

January 24, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
GENESIS : Behind The Curtain
Episode 1 : Fall To The Flood - Cain & Abel
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Genesis 4:1-8

Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have obtained a male child with the help of the LORD." ²And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a cultivator of the ground. ³So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the ground. ⁴Abel, on his part also brought an offering, from the firstborn of his flock and from their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering; ⁵but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his face was gloomy. ⁶Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why is your face gloomy? ⁷If you do well, will your face not be cheerful? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." ⁸Cain talked to his brother Abel; and it happened that when they were in the field Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Historical Criticism

Genesis was written by Moses

- Genesis follows humanity through creation and humanity's descent into sin ([Genesis 3](#)). From there, we have the well-known story of the Great Flood, and the birth of the Israelite nation through Abraham.
- Creationism

Were Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel and Seth real?

- Liberal/Modern scholars suggest that Cain and Abel are symbolic rather than real.
 - If this were true, then Luke's gospel traces Jesus' line back to an imaginary idea in Lk 3:23-48.
 - Prehistoric and evolutionary theory are presented as fact and historic theory presented as fiction.
 - Has the bible ever been proven untrue?

The First Three Acts After The Fall

- 1. The Institution of the Family**
- 2. The Institution of the Offering System**
- 3. The First Murder**

The Institution Of Family- Vs. 1 *Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have obtained a male child with the help of the LORD." ²And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel.*

- In the family you find life.
- In the family you find diversity and balance.

¹ The city of [Uruk](#), today considered the oldest in the world, was first settled in c. 4500 BCE.

² <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/who-wrote-genesis.html>

³ [Blenkinsopp 2011](#), p. 2.

⁴ <https://www.sapiens.org/column/field-trips/neanderthal-sex-lives-bones/>

The Institution Of Offering- *So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the ground. Abel, on his part also brought an offering, from the firstborn of his flock and from their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering; but for Cain and his offering He had no regard.*

- Understanding the first fruits -
 - **Tithe is an act of holiness: Leviticus 27:30** *'A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD'.*
 - **Tithe is an act of the heart: 2 Cor 9:6-7** *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

The First Act of Murder- To be continued.

Small Group Questions

1. Pastor Adam mentioned that liberal biblical critics see the Genesis story as a metaphor rather than a true story. What do you believe and why?
2. The first act mentioned after the fall and removal of mankind from paradise was the creation of the family. God is also seen as a Father in scripture. Why do you think the family is so important to the Gospel story?
3. Why would Cain and Abel bring offerings to the Lord? What are some ways we can give offerings to the Lord today?
4. The scripture says that tithes are an act of holiness? Why would tithes be holy unto God?
5. Do you think tithes and offerings are still necessary today and does God bless those who tithe? What would that blessing look like?