

Genesis 4  
*The Generations of "the Heavens and the Earth"  
The Fallen World in which we Live (Cain, Abel & Seth)*  
February 14, 2010  
Sermon Outline

Notes

I. Introduction (Genesis 3:1-6)

- A. Is God Good?
- B. What does it Mean to be Good?
  - 1. Is Justice Good?
  - 2. Is Sin Evil, Wicked & Destructive?
  - 3. Is Compassion Good?

**Key Idea**

As the story of sin and salvation unfolds, the true nature of sin is revealed. In contrast, God's glorious goodness is brought into sharper focus.

II. The First Unbeliever Exposed (4:1-16)

- A. The Faith of Eve (1)

**Genesis 4:1**

Now **Adam** knew **Eve** his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, *"I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord."*

- B. Offerings (2-7)

**Genesis 4:3-7**

<sup>3</sup> In the course of time **Cain** brought to the Lord an offering *of the fruit of the ground,* <sup>4</sup> and **Abel** also brought *of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions.* And **the Lord** had regard for Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but for Cain and his offering he had **no regard**. So **Cain** was very angry, and his face fell. <sup>6</sup> **The Lord** said to Cain, *"Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?"* <sup>7</sup> 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 for you, but you must rule over it.*"

1. If Cain brought his offering without faith, why did he bring it? (Heb. 11:4)
2. What revealed the state of Cain's heart?
3. Consider Cain's advantages...

C. Murder, Judgment & Mercy (8-16)

1. Why Kill Cain? (1 John 3:12)
2. What does it teach us about the nature of sin and unbelief?

**Genesis 4:8-16**

<sup>9</sup> Then **the Lord said** to Cain, "*Where is Abel your brother?*" **He said**, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" <sup>10</sup> And **the Lord said**, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground." <sup>11</sup> And now you are cursed from the ground, ... You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." <sup>13</sup> **Cain said to the Lord**, "*My punishment is greater than I can bear.*" <sup>14</sup> ...and *whoever finds me will kill me.*" <sup>15</sup> Then **the Lord said to him**, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, *vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.*" And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest *any who found him* should attack him. <sup>16</sup> Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of ***Nod, east of Eden.***

3. Why didn't God Kill Cain?

**Romans 2:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the *judgment of God*? <sup>4</sup> Or do you presume on the riches of his *kindness* and *forbearance* and *patience*, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? <sup>5</sup> But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

**III. The Seed of the Serpent & the Seed of the Woman (4:17-26)**

- A. What do we learn about the nature of sin and unbelief from these details? (17-24)

**Genesis 4:17**

<sup>17</sup> Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he ***built a city***, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. ...

<sup>23</sup> Lamech said to his *wives*:

"Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. <sup>24</sup> ***If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold.***"

- B. God Provides Seth (25-26)

**Genesis 4:25-26**

<sup>25</sup> And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "*God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.*" <sup>26</sup> To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. **At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord.**

**IV. Is God Good?**

**Exodus 34:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God *merciful and gracious, slow to anger*, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, **but** who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."