

Consequences of Nursing Sin 2015-04-19

Gen 4:1-16

In **story of sin/misery** we see **God's patience/mercy w/unrepentant sinner**.

- Cain 1st person **born in sin**. **No** indication they **twins**. Gen 4:1-5, Gen 3:15
- Cain= "**acquire**, get, possess." **Play on words & declaration of HOPE/gratitude**
- Abel = **breath**, vapor. **Prophecy** of his **short existence**.

Abel **shepherd**, Cain **farmer**. **Each offering appropriate** to their **vocation**.

- **Not** appear anything **wrong w/fruit** as **opposed** to **animal sacrifice**.
 - **Later**, God commanded **grain/harvest offerings**.

Problem not offering but in **Cain** himself (religious). Jde 11-13, Heb 11:4, 1 Jn 3:11-12

- **Abel** as much **sinner** as **Cain** but **Abel righteous & offered in faith**.
 - **Sin** can **reveal** itself in what **give** to or **keep** from **God**.

Not told explicitly **why** Cain's **rejected** but **rather** than **repent & please** God, Cain **became** very **angry** w/God & Abel. Gen 4:6-7, 1 Pet 5:8, Gen 3:16

- **God** graciously **seeks** out & gently **confronts** sinful **anger & warns** of **danger**.
 - 'sin **crouching**' & 'do well' imply Cain **knew** what was **right**.
- **Eve** talked into sin; **Cain can't** be talked out of **sin**, even by God.
 - Cain's **response** = **silently reject** God's counsel & **hardened heart**.
 - **Hardening process** set into human race in **1st generation** of sin.

Cain **directs** his **anger**, jealousy, **hatred** toward **innocent brother**. Gen 4:8, 1 Jn 3:15,

- **Not Abel's fault** Cain's sacrifice **not acceptable**.
 - Sin **begins** w/wrong **thoughts**> wrong **feelings**> wrong **words**> wrong **actions**.

Like Adam, **tries** to **hide sin** from JC. Unlike A&E: **lies & never admits** sin. Gen 4:9-12

- Gen 3 **curse personalized**, intensified (**toil harder**) & **added** to (**wander**).
 - **Ultimate penalty** for Hebrew **not death**, but **exile**, loss of roots.

Repentant heart response: '**Sentence fair**. **Mercy undeserved**.' But **Cain's** hard heart **assaults** God's **fairness**, kindness, **justice**. Gen 4:13-15, Rom 2:4-5

- **Murderer fears** being **murdered** not omnipotent righteous God.
 - **No fear/reverence** for **God**, **no indication sorrow** for **sin**, or **regret** for Abel's **death**, or **thought** for **parents** who lost son....only **preoccupied w/self**.
- **Even** in Cain's **unrepentance** God **extends mercy/compassion** towards him.
 - **Not sure** exact nature of **sign** but this was **mark of grace** that **God's protective hand** on **Cain** in **spite** of his **great sin**. Common Grace

Account of God's patience/mercy towards unrepentant sinners & the devastating consequences of nursing sin.

- **Unchecked sin within** will **eventually** lead to **devastation without**. Jam 1:14-15, Eph. 4:27, 31-32, Mt 5: 21-22a, 29-30
 - **Uncontrolled anger/jealousy** resulted in Abel's **death & destroyed Cain's life**.
- **Don't flirt/dabble w/sin**, **not even** in **thoughts**.
 - **Murder** of Abel **began** w/Cain **thinking Lord unjust** w/him.
- **Repent &** by God's grace **deal now** w/your **sin** or **soon** you'll **find yourself** in the **grip** of **monster** you **can't control**....in a **place** you **don't want** to be.

Genesis 4:1-16

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." 2 And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.

3 In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

6 The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. 9 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

10 And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. 11 And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

13 Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. 14 Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

15 Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. 16 Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.