



2022 2Q Genesis—Lesson 3 Cain and His Legacy

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

Read Genesis 4:6-7: So the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it” (Genesis 4:6-7 NKJV).

What is being described here? Is this a behavior issue, a legal issue, a state of being issue?

Is God saying if you do the right rituals then I will accept you, but if you don't I will reject you?

What does God want from Cain?

Where does the Lord focus the attention on rituals, on behavior, or on the state of Cain's experience, what is actually happening inside the heart, mind, soul of Cain?

Why didn't God focus upon the ritual?

What does sin do to the sinner? Does it impact their state of being, their health and happiness? Can a person have genuine peace while embracing and practicing sin? Why not?

So what is God saying to Cain?

From *The Remedy*:

The Lord gently said to Cain, “Why do you choose to be angry? Why do you choose to be dejected? Don't you know that if you do what is right – what is in harmony with my design for life and my healing plan – you would be happy? But if you choose to break my design for life, then you open the door of your heart for sin (fear and selfishness) to dwell there. It desires to control you, but if you trust me, you can overcome it” (Genesis 4:6-7 REM).

Read last paragraph, “The next events...” What law lens is the lesson these historical events through?

Do you remember last week in Wednesday's lesson it said, “judgment leads to death, evil, and curses...”

If Cain's crime is part of the curses and the curses occur because of God's judgment then wouldn't that mean that God is responsible for Cain killing Abel?



These are the types of subtle lies Satan weaves into people's minds when they accept the idea that God's law functions like human law.

The lesson makes the problem of sin to be behavioral, criminal, this is not what the Bible teaches:

This is the **message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.** [What is the message from the beginning?] Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. **Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer,** and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him (1 John 3:11-15 NIV84).

Who is a murderer, only the one who kills or also the one who hates in their heart?

Was Cain's problem primarily the act—if an angel would have stepped in and stopped Cain's hand from the act but Cain retained murderous rage and intent in his heart, would Cain be okay, in good standing with God, righteous, have no sin on his account in heaven? Would Cain have peace? Would Cain be right with God?

Sin is not primarily a behavioral problem, it is primarily a heart problem, the behaviors are the outworking of the motives of the heart. Jesus said:

“Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned” (Matthew 12:33-37 NIV84).

What is Jesus describing? From where do the evil deeds originate? And what type of judgment is Jesus describing? Is this judicial or diagnostic, merely pronouncing the actual condition of what the state of the various hearts are?

MONDAY

Read third paragraph which is a quotation from *Patriarchs and Prophets*:

Without the shedding of blood there could be no remission of sin; and they were to show their **faith in the blood of Christ as the promised atonement** by offering the firstlings of the flock in sacrifice. Besides this, the first fruits of the earth were to be presented before the Lord as a



thank offering (Patriarchs and Prophets 71).

What law lens do you understand this through?

Why could there be no remission of sin without the shedding of blood? Is it because:

- The Father needed a sacrifice offered to Him to do something to the Father, propitiate His wrath, appease Him, persuade Him, soften Him up, make a legal provision to give God permission to do something God was not allowed to do?
- The law which is above God and compulsory upon God required a death penalty be paid?
- Because the law requires a just penalty be paid and the law requires that someone die for the crime of sin and in God's justice system it is considered very righteous to find an innocent person and execute them in place of the guilty and so that the guilty can go free?
- Or, is it that sin changed the condition of human beings infecting them with a death-causing principle and the only way to restore human beings to eternal life was to eradicate the death causing principle and restore the life causing principle within the species—and this required someone that someone had to overcome and destroy the death causing principle as a human—and that is why there could be no remission of sin without the shedding of blood, it was the only way to eliminate sin from sinners.

What is meant by faith in the blood of Christ? Do we have faith in red corpuscles? Or is this a symbolic way of describing the life of Christ, which is the life of sinless perfection and the perfect revelation of God that dispels lies and wins us back to trust?

Where did Jesus say the blood must be applied in order for sinners to be saved?

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him" (John 6:53-56 NIV84).

So what does it mean to have faith in the blood of Christ? Does it mean to have faith in a blood payment made to the Father to clean our records in heaven of recorded sin? Or does it mean, we see the life of Jesus and the lies of Satan are dispelled and we are won to trust and in trust open the heart and Jesus pours His life and love into our hearts and we internalize the life of Christ so "that it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20)?

Understand the flesh and blood are symbols of truth and love—that we ingest to make us new beings in Christ. Consider from the same author these quotes about what the metaphor of blood is in reality. Remember if we don't tie metaphor and symbols to reality we are stuck in fantasy and sadly much of Christianity teaches fantasy about a punishing god requiring blood payments to make legal adjustments. But here is from the same author:



“In the study of the Bible the converted soul **eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of God, which He himself interprets as the receiving and doing of His words**, that are spirit and life.” Fundamentals of Christian Education 378.1

“The leaven of **truth** works a change in the whole man, making the coarse refined, the rough gentle, the selfish generous. By **it [the truth] the impure are cleansed, washed in the blood of the Lamb.**” Christ’s Object Lessons 102

So, what does it mean to have faith in the blood? To be won to trust by the truth and then to internalize the truth into our own hearts, minds, and characters.

What does it mean the promised atonement?

How do we understand atonement? What law lens are we reading through?

If God’s law functions like human law, imposed rules requiring infliction of just punishments, then what is atonement taught to be? Legal punishments and payments.

But when we return to worshipping the Creator whose laws are the design protocols for life, what is atonement—it is bringing two parties that are alienated back into oneness. What is the cause of humanity separation from God? What has broken the bonds of love and trust in our relationship with God? Is there something in God or God’s law that causes the divide, or is there something in human beings that causes the divide? It is sin in us that causes the divide, then in order for humans to be at-one with God, where does the action have to take place, in God, in God’s law, or in the species human?

Thus, Jesus is “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29 NIV84).

Jesus doesn’t take away the punishment of the world, or take away the anger of God, He takes away the sin. Sin is the destructive and death causing principle that separates us from God and Jesus came to take away the sin.

Sadly, though, because of the infection of imposed law most of the world believes the lie that Jesus came to take away the punishment of God for our sin and thus we have been stuck waiting for the people of God to return to worshipping Him and stop worshipping Satan’s impersonation of Him.

An online viewer sent the following quote and asked how we understand it through design law view, this quotation from an article in Signs of the Times Dec 23, 1886:

The altar and the promise stand side by side, and one casts clear beams of light upon the other, showing that the justice of an offended God could be appeased only by the death of his beloved Son. Signs of the Times Dec 23, 1886



Didn't we just decide that the sacrifice was not for the purpose of appeasing an offended God? But this article seems say that it was. So, what does it mean? Always go back and read the context of a quote, this quote is from an article contrasting Cain and Abel. The altar referred to is the altar built by Cain and Abel, at the instruction of Adam.

The author contrasts the attitudes of the heart of Cain and Abel.

The article starts out with this:

These two brothers, Cain and Abel, represent the whole human family. They were both tested on the point of obedience, and all will be tested as they were. Abel bore the proving of God. **He revealed the gold of a righteous character, the principles of true godliness.** But Cain's religion had not a good foundation; **it rested on human merit. He brought to God something in which he had a personal interest,**--the fruits of the ground, which had been cultivated by his toil; and **he presented his offering as a favor done to God,** through which he expected to secure the divine approval. He obeyed in building an altar, obeyed in bringing a sacrifice; but it was only a partial obedience. The essential part, the recognition of the need of a Redeemer, was left out. (Signs of the Times Dec 23, 1886)

- What did Abel bring that Cain did not?
- Why was Abel's offering accepted and Cain's was not?
- When the jailer asked Paul, "What must I do to be saved?" What was the answer? "Put your entire trust in the Master Jesus. Then you'll live as you were meant to live—and everyone in your house included!" (Acts 16:31 Message)
- What does this mean to trust, or put one's faith in Jesus? It means a humble willingness to listen, be instructed, follow, to trust, have confidence and faith in Jesus that He knows more than us, loves more than us, sees more than us, and even when we don't understand a reason for a specific instruction we trust Jesus knowing He is good and all His instructions are for our good. This is what it means to obey; in the Bible obedience actually means a humble willingness to listen, to be instructed and then to choose to follow and do what was instructed. This is what Jesus meant when He said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3-4 NIV84).
- What is the difference between Cain and Abel? Abel trusted God, Cain trusted in himself and the two sacrifices were the outworking or evidence or actions of the hearts, trust or distrust, two different types of character were developed.

Later in the article it states:

In the case of Cain and Abel we have **a type of two classes** that will exist in the world till the close of time; and this type is worthy of close study. **There is a marked difference in the characters** of these two brothers, and the same difference is seen in the human family today. **Cain represents those who carry out the principles and works of Satan, by worshipping God in a way of their own choosing.** Like the leader whom they follow, they are willing to



render partial obedience, but not entire submission to God. Man, in the pride of his heart, would like to believe that he can **confer some favor upon God; that our heavenly Father may be the receiver, and not always the giver. But God will not be bribed.** He says: “Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.” “If I were hungry, I would not tell thee; for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof.” Man has nothing to give that he has not first received from God. ST December 23, 1886, par. 7

Note the context is over character, one of love and trust versus pride and selfishness. Abel understood the principles of God’s government, how God is always the giver, not the receiver, but Cain sought to put God in the role of receiving the offerings to earn favor.

But what if instead of offering God the work of our hands, we offer God the blood of His Son to appease His wrath? Will God be bribed by a better offering?

From the same article:

How did Abel know so well the plan of salvation?—Adam taught it to his children and grandchildren. And the apostle says that “**faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**” After Adam had sinned, a feeling of terror seized him. A constant dread was upon him; shame and remorse tortured his soul. In this state of mind he wished to be as far removed as possible from the presence of God, whom he had so loved to meet in his Eden home. But the Lord followed this conscience-stricken man, and while he condemned the sin of which Adam had been guilty, gave him words of gracious promise. In pronouncing the curse upon the deceiver, God had said: “I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” ST December 23, 1886, par. 4

This was the first gospel sermon ever preached to fallen man; this promise was the star of hope, illuminating the dark and dismal future of the race. Adam gladly received the welcome assurance of deliverance, and diligently instructed his children in the way of the Lord. **This promise was presented in close connection with the altar of sacrificial offerings. The altar and the promise stand side by side, and one casts clear beams of light upon the other, showing that the justice of an offended God could be appeased only by the death of his beloved Son.** The bleeding victim consuming on the altar illustrated Adam's teachings, and thus the sight of the eyes deepened the impression made by the hearing of the ear. ST December 23, 1886, par. 5

So with the greater context of the article, how do you understand this section about justice, an offended God and appeasement by the death of His Son?

What “law” lens to you understand justice through? Imposed law or design law, the protocols upon which life is built?



What is God's justice? Doing what is right, doing what is right as defined by the law of love, which is what? What does love require? To heal, to restore, to redeem, to save.

Thus the promise given to Adam, that the seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head, but the serpent would bruise his heel stands beside the altar, which visually acted out the selfless sacrifice of Christ to achieve what was promised. The gentle lamb with its large sad eyes, stands calmly without protest while Able takes a knife and cuts its throat—illustrates gentle Jesus calmly without protest or fighting back being abused and crucified to eradicate the death-causing principle and restore humanity to unity with God.

The promise and the altar enlightened each other.

Then what about being appeased? Again which law lens do you look through?

If the imposed law then one believes this is legal payment to an offended God. But the article itself disallows this interpretation, as it makes clear throughout that the gifts are not given to God, which Cain tried to do, but are **from God to man for man's need**.

The barrier set up between God and man is that of sin in man, thus what is required to fix the problem of sin in man is provided by God.

It is offensive to God (as it is to any being with a heart of love) to see pain, suffering, death, which occur when God's design for life is broken. Thus God hates sin because it breaks the protocols upon which life is constructed, inflicts pain, suffering, death and is an offense to the pure loving heart of God.

Therefore, if we look through the lens of design law, the law upon which life is built, we see that the sacrifice of Christ was the only means to please God's purpose in saving humankind.

Do you think I am being dishonest with the quote? Well, here is the dictionary definition of the word appease:

“to make (someone) pleased OR less angry by giving or saying something desired”

What would please God after Adam deviated from God's design and plunged humanity into a death spiral? Would it not please God to see mankind delivered and saved? Is this not what God desired? What would make God less angry? Wouldn't it be to see His beautiful children healed, saved, restored to unity with Him? Thus, the only way God's justice of love could be pleased was through the death of Jesus, who provides the remedy for the terminal condition Adam inflicted upon the world, fulfilling God's desire to save the human race!



TUESDAY

Read second paragraph, “God’s two questions...” What does it say about God that He approaches Cain in this way?

And what is the condition that God wants Cain to acknowledge—is it a legal condition, God wants Cain to acknowledge he broke a rule, is in legal trouble, needs a legal pardon from the heavenly magistrate, OR God wants Cain to recognize the sinfulness, fear, hatred, bitterness, selfishness and distrust of God and humble himself in trust to God and allow God to heal him?

Can people have proper behaviors and still be enemies of God? Can people love and trust God struggle with sin yet desire to be better and always seek God out after any sin?

Can we tell who is right with God by their behaviors?

Where is God’s primary concern on the behavior or the heart motive? Who is preoccupied with behavior? “Man looks on the outward appearance but the Lord looks on the heart!”

Read fourth paragraph, “On the other hand...” What does it mean sin lies at the door? Does this image of something at the door bring another Bible passage to mind?

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me (Revelation 3:20 NIV84).

Is this a different door than God is referencing with Cain, or the same door? And a door to what? To the heart, we each decide on who and what we allow into our hearts. Satan cannot force a person to sin, he can tempt, but we must choose what we say yes to. Do we say yes to Jesus or to temptation? Do we love God or do we love things of this world, alcohol, drugs, our nation, our professional societies, our alma maters, our theologies more than God?

Read last paragraph, “God’s second word...” From where does self-control come? It is the last fruit of the Spirit, as Jesus heals us through His Spirit we gain certain traits of character, and one of those is self-control. We never become puppets or robots, but are freed from the enslavement to fear and selfishness, from the domination of bad habits and addictions and our internal control over ourselves is restored to us.

This process cannot be done by human strength alone; it cannot be done in a sinner by God’s strength alone—it is a cooperative effort. We must choose, we must trust God and He supplies the wisdom, insight, conviction, understanding and power to succeed. But God never makes the choice for us, because to do so would destroy our individuality and God loves us too much to do this.

This is also a painful process, dying to self, overcoming sin in the life. The Bible says,

Therefore, since Christ **suffered in his body**, arm yourselves also with the same attitude,



because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God (1 Peter 4:1-2 NIV84).

We all have carnal desires that tempt us—but if we arm ourselves with the attitude of Jesus, in a trust relationship with Him, we will choose to say no and God will supply the power to succeed. There will be a time of suffering in the flesh, but if we choose to stay the course the healing comes and we are set free.

WEDNESDAY

Read last paragraph, “It is because Abel’s blood...” What caused Cain to be a refugee? Was it because God condemned him, pronounced a punishment upon him, or was it because Cain refused to repent and preferred that course for his life?

What would have happened if Cain would have repented, genuinely? Do we have examples of sinners repenting in Scripture and how God treated them?

What caused Cain to isolate, wander, avoid others, was it God banishing him or fear, guilt, shame in his own heart driving him away?

The following is a description from volume 1 of The Spirit of Prophecy regarding Satan after his fall from heaven and planning his temptation of Adam and Eve:

Satan stood in amazement at his new condition. His happiness was gone. He looked upon the angels who, with him, **were once so happy**, but who had been expelled from Heaven with him. Before their fall, not a shade of discontent had marred their perfect bliss. Now all seemed changed. Countenances which had reflected the image of their Maker were **gloomy and despairing. Strife, discord, and bitter recrimination, were among them.** Previous to their rebellion these things had been unknown in Heaven. Satan now beholds **the terrible results of his rebellion.** He shuddered, and feared to face the future, and to contemplate the end of these things. 1SP 28.1 [What is the cause of this change? Is this an infliction by God? Is God using power to make the angels feel bad, be discontent, incite strife and conflict? This is what sin does. Breaking God’s design laws damages all who break them, whether human or angels. This is what also happened to Adam and Eve, why they ran and hid, and to Cain. There is no peace, joy, or happiness in sin, only in harmony with God and His design law is there life, health, happiness and joy.]

The hour for joyful, happy songs of praise to God and his dear Son had come. Satan had led the heavenly choir. He had raised the first note, then all the angelic host united with him, and glorious strains of music had resounded through Heaven in honor of God and his dear Son. **But now, instead of strains of sweetest music, discord and angry words fall upon the ear of the great rebel leader.** Where was he? Was it not all a horrible dream? Was he shut out of



Heaven? Were the gates of Heaven never more to open and admit him? The hour of worship draws nigh, when bright and holy angels bow before the Father. No more will he unite in heavenly song. No more will he bow in reverence and holy awe before the presence of the eternal God. **Could he be again as he was when he was pure, true and loyal, gladly would he yield up the claims of his authority. But he was lost! beyond redemption,** for his presumptuous rebellion! And this was not all; **he had led others to rebellion** and to the same lost condition with himself—angels, who had never thought to question the will of Heaven, or refuse obedience to the law of God till he had put it into their minds, **presenting before them that they might enjoy a greater good, a higher and more glorious liberty.** [You see this same argument today in almost all manner of evil, the lie that one can achieve greater freedom by engaging in some sin, some breaking of God's design laws for life. This particularly a part of the current messaging to children from the left about human sexuality. That you can have more freedom if you deviate from God's design of chastity until marriage and greater freedom if you have many partners of any gender.] This had been the sophistry whereby he had deceived them. A responsibility now rests upon him from which he would fain be released. 1SP 28.2

These spirits had become turbulent with disappointed hopes. **Instead of greater good, they were experiencing the sad results of disobedience and disregard of law.** [What kind of law? Why were they suffering like this? Was this a punishment inflicted by God?] Never more would these unhappy beings be swayed by the mild rule of Jesus Christ. Never more would their spirits be stirred by the deep, earnest love, peace, and joy, which his presence had ever inspired in them, to be returned to him in cheerful obedience and reverential honor. 1SP 29.1

Satan trembled as he viewed his work. He was alone in meditation upon the past, the present, and his future plans. His mighty frame shook as with a tempest. An angel from Heaven was passing. He called him, and entreated an interview with Christ. This was granted him. **He then related to the Son of God that he repented of his rebellion, and wished again the favor of God.** He was willing to take the place God had previously assigned him, and be under his wise command. **Christ wept at Satan's woe,** but told him, as the mind of God, that he could never be received into Heaven. Heaven must not be placed in jeopardy. All Heaven would be marred should he be received back; **for sin and rebellion originated with him. The seeds of rebellion were still within him.** He had, in his rebellion, no occasion for his course, and **he had not only hopelessly ruined himself,** but the host of angels also, who would then have been happy in Heaven had he remained steadfast. **The law of God could condemn, but could not pardon.** 1SP 29.2 [What is described here? Why was Satan not taken back? Didn't he express sorrow and repentance? No, the seeds of rebellion were still within him. He was sorrowful of the results, but not of the pride, the selfishness, the jealousy and envy, the falsehoods that he told. He was the same rebel in character. Why can God's law condemn and not pardon, is this describing a judicial process or reality? What type of law? The laws of health can condemn—diagnose and expose where one is terminal, but the laws don't heal, God heals, God saves, God restores and sets right.]

He repented not of his rebellion because he saw the goodness of God which he had



abused. It was not possible that his love for God had so increased since his fall that it would lead to cheerful submission and happy obedience to his law which had been despised. **The wretchedness he realized in losing the sweet light of Heaven, and the sense of guilt which forced itself upon him, and the disappointment he experienced himself in not finding his expectations realized, were the cause of his grief.** [He was sorry for the results, not the sin itself.] To be commander out of Heaven, was vastly different from being thus honored in Heaven. The loss he had sustained of all the privileges of Heaven seemed too much to be borne. He wished to regain these. 1SP 30.1

This great change of position had not increased his love for God, nor for his wise and just law. **When Satan became fully convinced that there was no possibility of his being re-instated in the favor of God, he manifested his malice with increased hatred and fiery vehemence...** 1SP 30.2 [This is diagnostic—had Satan truly repented and Christ been wrong about him, then when he was told he couldn't come back into heaven, he would have humbly submitted and done everything he could to make God look good. "You're right. I would put everyone else at risk. I am happy to stay out because I want you all to be healthy and happy." But his actions demonstrate Christ was right, there was no genuine repentance or change of heart. Understand what is described, none of this is legal, it is all reality of function based on the law one internalizes into their heart and mind.]

Satan went alone to mature plans that would most surely secure the fall of Adam and Eve. He had fears that his purposes might be defeated. And again, even if he should be successful in leading Adam and Eve to disobey the commandment of God, and thus become transgressors of his law, and no good come to himself, **his own case would not be improved; his guilt would only be increased.** 1SP 31.2 [What kind of guilt, legal guilt, or reality, he would have more guilt upon his soul knowing how he injured and ruined other innocent beings?]

He shuddered at the thought of plunging the holy, happy pair into the misery and remorse he was himself enduring. He seemed in a state of indecision; at one time firm and determined, then hesitating and wavering. His angels were seeking him, their leader, to acquaint him with their decision. **They will unite with Satan in his plans, and with him bear the responsibility, and share the consequences.** 1SP 32.1

Satan cast off his feelings of despair and weakness, and, as their leader, fortified himself to brave out the matter, and do all in his power to defy the authority of God and his Son... 1SP 32.2 [What is being described? This is what happens with people, evil people reinforce and encourage their evil overcoming any fears, anxieties, or reluctance. Bad company corrupts good character and colludes together to accomplish more evil. Paul wrote in Romans: "They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them" (Ro 1:29–32 NIV84).



THURSDAY

The lesson focuses on the increase in wickedness from Cain's descendants. Lamech who is first documented to have two wives and who also killed a man and then told his wives that if Cain is avenged 7 times he would be avenged 77 times.

Consider this commentary from third volume of Spiritual Gifts:

In the beginning, God gave to Adam one wife, thus showing his order. **He never designed that man should have a plurality of wives.** Lamech was the first who departed in this respect from God's wise arrangement. He had two wives, **which created discord in his family. The envy and jealousy of both made Lamech unhappy.** When men began to multiply upon the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, they took them wives of all which they chose. **This was one of the great sins of the inhabitants of the old world, which brought the wrath of God upon them.** This custom was practiced after the flood, and became so common that even righteous men fell into the practice, and had a plurality of wives. Yet it was no less sin because they became corrupted, and departed in this thing from God's order. 3SG 99.1

From where did the discord originate in Lamech's family? Was God using power to cause his family to be in discord? Why wasn't Lamech happy in this situation? Happiness is a by-product of healthiness in all domains, one cannot have health in violations of the laws of health. Likewise one cannot have relationship health while violating the laws upon which relationships are designed to function, such as loyalty, trust, devotion, and love.

So, it was unavoidable that things would be stressful and unhappy when he took more than one wife.

What about God's wrath, what does this mean? Does it mean God is inflicting punishment for rule-breaking, or something else?

What happened to the world prior to the flood? Violence and violence all the time, why? How is it the world degraded so rapidly? Because God poured out His wrath, which is God letting people go who insist on rejecting Him and when God sets free what happens to people, relationships and society?

This is what we read in Romans 1, rejecting God results in God granting your wish which results in all the evils magnifying and multiplying in hearts and in the world.

What do you make of Genesis 6:1-2:

“When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose” (Genesis 6:1-2 NIV84).

Many people believe this describes fallen angels (sons of God as in Job 1) coming down and having



relationships with human women and having children that are a mix of angels and humans and this is where demons come from.

What do you think?

I believe this describes situations like Samson and Delilah in which a righteous man takes a wicked wife and is corrupted in the process.

So this is referring to descendants of Seth marrying the descendants of Cain.

SUNDAY

The lesson suggests given the translation of the texts around the birth of Cain, the natural hope in a Savior, that Adam and Eve may have invested their hopes into Cain that he would be the fulfillment of the promise—that he would be their Savior.

Read third paragraph, “In fact, Cain...” If it is true that Adam and Eve almost worshipped him, yet he is not Jesus, he is not God, what would be the likely impact of such treatment?

If Cain were worshipped by Adam and Eve, might Cain feel entitled, special, privileged? Might this have been a weakness in his character that contributed to selfishness, expanding and being jealous when Abel’s sacrifice was accepted and Cain’s was not? “How dare God NOT accept my sacrifice—it is I, ME, CAIN, the wonder boy, who has brought it, I am not like this dirty shepherd...”?

Might being the firstborn have impacted his value on himself to a degree that he thought more highly of himself than his actual status deserved?

Do any of us ever struggle with similar temptations?

Assuming Adam and Eve did indulge the child and quasi-worship him, were they responsible for the outcome of Cain’s life? Absolutely not, it gives some insight into the struggles that Cain would face, but based on the conversation recorded in Genesis between God and Cain, Cain had every opportunity to trust God and overcome the sinful propensities and temptations. How Cain turned out was decided by Cain, not by his parents!



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

May 4, 2022 6:00-7:00 p.m.: Dr. Jennings will be presenting The God Shaped Brain at Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church located at 612 James Blvd Signal Mountain, TN 37377.

May 6-7, 2022: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Lakewood Seventh-Day Adventist Church 1382 Arthur Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107.

- Friday evening: Healing the Mind
- Sabbath SS time: The God Shaped Brain
- Sabbath Church: Growing up in Christ—the 7 levels of moral decision making
- Sabbath afternoon: The Developing Brain followed by Q&A