

Steve Greenberg's Handout, Wednesday 7pm, Feb 11, 2026

Week 05 Feb 11, 2026: Gen 4:1-26 Cain Murders Abel

Genesis 4:1-15 Cain Murders Abel (Luke 11:51; Heb. 11:4; 12:24)

Gen 4:1 Now Adam knew (had marital relations, sexual relations) Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain (she became pregnant, gave birth to the first baby in scriptures), and said, "I have acquired (produced Lit: gotten one) a man (baby boy, with help) from the LORD."

Sex is God's plan and is good within marriage, sex outside of marriage is sinful and not what God intended.

Gen 4:2 Then (later in time) she(Eve) bore (gave birth) again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep (flocks, a shepherd), but Cain was a tiller (or cultivated) of the ground.

Gen 3:16a To the woman (Eve), He(God) said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children (plural)

Gen 4:3 And in the process (or course) of time, it came to pass (harvest time, Lit: at the end of days) that Cain brought an "offering" of the fruit of the ground (notice it does not say first fruits (first crops), meaning first in order and best, choicest crops, so probably ordinary crops he harvested, from his hard work) to the LORD.

Num 18:14 Every devoted thing in Israel shall be yours.

Num 18:12 "All the best of the oil, all the best of the new wine and the grain, their firstfruits which they offer to the LORD, I have given them to you.

Num 18:13 "Whatever first ripe fruit is in their land, which they bring to the LORD, shall be yours. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it.

Gen 4:4 Abel also brought (an offering) of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat (fat portions). And the LORD respected (was pleased with) Abel and his offering,

Later, as the Israelites received the Mosaic Law, they were forbidden to eat this fat (fat around the entails, best or choice fat Lev 7:23), which was reserved as an offering to God only, especially for sin (Lev 4:8, 26, 35; 9:10; 16:25).

Gen 4:5 but He(God) did not respect (was not pleased with) Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his(Cain's) countenance fell (or his face fell) (his expression was one of downcast, being very upset, annoyed and dejected).

Heb 11:4 By "faith" Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he(Abel) was righteous (a righteous man, having or acting in right standing with God), God testifying (approving, commended him) of his gifts (his

offerings); and through it (the act of his faith) he(Abel) being dead still speaks (as an example for us today).

Abel's offering was made in faith, in a desire to worship God according to His plan by in spirit and in truth.

God is more interested in the heart of the worshiper than the gift itself (1 Samuel 16:7). Abel's offering was an act of trust and worship, whereas Cain's was seemingly a requirement, duty, something he needed to do or a job he wanted to check off. Cain's offering was the effort of manmade dead religion.

Cain's bad heart can be seen in his resentment toward his brother and in his unloving attitude which brought him to a place of anger and killing his younger brother.

1John 3:12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him(God), for he who comes to God must believe that He is (exists), and that He(God) is a "rewarder" of those who diligently (earnestly with sincerity, in contrast to casual) seek Him.

God rewards diligent seekers by providing them with what the world cannot provide:

Gods peace which surpasses all understanding (Phil 4:7)

Peace and Joy: God fills believers with joy and peace as they trust Him (Rom 15:13)

Peace not fear of trouble: (Jesus said) "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid (Jhn 14:27).

Spiritual Fruit: Those who "abide" in the vine (Jesus) are rewarded with much fruit, for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

Eternal treasures, love, abundant grace, eternal life ...

Gen 4:6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen (an expression of downcast, angry, depressed and dejected)?"

Cain's anger was rooted in pride and self-righteousness.

Gen 4:7 "If you do well (believing in Me, following my instructions with the right heart), will you not be accepted? (This shows that Cain knew exactly what was required of him) And if you do not do well (by ignoring My instructions and doing your own thing), sin lies (or is crouching) at the door. And its desire is for (or toward you to do evil, to dominate & overpower) you, but you should (you must) rule over it (say no to sin, subdue it, and be its master)

God's Word challenges us to repent, make a Godly decision and turn from our wicked ways and seek the Lord for forgiveness and empowerment.

1Pet 5:8-10 Be sober (**well balanced and HS disciplined**), be vigilant (**be ready, alert, and watchful**) because your adversary (**your enemy**) the devil walks about like a roaring lion (**fiercely hungry**), seeking whom he may devour (**swallow up and take advantage**).

1Pet 5:9 Resist him (**the devil's attacks**), steadfast in the faith (**in the Lord**), knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood (**brothers and sisters**) in the world (**your not suffering alone**).

1Pet 5:10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you (**on His firm foundation**).

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Gen 4:8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother (probably about Gods approval & disapproval of offerings**); and it came to pass (**some ancient versions add: let us go into the field**), when they were (**alone, working**) in the field, that Cain rose up against (**attacking**) Abel his brother (**younger brother**) and killed him.**

Not like Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother

1John 3:11-15 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

1John 3:12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

1John 3:13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

1John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

1John 3:15 Whoever hates (**desires evil against**) his brother (**or sister in the Lord**) is a murderer, and you know that no murderer (**or person with hatred for a fellow believer**) has eternal life abiding in him.

Gen 4:9 Then the LORD said to Cain "Where is Abel your brother?" (God knowing everything wanted Cain to speak & hear his own words**) He(Cain) said (**replied**), "I do not know (**lying & sinning to God, with no sign of remorse or regret for what he did, evil**). Am I my brother's keeper (**or am I his guardian**)?"**

God asked Cain because He wanted to give him the opportunity to confess his sin and start to do right after having done wrong.

Who is your Father? God or Satan?

Jhn 8:42-44 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

Jhn 8:43 "Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word (or why can you not accept and obey my teaching?).

Jhn 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Sometimes when answering a person's question scripturally, I like them to read the answer out loud from the scriptures because sometimes they want to say that's what you say? It is not what I think it is what God says.

Increasing Evil and Selfishness in the last days

2Tim 3:1-5 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2Tim 3:2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2Tim 3:3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

2Tim 3:4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

2Tim 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

Gen 4:10 And He(LORD) said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood (Abel's innocent blood), cries out to Me (the LORD), from the ground (for justice).

Heb 12:24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant (new living way, uniting God with man), and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things (forgiveness, relationship instead of vengeance) than that of Abel.

Gen 4:11 "So now you (Cain) are cursed from the earth (ground), which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood (Abel shed blood) from (and by), your hand (Lit: blood from your hand).

The Curse upon Satan

Gen 3:14 So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this (evil), You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go (crawl), And you shall eat dust, All the days of your life.

Gen 4:12 "When you till (or cultivate) the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you (no matter how hard you work, it will resist you from producing good crops). A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be (degraded outcast and homeless person you shall be), on the earth (Cain's sin alienated him from both the ground and God).

Num 35:33 'So you shall not pollute the land where you are; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.

Num 35:34 'Therefore do not defile the land which you inhabit, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel.' "

Gen 4:13 And Cain said (**replied**) to the LORD, "My punishment (**my sin, my iniquity and its consequences**) is greater than I can bear (**handle or endure**)!

Gen 4:14 "Surely (**Behold, Look!**) You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face (**presence**); I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond (**homeless wanderer**) on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me, will kill me."

Gen 4:15 And the LORD said to him(**Cain**), "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him (**that person**) sevenfold (**a punishment by the Lord seven times worse**)." And the LORD set a mark (**special mark or sign**) on Cain, lest anyone finding him (**or meeting him**) should kill him.

God set a protective mark and or sign upon Cain which is not clear but the people new

Genesis 4:16-24 The Family of Cain (The Ungodly Line of Cain)

Gen 4:16 Then Cain went out from the "presence of the LORD" and dwelt (**lived**) in the land of Nod(**Nod means "wandering", in exile**), on the east of Eden.

Jonah 1:3 But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Gen 4:17 And Cain knew (**had marital relations with**) his wife (**she was one of the unrecorded children of Adam and Eve, probably one of his sisters or a niece, which married each other in those days as the families started**), and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he(**Cain**) built a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son-Enoch.

Adam had many sons and daughters

Gen 5:3-5 And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years (**130 yrs.**), and begot (**fathered**) a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

Gen 5:4 After he begot (**fathered**) Seth, the days of Adam were "eight hundred years"; and "he had sons and daughters".

Gen 5:5 So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years (**130 +800=930**); and he(**Adam**) died.

The laws forbidding the practice of marrying relatives does not happen to later, the time of Moses (**Lev 18:9, 18:11, 20:17, Deut 27:22**).

The suggestion is the gene pool of humanity was pure enough to allow close marriage without harm of inbreeding. Marrying a brother or sister was not forbidden until God said it

Psa 49:11 Their inner thought is that their houses will last forever (they think foolishly their graves are their houses), Their dwelling places to all generations; They call their lands (estates) after their own names (ignoring God, not seeking Him and His will)

Gen 4:18 To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot (fathered) Mehujael, and Mehujael begot (fathered) Methushael, and Methushael begot (fathered) Lamech. (or the ancestor of, and throughout the verses).

Gen 4:19 Then Lamech took for himself two wives (married two women): the name of (first) one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah.

Gen 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Eph 5:31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

Mar 10:6-9 (Jesus said)"But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.'

Mar 10:7 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,

Mar 10:8 'and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.

Mar 10:9 "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

Gen 4:20 And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who "dwelt in tents and have livestock" (nomadic herdsman, raised herded animals).

Gen 4:21 His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who "play the harp and flute" (musicians of instruments also lyre, stringed instruments and pipe and pipes).

Gen 4:22 And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor (teacher) of every craftsman in bronze and iron (heating metals, shaping all kinds of tools and instruments). And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.

Gen 4:23 Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech (pay attention to my words)! For I have "killed a man" for wounding (striking, attacking) me, Even a young man for hurting (or bruising) me (In

Hebrew poetry, the Bible and uses a literary device called Parallelism in which the second line often repeats the idea of the first line using different words to add emphasis or detail, so we are talking about one person)

Gen 4:24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold (as the LORD said), Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold (Then Lamech will be avenged seventy-seven times)."

Lamech arrogantly declares to his wives that if someone kills him, he will be entitled to far greater vengeance since he merely retaliated for harm suffered, while Cain's murdered Abel who was innocent.

1Pet 5:5b...Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

James 4:6 But He(God) gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Genesis 4:25-26 The Line of Seth (1 Chr 1:1-4, Luk 3:36-38)

Gen 4:25 And Adam knew (made love, had marital relations with) his wife (Eve) again, and she bore a son, and named him Seth (probably means granted or appointed), "For God has appointed (granted me) another seed (offspring, child) for me, instead of Abel, whom Cain killed."

Gen 5:3 And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

Gen 4:26 And as for Seth (grew up), to him(Seth) also, a son was born; and he(Seth) named him Enosh. Then men began (at that time) to call on the "name of the LORD" (worship, prayer, praise, and thanksgiving).

The birth of Seth marks a new beginning for humanity and worshipping God

End