



Cain's Critics (II)


Genesis 4

Bible teaches free-will of man (Gn.3-4)

- God does not physically restrain Cain from killing Abel

God gives only a word of warning

- Cain's murder is disastrous detour from God's plan. **Free-will**
- Sin is a cancer that grows and destroys



I. Chapter Digest

10, *What have you done?*

How could you?! [3:13]

Appeal to Cain's conscience

**Blood of Abel –
innocent victim crying for justice**

1. Mt.23:35
2. Lk.11:51
3. Hb.12:24

**Cain escaped capital
punishment . . .
but not spiritual death.
Ro.6:23; 12:19**

11-12, punishment fits crime

- **Ground: Cain . . .**



- **God drives Cain from this ground with a curse – punitive, not remedial**

11-12, punishment fits crime

- **Ground: Cain . . .**
- **Cain's curse amplifies Adam's curse –**

**Adam: 3:17-19,
toilsome**

**Cain: 4:11-12,
impossible**

**Adam: 3:24,
driven from Eden**

**Cain: 4:11-12, no
rest on earth**

11-12, punishment fits crime

- **Ground: Cain . . .**
- **Wanderer, fugitive: “one who staggers or reels” – twofold penalty:**
 - 1. Sent away from cultivated soil; banished to desert; roaming Bedouin**
 - 2. Wanders because of Divine sentence**

13, Cain does not cry out in repentance

- No regrets for his sin, only punishment

“I’m sorry”??

- If murder is minor, his punishment is “cruel and unusual”
- As his parents before him, Cain blames God (13-14)

14-16, the sign

- **[N]ASB: appointed a sign for Cain**
- **Most VSS: put a mark on Cain**

**Murderers fear that others
will do what they did**

**“The wicked flee when no one
pursues...” – Pr.28:1**

15: God becomes Cain's protector

- **“Common grace” – Mt.5:45**
- **Vengeance...sevenfold (2 Sm.21:8)**
- **Cain will live under God's protection, but without His salvation**

16, Cain does what Jonah could not

- **Nod: a country (wandering)**
- **Why no capital punishment?**

Make him object lesson in misery?

Longsuffering: 1 Pt.3:20; 2 Pt.3:9

Led to greatest capital punishment

17-24: Cain's descendants

25-26, do not assume no other children were born to Eve

- 1. Seth was 'appointed' to take Abel's place**
- 2. His seed would form righteous counterpart to unholy seed of Cain**



I. Chapter Digest

**II. Cain's
Dangers**

1. Cain and his God, 1-7

Hb.11:4, *by faith...*

- Always implies revelation – Ro.10:17

Abel offered to God. Mt.26:30; Ac.10:33

More excellent sacrifice... Gn.4:3-4

Witness...he was righteous.

Gn.4:4; Pr.9:8

2. Cain and his brother, 8-9

Fratricide

- Gn.4:2, 8-11: “brother”

1 Jn.3:11-12

- *Message from the beginning (2:7) – we learned to **love one another***
 - Love is no afterthought
- *Not as Cain – unapproved example*
- *Of the wicked one...murdered brother*

2. Cain and his brother, 8-9

“Of” the wicked one

- Cain, seed of woman, became seed of serpent. Sin mastered him (1 Jn.5:19)
- *Why murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous*
 - Abel was not to blame
 - Envy → Anger → Hatred → Murder

Cain opened door to wild beast . . .

Context: worship. Victim: brother

2. Cain and his brother, 8-9

“Of” the wicked one

- 1 Jn.3:15 – *hater* = murderer
 - In category of Cain
- Jn.8:44, still on the job
 - Cain, like satan: liar / murderer
 - Religion has divided, caused hatred, strife, and murder

2. Cain and his brother, 8-9

“Of” the wicked one

- **Cain became living “sermon” to warn of sin and temptation**

Sin can make sinner pity himself instead of turning to God

First sign of new life: side w. God against ourselves. Ps.51:4; Ro.3:4

3. Cain and his wife, 17

Skeptics think v.17 disproves Bible

1. Cain went to Nod and found wife

- **Opening phrase: implies already married**
- **“Knew” – conjugal relations (1, 25)**

2. Evolutionists agree: all human life originated from same pair

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Pure ‘gene
pool’ (1:31)

Degenerated
(Gn3)

Gn.20:12
Lv.18

3. Cain and his wife, 17

Skeptics think v.17 disproves Bible

- **Evolutionists agree: all human life originated from same pair**
 - Evolution: life from rocks
 - Evolution: two at same time, place...
- **Large family, Gn.1:28 (5:1-4)**

1. Cain and his God, 1-7
2. Cain and his brother, 8-9
3. Cain and his wife, 17

4. Cain and his descendants, 17-24

Adam has two lines: Seth, Cain

One obedient; the other, defiant

1. **Succeeding generations quickly make social “progress” (e.g.: 4:17)**
2. **Lamech: 7th from Adam (Cain’s line)**
3. **Enoch: 7th from Adam (Seth’s line)**

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- 1. First bigamist; rejected God's original plan, Gn.2:24**

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1. First bigamist; rejected God's original plan, Gn.2:24
2. Names of wives and daughter:

Adah: pleasure, ornament, or beauty

Zillah: shade, be or grow dark

Naamah (daughter): loveliness

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1. **First bigamist; rejected God's original plan, Gn.2:24**
2. **Names of wives and daughter**
3. **Sons become inventors**

Jabal: father of agriculture

Jubal: father of music

Tubal-cain: metal industries

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1. **First bigamist; rejected God's original plan, Gn.2:24**
2. **Names of wives and daughter**
3. **Sons become inventors**
4. **First rap song (23-24)**

Boasts of murder

Power to avenge

Progressive devolution: downhill slide

- **Second 'degeneration' deeper in sin**
- **Advance in science, not in morality, spiritual growth, biblical convictions**

Humanism

- **Lamech boasts – fades from history**