

SIN

GENESIS 3-4.

THE FALL: SEPARATION

PART III

THE FALL: SEPARATION

"The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life." (Genesis 3:21-24, NIV)

GOD ACTS TO COVER MAN'S NAKEDNESS.

Garments of skin – an animal paid the immediate price of death.

- It removes their shame with one another.
- It removes their shame with God.

God Rules

- The finding of fact
- The intervention required
- The penalty of separation
- The constant reminder of sin

THE FALL: MAN ACTS OUT HIS SIN GENESIS 4

"Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man." Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast." (Genesis 4:1-5, NIV)

THE SET-UP

CAIN

- The firstborn
- Name means Acquired – Eve identified him as God’s blessing
- Cain follows his father as a farmer

ABEL

- Not identified by birth order
- Name means Pain – the joy of childbirth is gone.
- Abel is a shepherd.

THE SACRIFICE

CAIN

- Brings Produce for a sacrifice
- Defies God’s precedent for sacrifices.

"The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them." (Genesis 3:21, NIV)

- A product of his own work.
- Rejected

ABEL

- Brings an animal sacrifice
- Required preparation – the “fat portions”
- Observed the standard of God’s example
- Choice animals were used
- While the product of prosperity, the sacrifice was not his product.
- Accepted

THE SNIT

...So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."
(Genesis 4:5-7, NIV)

CAIN'S REACTION

- Anger
- Depression

GOD'S CHALLENGE

- Are your feelings justified?
- Are you justified? A simple equation

Doing the right thing leads to the right result.

- Cain apparently had all of the information for making a good choice.
- i.e. he knew God's standards for sacrifice and chose to do wrong.
- Like his father and mother, Cain established his own right and wrong.

Doing the wrong thing leads to turmoil

- But not necessarily sin!
- Sin is not necessitated by feelings
- Sin is not temptation
- Nor is temptation always external
- Sin always has choices
- Sin is a powerful enemy
- It can be overcome

CAIN'S CHOICE

"Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him." (Genesis 4:8, NIV)

- Cain shows deception

- Abel shows trust
- Cain kills his brother
 - The word “to kill” (often translated “slaughter”) takes a tense that carries the weight of intensity and includes the ideas of
 - Malice
 - Viciousness
 - Pre-meditation

CAIN’S CHARGE

"Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground." (Genesis 4:9-10, NIV)

God again, teaches through questions

- God knows where Abel is
- The purpose of this is to force the confrontation of actions.
- Cain knows
 - Where Abel is
 - That God knows where Abel is

Cain’s response is evasive.

- Technically correct – we are NOT our brother’s keeper.
- We do not have to hold men accountable.
- Individuals are to hold themselves accountable.
- An inability to confront the truth.
- While Adam and Eve shifted blame Cain ignores it.
- AND he never accepts it!
- He takes the role of passive bystander
- God announces the truth.

CAIN'S CONSEQUENCES

"Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth." Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is more than I can bear. Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." But the Lord said to him, "Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. So Cain went out from the Lord's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden." (Genesis 4:11-16, NIV)

Loss of occupation

- Stated as a curse v. 11 – you are going to lose your job.
- Stated as a truth v. 12 – even if you try to do it you will be unproductive.

Loss of possession

- Unknown
- Unknown by men
- Unknown by God
- Unsettled
- Unwanted
- Unprotected
 - He fears the same fate as his brother
 - He assumes the reactions of other men (his brothers and sisters)
 - His only defense comes in God's mark

What is God's Mark? We don't know.

- Some believe it was a physical blemish
- Others believe it is an astronomical event, similar to the rainbow as the symbol of God's promise not to destroy the world by flood.

CAIN'S FAMILY

"Cain lay with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch. To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael was the father of Methusael, and Methusael was the father of Lamech. Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play the harp and flute. Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain's sister was Naamah." (Genesis 4:17-22, NIV)

- The birth of Enoch is most likely prior to his banishment.
- The descriptions of these generations illustrates great culture prior to the flood
 - City dwelling – probably a camp with a watchtower
 - Hunter/gatherer societies are mobile, moving with the game and vegetation.
 - Sedentary civilizations are developed societies.
 - This is in the third generation from Adam.
 - Music – 5 generations from Adam
 - Music is the foundation of mathematics
 - Music is the foundation of science
- Forged tools
 - Requires the discoveries of
 - Ore
 - Fire
 - Manipulation
 - Iron and bronze
 - Markers of very high cultural development.
 - Bronze is an amalgam requiring basic chemistry
 - Iron has a high melting point requiring complex metallurgical skills.

- Anti-diluvian cultures will need 4000 years to redevelop these skills

"Then Eleazar the priest said to the soldiers who had gone into battle, "This is the requirement of the law that the Lord gave Moses: Gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, lead and anything else that can withstand fire must be put through the fire, and then it will be clean. But it must also be purified with the water of cleansing. And whatever cannot withstand fire must be put through that water." (Numbers 31:21-23, NIV)

"At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again." So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth." (Joshua 5:2-3, NIV)

"Not a blacksmith could be found in the whole land of Israel, because the Philistines had said, "Otherwise the Hebrews will make swords or spears!" So all Israel went down to the Philistines to have their plowshares, mattocks, axes and sickles sharpened. The price was two thirds of a shekel for sharpening plowshares and mattocks, and a third of a shekel for sharpening forks and axes and for repointing goads. So on the day of the battle not a soldier with Saul and Jonathan had a sword or spear in his hand; only Saul and his son Jonathan had them." (1 Samuel 13:19-22, NIV)

CAIN COMPOUNDED - LAMECH

- Lamech is the first recorded bigamist.
 - While polygamy is not specifically prohibited it is never encouraged.
 - Adam is given one wife and told to "cleave" or "stick to" her.
 - Another illustration of man making his own decision to do what he wants to do.
 - May also illustrate the size of the population
- Lamech appropriates the right to justify sin

"Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times." Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." (Genesis 4:23-25, NIV)

- He lessens the severity of his sin
- He increases the protection of God for his sin.