

Genesis

“God and Man”

Genesis tells how everything came to be
as relevant to man from God’s perspective

It’s important to read Genesis (and the Bible) as it is, the truthful telling of God what man needs to know

- **We saw creation from above (God Created, God Said)**
- **We saw creation up close (The LORD God made)**
- **We saw the last day in the garden (The LORD God called)**

Today we’ll see how quickly more lives became stained with death

- **What do you think is the best part of life?**
- **Do you think God is unfair?**
- **Do you think life is unfair?**
- **Could it be that neither God nor life is unfair, but sin is unfair?**

Maybe it’s not even unfair, perhaps it clouds our judgment of what is fair or not by putting us and our own desire at the center of the equation

Genesis 4:1-16 The LORD Respected

:1-5

Adam knew Eve. I love how the Bible puts this. There is something much deeper about the sexual relationship between a husband and wife than I think we realize, at least as a whole

Yada, *yada*, **yada!**

There is nothing deeper than knowing your spouse mentally, emotionally, spiritually and physically. When all of those are growing, healthy, in alignment, there is nothing like it. It is being one with them.

What naturally happens? KIDS (barring any physical issues)

Giving pre-marital advice...think about kids! In all likelihood, there’s a high probability of them showing up at some point after getting to know each other

Cain (kah-yin) - Cain, Kenites

possession

“Smiths” = mooses’ father-in-law, southern palestine and sinai

“I have acquired a man from the Lord”

It must have been interesting the *first* time a new person came into the world...not from a pile of dust or a rib!

You might literally say, “i have acquired a man from the Lord!”

[Psa 127:3-5 NKJV] 3 Behold, children [are] a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb [is] a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So [are] the children of one's youth. 5 Happy [is] the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

Today being Father’s Day, my kids and beautiful wife making me some sweet father’s day gifts yesterday, they really are the best gifts from God.

Ash and I have always thought of our children as gifts from God, on loan to us for caring, to give back to him daily and in eternity, better off, well cared for, guided towards him. We have to be reminded to give them back sometimes. They are all a blessing, I love them no matter what.

Do you know that’s the heart of God for us? That we are his children? Gifts? He loves us no matter what we do? No matter what we call ourselves, how much money we spend to try and change ourselves, we’re always His, and he has the best in mind for us?

Perhaps there were also thoughts of him being the messiah there...he obviously wasn’t...but perhaps he had a bit of messiah complex, do no wrong mentality there...

A second son...Abel...Heh-vell

(why on earth have we changed their names so much?)

Breath

Interesting, not told why. Perhaps he took their breath away? Perhaps it took him a little bit to breathe? I was scared for Mia right away

“His brother” - the reference based on birth order, the significance of being the first born was and is big in many cultures

It naturally works that way, too -

Mia - sometimes give her responsibility, she has it in built to care and teach her siblings

Jacob - have to remember he's not as old as her and treat him accordingly, and as the special child he is, not a "middle" child so to speak. The way he looks up to her. And the way he cares for Elisha.

Elisha - the baby, but they all were babies, but the way she looks up to them.

Family resemblance | my family | Ash's family | our kids/cousins/etc

We're not told of other siblings, perhaps we're just told of the male ones, or at least, the male ones that are important to this story that God wants to walk us through

Even in our own families, or celebrity families, we tend to know the dramatic stories, the famed family member or the bad family member. The normal kids tend to slip by without infamy sometimes.

It's the valedictorian's and black sheep that get all the attention
(salutatorian sister in law...)

We're not told how much time passes. We're told of both of their births, perhaps close, being "his brother" - a closeness there...what did the back of Adam and Eve's minivan look like? How many stickers?

We're told of their births and then what they do as adults. Maybe teenagers? Maybe young adults? Not married yet. (Not told of sisters/females in the culture a lot. Maybe Eve had enough infamy for them all)

Abel a shepherd

Cain a farmer- firstborn, doing what Adam did (although perhaps Adam had animals, too, but God prescribed that as his main vocation)

These aren't the Geico cavemen we've all been taught (and continue to be taught by the world) that existed. I know how great a movie Encino Man is, but it's all fantasy.

We're really not told how much time passes here. We'll see later that there are obviously other people born during this time, people lived hundreds upon hundreds of years until after the flood when ages decrease...so there's A LOT OF TIME to KNOW your spouse. What else are you going to do anyway? Having kids is pretty much it. And God commanded they be fruitful and multiply.

A lot of times we like obeying the fruitful part of the relationship, but don't want to take on the responsibility of multiplying!

It really is multiplication

Differences of kids, think you have both versions, then have a third, realize it's not just adding to your family, it's multiplying. The laughter, the fun, the heartache, the prayers, it's exponential somehow, and the gifts and blessings and talents they all are and have...it's not just adding chromosomes, they really multiply as they come to life in the child's life

Back to Kahyin and Havvell...

When the time was full, ready, time of offering, harvesttime, season...

Cain brought an *offering* of fruit of the ground

Abel brought *firstborn* and *fat* of the flock...a real sacrifice

Cain tried to bring what Adam might have brought when he met with God *before* sin, an offering of his fruit

But God made the example of a sacrifice and covering

God did not respect it (gaze at, look on) It didn't catch God's eye It wasn't what God would look at

[1Sa 16:7 NKJV] 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For [the LORD does] not [see] as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Abel, interesting he chose (or was bent towards) shepherding as his career, brought an animal sacrifice. He might have made the connection from what God did in the garden for his parents. His relationship with God was based on sacrificial terms. If God sacrificed for me, I should sacrifice the best for him.

The significance of the firstborn was not lost to Abel's mind

Reminds me of Jacob and Esau as far as respect unto the birthright

This echoes the offerings outlined in Levitical law later on, fat, animals, first-born, without blemish, etc.

All pictures of Jesus's sacrifice. He is the firstborn over all creation. God's only begotten son. The best. The sweetest. The most-flavorful.

God respected Abel's sacrifice...he looked on it

Just as He looks on Jesus' sacrifice instead of looking at the best we can bring God

[Isa 64:6 NKJV] 6 But we are all like an unclean [thing], And all our righteousnesses [are] like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

Cain was VERY ANGRY - hot furious, incensed

Instead of his offering being a sweet aroma of incense to God, the smell of his anger reached God's nostrils

[Jas 1:19-22 NKJV] 19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Don't we tend to get angry when we put faith in our efforts and those efforts go unnoticed or don't give the promotion we expected? It's a good test for our motives

:6-15

I like how God gets right to the point. Why are you angry?
 Seriously Cain? Making him look at the situation and his reaction

It was written all over his face!
our kids make some great faces when they're angry or pretend angry "BUSTED!"

**God lays it out for Cain just how simple and fair an equation it is...
 If you do the right thing, won't I give you the right reward?
 Isn't that simple? Why are you playing by different rules?**

And simply if you do not do well (even a positive way of saying it)

Sin desires you.

But you *should* rule over it. You SHOULD. Both morally in the sense of it being the right thing to do, the thing that makes the most logical sense, but also like, with me Cain, with the right sacrifice, you can totally rule over it, there's no question about it!

Cain doesn't respond. Instead, he goes to "talk" to his brother.

I don't think he's doing this...

[Mat 5:23-24 NKJV] 23 "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Interesting...

to say, speak, utter

(Qal) to say, to answer, to say in one's heart, to think, to command, to promise, to intend

(Niphal) to be told, to be said, to be called

(Hithpael) to boast, to act proudly

(Hiphil) to avow, to avouch

C'mon Abel, let's go out to the field...perhaps, lemme show you my fantastic new bumper crop this year...how well my crops are growing

Or perhaps (word can mean cultivated land, or land of beasts, mountain...)

Abel, we need to talk...sure brother, let's go.

When they get out there...no talk...sin rules over Cain and he kills his brother...

I can hear the snake's words in the garden echoing "you will not surely die..."

Yeah, but your kid will...

Parents sin has a HUGE effect on children.

The ones who bear the real weight of it, the consequence, is the children. It's multiplied on them.

A drunk parent deals with a hangover and will probably forget, but the child is left altared by seeing their parent messed up, doing wrong things, and it affects them emotionally, physically and even can affect their behavior later in life via their conscience...oh dad used to...maybe not even consciously

The next generation taking it farther ...

Then the Lord said to Cain...

How long after...did God confront him right there? Reminds me of right after Adam and Eve realized they were naked and began to knit some skivvies...right then God calls out to them and they hide

Cain obviously had a little time to get away, hide the body, something, because he shirks his firstborn responsibility when God asks..."how should I know?? Am I my brother's keeper?"

Why yes you are Cain...even just as a matter of fact of birth

My brother stepping up when I was young

God cuts right to the chase...again.

No remorse from Cain. Sold out and seared.

God doesn't play around. His blood cries out Cain! Seriously Cain! His blood cries out.

It cries out to God. God doesn't miss a tear and he certainly doesn't miss blood spilled
Life in the blood

[Rev 6:9-11 NKJV] 9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both [the number of] their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they [were], was completed.

Planned parenthood...the lies they spew, the way they laugh and joke about MURDERED babies...the way people stand up for them and abortion as CHOICE, FREEDOM, A RIGHT

Do you seriously think that God doesn't hear the baby's cries? Doesn't see our land and our hands and our government and our economy and our consciences soaked in the blood of the unborn? You've got another thing coming.

Starbucks. You think that you're innocent buying a \$5 cup of coffee that goes towards a super liberal organization that funds PP? Pink Ribbon?

I know we'd have to get out of the world entirely to avoid this stuff, but when God pricks your conscience, obey it

[Pro 31:8 NKJV] 8 Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all [who are] appointed to die.

SO NOW you are cursed

You were the firstborn over all men, a gift to your parents, and the leader of your siblings, You weren't accepted in faith, you tried to show your self-justification of your placement in this role and in an unacceptable offering, your offering was ignored, you were given ample opportunity and instruction to be careful and you chose the curse instead of the blessing

[Jos 24:13-15 NKJV] 13 'I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.' 14 "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! 15 "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

You are cursed from the earth...the earth would even further be the way of God's showing Cain consequence, like his father, but only worse...not just weeds and toil to eat, but now he couldn't even do that, he'd be a scavenger, a nomad, on the run with no sanctuary city

God could have cursed him FROM the Earth and killed him...the death penalty

But there is mercy here

Cain wasn't repentant! **He says his punishment is greater than he can bear!**

What about the loss of his brother?

The loss of his livelihood and position mattered more!

How about asking for forgiveness?

I think God knew Cain's heart here and there was no remorse

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble

Yet his mercy is still here...God is long suffering.

God does not treat us as our sins deserve

Can you imagine? In every just way, God could have put Cain to death!

There was still hope for Cain...we'll see he doesn't pursue it

I shall be hidden from your face...God won't see me where I am...he wanted God's provision, protection, but he didn't want God in his heart. Isn't that us all too often.

Our way. God bless ME and MY decisions. MY desires.

When OUR desires fly in the face of God's

Put our own loved ones to death

Now he's worried about being killed

There's paranoia in unrepentant sin. **THEY'RE OUT TO GET ME. OUT TO DO TO ME WHAT I DID. GUILTY CONSCIENCE.**

Can't take their own medicine as a kid

You look at the paranoia of the left and the world today. Mislabeled everyone who disagrees as some sort of evil, vile, hateful person. Do as they speak not as they do.

There were obviously people by this time...spread out...other brothers, sisters, neices, nephews (sibling relationships not incest yet until after the flood...perfect gene pool, and again, who else?)

Isn't it in fact that a picture of how Godly relationships, especially romantic ones should be?

[1Ti 5:1-2 NKJV] 1 Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort [him] as a father, younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.

Ashlee is my bride, my friend, but first and foremost, my *sister* in the Lord. We'll be in heaven together, not married, forever related by His blood.

There's something special in young people getting married, or being friends since they were kids, not dating anyone else. I wish that were the case for us all. Not knowing anyone but our spouse and having that close spiritual brother/sister relationship as a foundation.

God doesn't go with Cain like He did with Adam and Eve out of the Garden, but he does put his mark, or at least a reverse bounty on Cain

On him seven fold--a number of perfection, complete and total retaliation on him. Jesus was the firstborn, the chosen one, and perfect retaliation is taken on those who would kill him a second time in the end

We don't know what that mark was

Racists in the past have tried to say that that's where certain races came from, to justify their supremacy. Not the case. Besides, the flood? Noah had three sons...

This was not the intended anointing on Cain, but nonetheless, God would cover him. **Only God judges.** We can inspect, but when we find God's judgment, we go no further

Israel today doesn't do God's will, per se as the church is intended to do so...but God's eye is still on them, and his mark upon them and anyone who comes against them shall face righteous retaliation

If God wanted Cain dead, he would have. His position forfeited, his calling decimated, his relationships severed, because he refused the Godly sacrifice...resented his brother who trusted in it. I fear we've missed Abel in this. But Abel went home to be with the Lord.

:16

Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the East of Eden.

We'll start here next time, but...

Cain went out from the presence of the LORD

It was Cain who left God's presence in this last verse, but he had left it in his heart a long time ago, maybe never was in it

[Mat 5:27-30 NKJV] 27 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast [it] from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast [it] from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

[Jas 1:12-16 NKJV] 12 Blessed [is] the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

God wants us to rule over sin. Whatever you are supposed to sacrifice, give up, turn from. Do the right thing. The reward from God is guaranteed.