

8-17-25

Sermon Title: "Cain, His Fear, and the Hidden Population of Genesis"

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with humble hearts, ready to hear Your Word and receive Your truth. As we look into the story of Cain, his fear, and the mystery within Genesis, give us wisdom and understanding by Your Spirit. Help us to see how even in the earliest pages of Scripture, Your justice, mercy, and plan for redemption shine through. Let every word spoken today glorify Jesus Christ and draw us closer to You. We pray in the name of Jesus.... Amen!

Opening Scripture: Genesis 4:13-17 (NIV)

Genesis 4:13-17 NIV

Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. [14] 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." [15] But the LORD said to him, "Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. [16] So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden. [17] Cain made love to 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.

I. Introduction: A Question That Stirs the Mind

This passage raises a common and reasonable question:

If Adam, Eve, Cain, and Abel were the only people on earth, who was Cain afraid of? And who did he marry?

This question has been asked by skeptics and Christians alike. And instead of undermining our faith, when we dig into Scripture and rightly divide it, it strengthens our confidence in the Word of God.

II. Adam and Eve Had Many Sons and Daughters

Genesis 5:4 NIV

After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters.

- Key Point: The Bible focuses on key figures (like Cain, Abel, and later Seth), but it does not list every child born.
- Adam lived 930 years (Genesis 5:5), so he and Eve had plenty of time to have many children, even hundreds.
- Cain and Abel were likely born early in Adam and Eve's life, but by the time Cain killed Abel, other brothers and sisters may have already been born—or would be soon.

Cain's Fear Was Realistic

Cain wasn't paranoid. He knew the consequences of what he had done and feared revenge from family members who would grow up and find out what he did to Abel.

“Whoever finds me will kill me” – This suggests a broader family network already existed or would soon.

III. Where Did Cain Get His Wife?

Genesis 4:17 NIV

Cain made love to 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.

- The Bible doesn't say where Cain's wife came from in this verse—it assumes the reader understands.
- Answer: Cain married his sister or a close relative (such as a niece).

This was not sin at the time:

- No genetic defects: Adam and Eve were created perfect. There was no danger of birth defects from close relatives yet.
- No law against it: The Law forbidding close-relative marriage (Leviticus 18) didn't come until over 2,000 years later.
- In early humanity, this was necessary to populate the earth.

IV. God's Purpose in Spreading Humanity

Genesis 1:28 NIV

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

- Adam and Eve were commanded to fill the earth.

- Incest only became harmful and forbidden later, as the human gene pool became more corrupt due to the Fall (Romans 5:12).

Romans 5:12 NIV

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned-

God allowed early sibling marriage for the sake of survival and multiplication.

V. The Mark of Cain: God's Mercy in Judgment

Even in judgment, God shows mercy.

Genesis 4:15 NIV

But the LORD said to him, "Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him.

- God put a mark on Cain—not a curse, but a protection.
- This reveals God's desire to limit sin, even after Cain murdered his brother.
- The mark's nature is unknown, but its purpose was to warn others—likely Cain's extended family.

VI. What This Teaches Us Today

1. God's Word Is Trustworthy Even When It's Brief

- The Bible often gives summaries—not exhaustive lists. This helps us focus on God’s redemptive plan rather than every family tree detail.

2. God Always Makes a Way

- Even when Cain sinned, God made a way for humanity to move forward.
- No mistake is too big for God to weave into His greater plan (Romans 8:28).

3. We All Come From One Family

- All humans descend from Adam and Eve.
- **Acts 17:26 NIV**

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

There is no room for racial pride or division—we are one blood, one race: the human race.

VII. The Greater Cain: Jesus Christ

Cain was banished, marked, and feared.

But another man would come, marked by nail-pierced hands—not for His sin, but for ours.

1 John 3:12 NIV

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 3:16 NIV

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Cain took life—Jesus gave life.

Cain feared judgment—Jesus bore judgment.

Cain fled from God's presence—Jesus came to bring us back into it.

Conclusion:

Answering the Questions Clearly

- Cain feared being killed by other siblings or extended family.

- Cain married a sister or niece.
- God allowed this because it was necessary in early humanity and there was no law or danger yet.
- The Bible is accurate, trustworthy, and leads us ultimately to Jesus Christ, the solution to the curse of sin.

Closing Prayer

Lord God, we thank You for the truths You have revealed through Your Word today. We see in Cain's story the weight of sin, the reality of fear, and the hope we have in Your grace. As we leave this place, help us walk in obedience, trusting in Your protection and provision. Keep our hearts fixed on Christ, our Redeemer, and fill us with boldness to live for You in a world that still wrestles with sin. In the name of Jesus, our Savior, Amen.