

“An Unexpected Witness”
Genesis 4:1-16

v. 1a Q. How does this verse reflect the commandment of 1:28?

A. ²⁸ “God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and _____ in number’” (Gen. 1:28 NIV)

They were obedient to the command to _____.

Cain’s name in Hebrew is from the verb form, “to _____.”

“The threefold ‘את’ signify extension of the scope of the text, teaching that a _____ was born with Cain, and that with Abel two were born; consequently, the text states ותרבה ‘and she bore more’ than the previous time.” [Rashi] [vattosef]

v. 1b Q. Creator or midwife? What did Eve mean?

A. _____. Eve recognized that this new life came, in part, from the Lord. It was an act of _____ that gave her hope for the promise in 3:15 (a “seed”).

Q. Notice that she said, “I have brought forth a _____ not a baby.” Why do you think she uses this terminology?

A.
1. It could simply be that she didn’t know any other _____. There had never been a human baby born in creation at that time.

2. It could be reflective of 3:15 and her looking at the _____ hope.

v. 2a Later she gave birth to _____ [Hevel].

The name "Abel" comes from a Hebrew word that means,

"_____, or vanity, or not abiding, not staying; breath or _____."

Scholars can only speculate on why she would have called her son this name. Some believe that it is a _____-_____ given after her son's murder.

v. 2b Q. What was associated with each son?

A.

Abel =

Cain =

Adam =

v. 3 Q. Who is mentioned first?

A. _____ is mentioned first.

Q. What is he described as doing?

A. Bringing some _____ of the soil as an _____ to Yahweh.
[Worship]

Rabbinical commentator, Rashi, states that the Aggadah (folklore) identifies the fruit that Cain brought as "the _____ fruits or the fruits of _____ value" – those that will not sprout. It is not "from the soil" or "fruit from a tree" but rather "fruit from the soil." This could be tomatoes, cucumber, or even peanuts.

Q. Where did this action come from?

A. _____. It may have come from:

- 1.
- 2.
3. (prophetically) Luke 11:50-51

v. 4a Q. What did Abel bring?

A.
1.

Note: In the future we will see the Law stating that the "fat _____ to the Lord." Lev. 3:16

2. From the _____ of his flock.

v. 4b Q. How did God respond to Abel's offering?

A.

Lit. = Yahweh "_____ it."

v. 5a Q. How did God respond to Cain's offering?

A.

v. 5b Q. What was Cain's reaction?

A. "Cain was very _____, and his face was _____."

Note: It is important to note three things:

1. Cain was mentioned _____ as coming as an act of worship/sacrifice/obedience.

2. Cain did bring _____.

3. Cain did react and was not _____ about the results.

v.6 Q. What did God do?

A.

1. He _____ him about his anger. He is seeking to get to Cain's _____.

v.7

2. God offered him a way of _____, a way of right standing. [mercy]

3. God _____ him of the consequences of refusing the way. [grace]

Q. What determined the response of God? Was it the sacrifice itself or the attitude of the one sacrificing?

A.

Abel = Heb. 4:4

Cain = 1st John 3:12; Jude 11

Q. At the heart of the matter, what do you think Cain was really angry about?

A.

v. 8 Q. What was Cain's response to God?

A. Instead of responding to God's grace and mercy, he _____ his anger toward a _____ target –

someone who would daily _____ him of his sinful attitude
– his brother.

Q. What does this say about our attitude in worship juxtaposed to our actions?

A.

Q. What does it say about God's grace and mercy?

A.

Q. What does it communicate about the world's anger toward us as followers of Jesus?

A.

v. 9 Q. What was Cain's response to God's inquiry?

A. Cain _____ and then _____ himself from his brother.

Note: The correct answer to this should have been “_____” and “_____.”

Yes, I know where my brother is because I am his keeper, his protector. I am his older brother.

Note: The question posed by God [“where”] was to elicit a _____ response in light of a sinful act just as God posed the same type of question to his parents in the Garden.

v. 10 Q. What was this question intended to do?

A.

1. Draw out a _____.

2. Declare that the hidden sin cannot be _____ by an all-knowing God.

Q. What was the unexpected witness against Cain?

A.

Q. How do we understand this compared to Hebrews 12:24?

A. Abel's blood cries out for _____. Jesus' blood cries out as a _____ for that vengeance.

Q. How does the blood of Abel still cry out according to Hebrews 11:4?

A. The blood of Jesus satisfied the wrath of God but the _____ of that will only be realized when all things are subjected to him and to the Father in heaven. Therefore, just as in Revelation 6:9-11, there are those whose blood is still crying out for _____.

v. 11 Q. What were the consequences of Cain's sin?

A.

1. He receives a _____ curse.
2. The curse was connected to his _____/purpose.
3. The curse affected the _____ of the ground.
4. He will be one who wanders/runs; one who is a _____.

Note: His attitude may have been the reason for the curse, but it is tied theologically to his _____ [that which came from the ground]. His offering was reflective of his heart. The offering was _____ and so God made the ground from which it came unacceptable. Cp. Malachi 1:7-8

Note: Cain will be expelled from his extended _____ [home] and shall have no _____ residence to call home.

Note: The Septuagint renders the last point as “you shall be groaning and trembling upon the earth.” The point being: “The horror of your crime shall ever _____ you, and you shall never have any well-grounded _____ that God will forgive you.

vv. 13-14 Q. What was Cain's response?

A.

1. The response coincides with the Septuagint rendering. Cain confesses that his crime seems to be _____ God's forgiveness.

Note: There is a symbolic parallel here. Abel suffered _____ death and Cain is experiencing _____ death. The former being much easier to bear – in Cain's thinking than the present punishment he is having to endure because of sin.

2. He acknowledges the curse upon the _____. He will no longer be a farmer.
3. He adds the pain of being _____ from God's presence.

Note: Cain is establishing a culturally held but _____ belief, that God is bound to a certain location. He probably believed that the place of worship was the place of God's _____ or a divinely designated place of meeting.

v. 15a Q What was God's promise?

A. God promised to protect Cain physically from family
_____. [*Lex Taliones*]

v. 15b Q. What did God do to ensure his promise?

A. "Then the LORD put a _____ on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him." (Gen. 4:15 NIV)

Q. What was the "mark"?

A. No one knows. The word itself means "a _____ or a token."
But the fact that the text says it was "on" him necessitates some sort
of _____ sign of _____ for Cain and
_____ for those who would want to harm him.

Q. What do you do with people who are hard-core capital punishment
proponents with respect to this verse?

A.

v. 16 Q. What was the result?

A. ¹⁶ "So Cain _____ from the LORD's presence and
lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden." (Gen. 4:16 NIV)

Note: The name "Nod" is not a _____ place but a play on words
in Hebrew. The word for "_____" consonantly is "nd." The
same for "Nod." It simply means a place of wandering.

Q. How does this account give further clarity to what it means to be
cast into the Lake of Fire as an ultimate eternal destination?

A.

Q. What does this account teach us about God's view of life and the taking of another's life premeditatively or through impulsive anger?

A.

Q. What does it tell us about worship?

A.