

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 4:3**

**“3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to Jehovah 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And Jehovah respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So Jehovah said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 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." 8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother & killed him. 9 Then Jehovah said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" 10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. 11 So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.””**

## **"Cain Murders Abel"**

**On January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1973, seven wicked men on the US Supreme Court struck down the laws against abortion in all fifty of our united states and the reign of abortion on demand here in America was brought fully out into the open. Other civil magistrates at the time,**

**From the President and his Attorney General who could have nullified this decision...**

- Or the US Senate and Congress who could have impeached those judges,**
- Or, the state legislatures that could have exercised their state’s rights,**
- Right down to the local sheriffs who could have enforced just laws,**

**ALL refused to carry out their God-given duty to be a terror to evil doers and thus the Roe v. Wade decision stands to this day and sadly over 55 million unborn children, made in the image of God, have never seen the light of day on this earth.**

**It has been our practice here at Church of the King to focus our message and our prayers, using the imprecatory Psalms from God’s Word to call our nation to repentance near the anniversary of that decision.**

**This year as I come to the first murder in God’s creation in Genesis chapter four, our study of the Book of Beginnings can continue and teach us valuable lessons about the great sin of abortion and how God deals with nations that fall into such sins.**

**Let us begin with the details in the text before us:**

**Last week we saw that Abel brought a sacrifice before God in faith and Cain did not leading to God’s giving respect in some way only to Abel’s and a strong reaction from Cain...**

**“And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So Jehovah said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 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.”**

**What we see here in chapter four is very similar to the interactions that God had with Adam after his sin. God asked Adam, ‘where are you?’ looking for repentance and now he asked Cain why he is angry, again looking for repentance and right sacrifices brought with faith.**

**There is a very important lesson for us there because God always confronts our sin, either with the Word or a brother or sister and perhaps our own conscience. When we hear or sense that question, why are you ashamed? We must be careful not to make excuses as Adam did, nor to harden our hearts as Cain did. If we do we will not hear God's instructions like those He gave to Cain...**

**God says, if you do well you will be accepted! How can that be if God is to be just?**

- **Does Cain not deserve punishment for his disobedience or lack of faith with his sacrifice?**

**His restoration requires only honest confession which would lead him to the faith that Abel had demonstrated. Then Cain would be seen in terms of God's righteousness and not his own because of the coming Messiah. What is the alternative? Cain and any who turn away as he did must then face the sin that lies at the door.**

- **Cain sadly demonstrates how NONE of us can win such a battle.**

**God was being gracious looking for repentance and pointed out that through God's power Cain could rule over that sin at the door! Cain would have none of it and the rest is history, a history that even our secular world still speaks of often. And so our account continues in verse eight of chapter four...**

**8 "Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother & killed him."**

- **A lack of faithful action in regards to the sacrifice has now led to the first murder in God's creation.**

**As Bill rightly pointed out to me this week it is only fitting that the first born son of a race that had been plunged into death by his father should himself be the first murderer on the earth.**

**Again we are given few details about this event just the terrible results from Cain's rebellion. Please note that even after this sin God reaches out looking for repentance as He did with Adam & Eve in the garden...**

- **9 Then Jehovah said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"**

**Just as God came to Adam asking, what have you done?, God is asking Cain about his brother NOT because He could not find him...**

- **But rather, looking for a repentant heart that would confess his sin and seek forgiveness.**

**Where we saw Adam making excuses, the woman you gave me did it, we now see Cain in complete denial... [Cain] said, "I do not know." Cain follows his denial with one of the most famous, and most abused phrases from the Scriptures: "Am I my brother's keeper?"**

**I can think of no better example to explain this event then to conjure up in your mind a rebellious child sassing or talking back to their parents.**

**Picture a young boy or girl who has been asked why their room is such a mess turning around and saying to their parent, "What am I your maid?"**

**Of course what is before us is a bit more serious than a messy room but I trust you get the picture and it gives us a better idea of why what Cain said was so offensive, & why it has been abused.**

**Remember that Abel was a keeper of the sheep, and as such he was their superior and could use the sheep as he saw fit. So God could have rightly said to Cain, no I did not expect you to be your brother's keeper, I expected you to be your brother's brother!**

**Please remember that the next time anyone, especially a politician tells you that you have an obligation to be your brother's keeper!**

- **Offer to be your brother's brother instead!**

However, as I said, we are here dealing with a murder not a messy room or the politics of socialism, so God gets right to the point in responding to Cain...

➤ Cain was obviously assuming what all sinners tend to assume and that is that God did not see their sin!

This was part of Asaph's frustration in Psalm 73 when he hears the wicked say, "'How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?'" It was not until Asaph went into the sanctuary of God that he rightly understood their end and part of that instruction for him and all of us is found in how God responds to Cain:

**10 And Jehovah said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground."**

➤ What Cain thought was hidden has been brought into the light!

We can keep no secrets from God almighty, something Paul points out early in the Book of Romans...

**Romans 2:11 "For there is no partiality with God. 12 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law 13 (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; 14 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, 15 who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) 16 in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel."**

➤ There will be no excuses and no ignorance on the final day of judgment!

And as we will see with Cain next week it is often carried out in the here and now which should cause us to tremble as individuals and as a nation.

Our option as individuals, as we studied last week, is to come honestly before God confessing our sin and trusting in His mercy and grace.

This should be the appeal to any who have been caught up in the sin of abortion, either directly or indirectly:

There is great guilt with great sin, but we must remember what we read last week in Isaiah, "1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says Jehovah, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow;

Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. 19 If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; 20 But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of Jehovah has spoken."

This is why Jesus can say, "28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

The same call for repentance goes out to the nations as they are told in Psalm 2, which we will read this morning as we are commissioned:

➤ "Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little."

So just as God called Cain to repentance, we will also do so this morning with our nation.

And it will help us to see how the sin of abortion in our land has some haunting similarities with the sin of Cain...

Even after the fall, Cain was born with incredible blessings having parents who walked with God and who gave him the instructions he needed to walk in faith as his brother Abel did.

We are not told the details of Cain's life but by the time we reach these sacrifices he has decided not to walk in faith and thus sin is at the door.

- I would argue that it was much the same with our nation as the coming of the Roe v. Wade decision approached in 1973.

Most look to the superficial things of recent history like removing prayer from the schools and the sexual revolution as the primary cause...

- But these were just as much the result of past sins as the abortion decision itself.

It can be argued that from the earliest days in the New World and certainly by the 18<sup>th</sup> Century the Christians of our land had started to wander away from the truth in much the same way that Cain did.

The trapping of Christianity remained, just as Cain continued to make sacrifices...

- But with real faith gone, those sacrifices are at first empty and then become very wrong.

The very seminaries and Universities that were established by early Christians became the hammer blows against the Faith as they undermined God's Word and wandered into all sorts of heretical teachings under the guise of being very academic!

God was no more pleased with the vast majority of American Churches in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century than He could have been with Cain's sacrifice.

All through these years, voices have been raised to say that God offers the same Grace today that He offered to Cain: "If you do well, will you not be accepted?"\*

Our nation could have repented and returned to their first love, but instead they went the way of Cain...

As God removed His blessings and we saw a brutal civil war, the cost of two world wars, a pandemic and a great depression come upon our land there was still no national repentance.

Again going the way of Cain, we became angry lashing out at God, asking how a 'good' God could allow such evil and in the end we largely agreed with the secular philosophers that God was for all practical purposes dead, and so He was really not missed in those classroom when prayer stopped.

The Law of God was replaced with "if it feels good do it" and the sexual revolution was on & continues.

When we see our history in such light, we see why the Roe v. Wade decision was really no more of a surprise than the murder of Abel is in our text.

Cain did not repent and choose to rule over sin, and thus sin ruled over him and putting himself first meant getting rid of anything that was in his way, especially that brother who made him angry in the first place.

Deceiving himself into thinking that God would not see, he took Abel off in a field and killed him, burying the body so no one would know what happened to him.

- Do you see how this pattern is the same with the sin of abortion?

Men wanted to party and women wanted their so-called freedom & they were not going to let anything stand in their way and when those unwanted children came along, they had to be done away with just like Abel!

**Sure they used good sounding arguments about rape or incest or the life of the mother which continue down to our day, but the reality was and IS that over 98% of the abortions done in this country are done for convenience:**

➤ **In other words the baby is in the way and he or she must die!**

**If God through His Word or a brother or sister or our own conscience comes saying, where is your baby, they say that it was just a blob of tissue, in other words we say to God... What Baby?**

**But brothers and sisters we have the same problem that Cain did:**

**Nothing that we have done has been done in secret...**

➤ **Many may take comfort in the fact that the unborn are killed in clinics quietly and out of sight, but they are not hidden from our Lord.**

**God said to Cain,**

**“What have you done?**

**The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.””**

**Our nation needs to listen and hear our eternal and unchanging God:**

➤ **America, what have you done?**

➤ **The voice of your children's blood cries out to Me from the ground!”**

**Is it that serious some might ask: Consider these chilling statements from Jehovah about King Manasseh who more than anyone else turned Jerusalem to the pagan practices of sacrificing their children to the pagan gods seeking peace and affluence.**

**Now this King himself repented when he was punished by God in Babylon and his grandson Josiah was a great King, but listen to God's judgment at the end of Josiah's reign:**

**II Kings 23:25 “Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to Jehovah with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him.**

**26 Nevertheless Jehovah did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him.”**

➤ **And just so we don't miss the point the writer of Kings tells us again in the very next chapter...**

**II Kings 24:3 “Surely at the commandment of Jehovah this came upon Judah, to remove them from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done, 4 and also because of the innocent blood that he had shed; for he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, which Jehovah would not pardon.”**

➤ **This is why it is so important that we call our nation to repentance!**

**Now some who hear of what we are doing may question whether abortion is really murder or whether we should call down God's judgment as we will in a moment using Psalm 10.**

**Let me give you comfort and instruction, & an answer and a challenge for such skeptics by turning to Psalm 139:**

**Psalm 139 is lifted up as a Psalm of David: “O Jehovah, You have searched me and known me.**

**2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Jehovah, You know it altogether.”**

➤ **God knows all and there are no hidden sins as Cain should have known.**

After going on further about God's intimate knowledge of all things, in verse 13 the Psalmist continues with words that should put away any doubts about who or what the unborn really are:

**“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret,**

**And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written,**

**The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.**

**17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.”**

- **Amazing words of comfort!**
- **At verse 19, King David then takes a very unexpected turn by our modern standards of love & mercy:**

**“Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men. 20 For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain. 21 Do I not hate them, O Jehovah, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? 22 I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.**

**King David knows he is on very dangerous ground from a human standpoint because vengeance belongs to the Lord and so he turns once more and cries out to his Creator:’**

**23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.”**

- **Such must be our prayer as we call down God's judgments on His enemies today!**

**Yes, we are to understand the wonder of man as made in the image of God, just as the text reminded us seven times that Abel was Cain's brother!**

**Yes, we are to call down God's judgments on the wicked but only with pure hearts that are judging righteously by God's Spirit.**

- **May we lift up such prayers for our nation this day and always.**
- **And may God have mercy on America!**

#### **Communion Meditation: Mark 14**

**“18 Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me." 19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, "Is it I?" And another said, "Is it I?" 20 He answered and said to them, "It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish. 21 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born." 22 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 23 Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. 25 Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.””**