

## **THE BEGINNING OF FAMILY LIFE**

*As we come to Genesis Ch. 4 we have a great contrast,  
The beauty and the Beast, love and hate, faithfulness and rebellion.  
The Bible has a rich and accurate history of this first family. If we think we have  
family troubles, just read this chapter of God's book, for God hides nothing from  
us, the bad thoughts and actions are made bare to the reader as well as the noble.*

### **A NATURAL DESIRE**

**Gen 4:1** And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

*Here is the first mention of sexual relationship and reproduction under the marriage bond, notice the words 'she conceived' this is the Hebrew word to become pregnant with a child, God says that from the day that Eve became pregnant she had a child, a human being.*

*To destroy the life of the unborn child is murder in the eyes of God with very few exceptions.*

*No sooner has the first child in the earth been born Eve speaks some marvelous words of prophecy, no doubt under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, 'I have gotten a man from the Lord'.*

*She said something so out of the ordinary that many bible translators find it hard to believe that she said it.*

*The Hebrew wording literally says, 'I have gotten a man, or as Martin Luther translated it, 'I have received a man Jehovah'.*

*This reveals that Eve understood that there would be a seed of the woman that would be both God and man.*

### **A DOUBLE DELIGHT**

*When we come to V.2 we get quite a surprise,*

**Gen 4:2** And she again bare his brother Abel.

*It only mentions Adam having known his wife once, and only one conception, yet two sons, this could be the worlds first set of twins for the first mum.*

*Abel was a keeper of sheep, and it is worth noticing that the first human beings were fully formed, and fully developed, the sheep were totally sheep, not half breed or cross breed.*

*But anyway Abel was a shepherd and forerunner of the Great Shepherd who was truly man yet truly God, a keeper of the necessary sacrifice, he had an eye to serving God.*

*Cain was a tiller of the ground, the 'cursed ground.*

### **THE PRIORITY OF TIME**

*Then we come to **Gen 4:3** And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.*

*Through the process of time Cain and Abel grew up and as mature and responsible persons were accountable to God, and as they would have been instructed of their parents they brought a sacrifice and an offering to God. These two brothers were*

*representative of all the people of the world.*

*Both were born under the shadow of the fall into sin, both their lives were tainted with original sin inherited from their parents.*

*Cain brought what he had laboured for, Abel brought of that which God had given him. We see two men bringing two different sacrifices, having two standings before God, they came with two different attitudes.*

*If you analyze actions you will see that behavior is a choice, you make up your mind to follow a certain course of action, and the intentions of these two men show us that the worship of God is not a new novel invention, but an ancient institution.*

#### **THE FALSE AND THE TRUE SACRIFICE**

*God had shown from the first that a substitute sacrifice of blood was necessary for their mission ( that is pardon or forgiveness), the blood was the only thing that could cover their sin.*

**Heb 9:22 ... and without shedding of blood is no remission.**

*And Cain knew this, Adam and Eve would have instructed him of the necessity of obeying God to the letter, yet he deliberately brought a bloodless sacrifice*

*Abel on the other hand brought what he had been taught to bring, the first and the fattest, nothing but the best is to be given to the Lord God of Hosts, thus owning that he was a sinner deserving God's wrath and pleading God's mercy.*

#### **ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION**

**And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:**

*Abel's offering was accepted because of two things,*

- 1. it was brought under the Divinely appointed way.*
- 2. Which showed that he acknowledged his sinful state and in a spirit of humiliation sought forgiveness and reconciliation.*

*Cain's offering wasn't accepted because by his actions he showed his rejection of God's instituted mode of atonement, through the blood of the substitute sacrifice.*

*And this made Cain very wroth, and it showed clearly in his face.*

#### **THE QUESTION OF INTEGRITY**

**Gen 4:6** And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

**Gen 4:7** If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.

*Cain is given an opportunity to repent and seek forgiveness through the proper means but what does he do?*