

Genesis 4:1-26

# ANGER ACCORDING TO GOD

*Cain was furious! His kid brother, Abel, could apparently do no wrong. Their parents always seemed pleased with Abel and disappointed in Cain. Even God appeared to favor Abel over his older brother. Finally, Cain's jealousy boiled over into rage, and he lost perspective. That's when he made an irrational decision: if he couldn't match up to his brother, he'd get rid of him! Of course Cain should have realized that he couldn't hide a murder from God. However, anger blinded him to the point that even when God warned him of the outcome of his diabolical plan he took no notice. At that moment he didn't care what the consequences would be. When you allow yourself to become angry and lose your self-control, you are in great danger. No one can make you angry. It is a choice you make. Anger is never your only option: you can choose to forgive; you can decide to change your attitude; you can even pray for the one who has provoked you... But being angry at someone else is a whole lot easier than making changes in your own life.*

—Henry T. Blackaby

We were created to worship God, love one another, and rule over the earth. This is *shalom*. But sin has radically changed everything. Instead of the Garden, we now live in a world impacted by disease, disaster, suffering, and death. Instead of worshiping God, we run to our own idols. Instead of loving others, we selfishly fight for control. And instead of peace in our hearts, we have fear, shame, and anger. The consequences of sin in Genesis 3 are manifested in Genesis 4.

## THE BIRTH OF CAIN & ABEL (4:1-2)

- Cain. "I have gotten a man from the Lord."
- Abel. "Breath; breathing; vapor."

## THE OFFERING OF CAIN & ABEL (4:3-5)

- Cain. *Some of the fruit of the ground.*
- Abel. *The firstborn of his flock—even the fattest of them.*
- The Lord. *The Lord had regard for Abel and his offering but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. Why?*
  - A. Abel's was a \_\_\_\_\_ offering and Cain's was not.
  - B. Abel had \_\_\_\_\_ and Cain did not (cf. Heb. 11:4).
  - C. Abel gave of his \_\_\_\_\_ and Cain did not.

## THE WARNING OF THE LORD (4:6-7)

*"Why are you angry, and why is your expression downcast? Is it not true that if you do what is right, you will be fine? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. It desires to dominate you, but you must subdue it." (NET Bible)*

*When Eve called her firstborn son Cain ("acquired"), she said, "I have gotten a man from Jehovah." Apparently she connected the birth of her son with the immediate fulfillment of the promise concerning the Seed, who was to bruise the head of the serpent.*

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*It was the greatness of her joy and of her reverential awe, which prevented her from calling Cain a "son." She considered Cain would be that "man" who should bruise the serpent's head. And therefore she does not say simply, "a man;" but, "a man of Yahweh," implying that he would be that man concerning whom the Lord God had promised her that her Seed should bruise the serpent's head.*

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- Examine your own \_\_\_\_\_.
- Change your own \_\_\_\_\_.
- See sin's great \_\_\_\_\_.
- Choose to do what is \_\_\_\_\_.

### THE MURDER OF ABEL (4:8)

*For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 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.*

—1 John 3:11-12

### THE JUDGMENT OF THE LORD (4:9-12)

- God's confrontation. *Where is Abel your brother?*
- Cain's denial. *I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?*
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### THE LAMENT OF CAIN (4:13-14)

*My punishment is greater than I can bear!*

### THE MERCY OF THE LORD (4:15-16)

*The Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.*

### THE DESCENT OF CAIN'S SEED (4:17-24)

- Fearful \_\_\_\_\_.
- Proudful \_\_\_\_\_.
- Lustful \_\_\_\_\_.
- Hateful \_\_\_\_\_.

*I have killed a man for wounding me, even a young man for hurting me. If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.*

### THE HOPE OF SETH'S SEED (4:25-26)

- Seth. "God has appointed another seed for me."
- Enosh. "Mortal man; generally, man in his weakness."
- *At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord.*

*Pride is one chief cause of undue anger. It is because men are proud and exalt themselves in their own hearts, that they are revengeful, and are apt to be agitated, and to make great things out of little ones that may be against themselves.*

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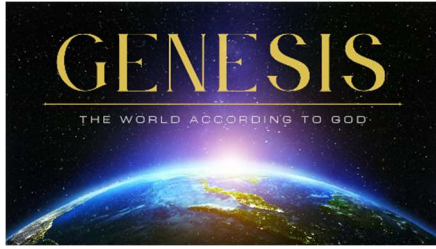
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*It is the consciousness of human frailty, symbolized by the name Enosh, that heightens man's awareness of utter dependence on God, a situation that intuitively evokes prayer.*

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