

## The Greatness of God: Conceiving, Contending, Confessing

### Genesis 4

#### Conceiving

Genesis 4:1–2 *Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.”*<sup>2</sup> *And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.*

Genesis 3:20 *The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.*

Genesis 3:15 *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”*

Luke 1:32–33 *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,<sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*

#### Contending

Genesis 4:3–5 *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.*

Angry (hārā): to burn with anger

Firstborn and fat portions

Hebrews 11:4 *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.*

Genesis 4:6–7 *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 contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”*

This pictures sin temporarily at bay and subject to its master but coming alive when stirred. Kenneth Mathews NAC.

Genesis 4:8 *Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.*

Genesis 4:9 *Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"*

Numbers 32:23 *But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.*

Hebrews 12:24 *and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.*

God responds to injustice

Genesis 4:11–12 *And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> 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."*

Genesis 4:13–16 *Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. <sup>14</sup> 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." <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.*

By all estimates God's mark, whatever it was, was an amazing grace. Cain was cursed and separated from God, yet guarded by God. Cain's life still belonged to God. He bore God's image, however disfigured that image was. This was the utmost mercy that God could do, and does, for the unrepentant. R. Kent Hughes. Genesis: Beginning and Blessing

Jude 10–11 *But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. <sup>11</sup> Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.*

Genesis 4:17–22 *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>18</sup> To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. <sup>19</sup> And Lamech took two wives. The*

name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. <sup>20</sup> Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. <sup>21</sup> His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. <sup>22</sup> Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

Genesis 2:24 *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

Genesis 4:23–24 *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.”*

Matthew 18:21–22 *Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “***I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.****

Psalms 130:3–4 *If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? <sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. O Lord, who could*

Lamentations 3:22–23 *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

### Confessing

Genesis 4:25 *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.”*

Luke 3:38 *the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.*

Genesis 4:26 *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.*

When Cainite civilization began to rise and worship at the shrines of abundance and art and technology—when abuse and violence and the devaluation of life became commonplace—when vengeance became exponential—when men fancied that they were captains of their souls—Sethite civilization began to proclaim the name of the Lord, the Captain of their salvation! R. Kent Hughes. Genesis:

Beginning and Blessing

Isaiah 43:1 *But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.*

Psalm 145