOD***

***LAMECH = POOR AND LOWLY***

Thus, this is what we see in the ungodly. An acquisition that is a dedicated fugitive or wild ass who is trying to wipe out the name of God, saying, ***"They are dead who are of God"*** and the reality is, they are poor or lowly!

I think that is a pretty good description.

Now think about this for a minute. We are only six generations from Adam and already we see Lamech marry two women, he was a polygamist!

God brought Adam and Eve together and that was to be what marriage is all about, one man and one woman brought together.

But sin has entered the world and we see how man perverts what God has said. The good that God gives to us is used for evil many times. And instead of inner beauty, he is focused on the physical aspect, outward beauty.

How do I know that?

His wife was called Adah, which means ***"pleasure, ornament, beauty."***

His second wife was called Zillah, which means ***"shade"***, or it can speak of her hair, its beauty.

And his daughter was Naamah, which means ***"loveliness."***

We also see the introduction of musical instruments, metallurgy with bronze and iron, working with livestock.

#### VERSES 23-24

Look at the boasting of his sin. He murdered a man, justified his actions, and wanted his wives to know of his actions.

How was he wounded by this man, we don't know, but his actions far surpassed what he did to this man. He murdered him, and it is the same word that is used of what Cain did to his brother Abel.

And he wants to be justified for his actions as he boasts about them. In fact, he feels that his retribution to those who would come against him and what he did would be far worse than what God would or could do.

How fast man can move away from God and the distance away from God leads them to ungodly behavior, as we see here.

And make no mistake about it, the ungodly can boast all they want, and they do, but the reality is, you never read of Lamech again and those that reject God have the same destiny!

Remember what John wrote in I John 2:17, "**And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.**"

The ungodly will pass off the scene but the godly, we will abide with the Lord forever and look at the lineage of Adam as we continue on here in Genesis chapter 4, it is abiding forever!

VERSES 25-26

Obviously at some point Eve saw the wickedness of Cain and came to the logical conclusion that it must be Abel.

And then Cain murdered Abel and that plan was gone, at least in her mind.

But God had another plan, another son that would be born to them named Seth. That is the lineage from which the Messiah would come. The name "**Seth**" means "*approved*" and this would be the one approved by God.

Think about this. During this time of darkness, it seems that a revival broke out as people began to call upon the name of the Lord, to proclaim His truth, they began to call upon Yahweh.

Folks, we are a people who should also proclaim the name of the Lord, His truth in a world that is in darkness.

We looked at the lineage of Cain in our study this evening and next time we will see the lineage from Adam onward and what a difference as we are brought to a man named Noah.

We will look at that next time, but just keep in mind that in the darkest of times, when things look hopeless from our perspective, God is working!

Let me close with these Psalms to give you encouragement and hope in these dark days we are living in.

In Psalm 139:11-12 we are told, "**If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall fall on me,' Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.**"

What an encouragement that should be to us!

In Psalm 27:1 we are told, "**The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?**"

Having the correct perspective during difficult times is so important!

In Psalm 39:7 we are told, **“And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.”**

Absolutely, our hope has to be in the Lord!

And lastly, in Psalm 118:5-14 we are told, **“I called on the Lord in distress; The Lord answered me and set me in a broad place. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The Lord is for me among those who help me; Therefore I shall see my desire on those who hate me. It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in princes. All nations surrounded me, But in the name of the Lord I will destroy them. They surrounded me, Yes, they surrounded me; But in the name of the Lord I will destroy them. They surrounded me like bees; They were quenched like a fire of thorns; For in the name of the Lord I will destroy them. You pushed me violently, that I might fall, But the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.”**

The Lord has become our salvation and true peace will only be found in Him. We will not find true peace in this world because this world has tribulation for us as they fight against God.

True peace is found in Jesus, never forget that!