

Brothers Are Babies

Ephesians 2:12-13 “Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

In chapter 4 of Genesis, the author gives a brief glimpse of life outside the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve have children as the blessing of God on man continues even in the wake of man’s sin. The sons became both workers of the ground and tenders of sheep.

The narrative assumes the effects of the Fall recorded in chapter 3 (“*by the sweat of your brow you will eat your food*”). Many diverse events are included within the small space of the chapter, giving it an appearance of being a transition and staging narrative connecting the preceding events to those that are to follow. Cain, from here on out, is seen as an example of godless humanity and Abel as an example of a spiritual man.

Augustine: “*Cain then was the first-born ... who belonged to the city of men; Abel ... belonged to the city of God*”.

In the beginning of this narrative, 2 brothers go to worship God. In the fruits of their labors, Cain and Abel both see and experience divine blessing. They realize this so they make an offering to God. Abel’s is accepted and Cain’s is not. Both men come to worship, both come with a gift fitting their vocation, both come to the same place, both come on the same day, both give their first and best.

Part of the answer is that we only see the outward, but God sees the heart. Jonathan Edwards believed that Cain and Able can (metaphorically) represent “the Church.” Abel is the true church and Cain is a hypocritical church.

- 1 John 3:12 indicates that Cain came with Jealousy in his heart.
- Hebrews 11:4 indicates that Cain came with no faith.

The difference between Cain and Able is religion. Cain does it because he has to; Abel gives out of thankfulness and love.

The two most important things in life are Jesus and who He wants you to become. Becoming that person will never happen as long as your focus is you or on someone else...no one becomes happy when their goal is to be HAPPY. God made us to be a people who are sold out to His mission; His is a grander, more noble vision. Our entire world needs people living in God’s life because we are called to bring God’s life to the world.

The first recorded death in scripture is not of natural causes; it is from human hands. The irony is that Adam and Eve are trying to find immortality; they think it can happen through Cain, and Cain brings death. This isn’t what simply happened between these two brothers, this is what ALWAYS happens. Adam sinned and tried to cover it with a fig leaf, Cain sins and tries to cover it up, and today all humanity are in this loop of folly, death, and denial.

But God shows up and brings redemption again.

- Jesus is the Firstborn over creation (*Col 1:15-18*)
- Jesus conquered sin and death (*Heb 4:15-16*)
- Jesus was the first fruits of God (*1 Cor 15:23*)

Jesus is the son of God. We hope in the son of God, not the son of Eve. Jesus’ love is a cry of hope.