



**“The Lord Set a Mark on Cain”**

**Genesis 4**

# Who Was Cain?

- Cain (Hebrew: ,|!q̄ Qayin; Koine Greek Κάϊν, Ka-in) was the first child of Eve, and had a promising beginning
  - Gen. 4:1 - “Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, I have acquired a man from the LORD.”
- He was the first murderer and the first to fall under a curse.
- He was the first human born, and Abel was the first human to die.
- Cain was the first city-builder, and the forefather of tent-dwelling herdsmen (ironic), harp and pipe players, and bronze and iron smiths

# Who Was Cain?

- Cain treacherously murdered his brother Abel out of smoldering rage and jealousy, and lied about the murder to God.
- With the earth cursed to drink Abel's blood, Cain was no longer able to farm the land, and he was cursed and marked for life.
- Cain's curse involved receiving a mark from God, commonly referred to as the mark of Cain. This mark serves as God's promise to Cain for Divine protection from an untimely death, to prevent anyone from killing him. It is not known what the mark is, but it is assumed that the mark was visible.

# Who Was Cain?

- All of Cain's descendants died in the Flood; none of them were ever noted as worshipers of God; and one of his great grandchildren was a murderer like Cain
- Memories of this murder would pursue him for many generations
  - Gen. 4:23-24 - "Then Lamech said to his wives: Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me. 24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."
- The name Cain appears in the Bible twenty times in seventeen verses. His name appears only three times in the New Testament, and each time it appears there, it is used in a negative way.

# What Was The Mark Of Cain?

- Unknown, but subject to a lot of silly speculation
  - Abba Arika said that God gave Cain a dog.
  - Abba Jose ben Hanan said that God made a horn grow out of Cain's head.
  - Abba Hanin Rashi said that it was one of the Hebrew letters of the Tetragrammaton
  - In Kabbalah, the Zohar states that the mark of Cain was one of the twenty-two Hebrew letters of the Torah, tau or vav

# What Was The Mark Of Cain?

- The Hebrew word *tya oth*, which translates as a mark, signifies a sign or token.
- In Gen. 9:13, the rainbow was to be *tyal leoth*, for a sign or token that the world would not be destroyed by water; therefore the words, “And the Lord set a mark upon Cain,” should be understood that the Lord placed on Cain a token or sign that no one is permitted to slay him.
- The mark would serve him as a constant reminder of his sins; but, in spite of that, there is no record that Cain ever repented

# What Was The Mark Of Cain?

- Heb. 11:4 - “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.”
- 1John 3:12 - “Not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.”
- Jude 11 - “Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.”

# What Was The Mark Of Cain?

- What was the mark of Cain? It doesn't matter and it is a foolish waste of time to speculate. It wasn't the mark that saved or condemned Cain; it was his sin and failure to repent.
- The only true curse is sin, and the only answer to that curse is the Gospel.

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- Serve God according to His will
  - Prov. 16:25 - “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”
  - Jude 11 - “Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain...”
  - Heb. 11:4 - “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts”
  - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- Cain was instructed by God, and he still did it his own way
  - Matt. 7:21-23 - “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'”

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- Believe God with all of your heart
  - Heb. 11:4 - “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain”
- Cain talked with God and still did not believe Him
  - Gen. 4:4-14

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- Everyone must choose to work righteousness
  - Gen. 4:7 - “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.”

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- Cain and Abel grew up together in the same home. They had the same parents, received the same instructions, saw the same things, and shared the same experiences.
- They both chose honorable vocations. Cain followed in his father's footsteps and became a farmer. Abel became a shepherd. Both vocations were important to sustain the family.
- Both worshiped God.

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- But their choice to obey or disobey God was theirs alone, and all of the similarities or differences between them are irrelevant in this decision
  - Phil. 2:12 - “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”
  - Rom. 14:10, 12 - “But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ... 12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- Those who sin, must repent
  - Gen. 4:13-14 - “And Cain said to the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear! 14 Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.”
  - Mark 2:17 - “When Jesus heard it, He said to them, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- Cain did not care about his sin; he cared that he was going to be punished for it
- Cain did not care about losing his soul; he cared about losing his life
- God cannot help someone like Cain. No one can.
- The person who refuses to acknowledge his spiritual condition and who refuses to repent of sin cannot, and will not, be saved.

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- Being angry at the righteous doesn't help the sinner
  - Gen. 4:3-7 - "And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So the LORD said to Cain, Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 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."

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- Why did Cain kill Abel?
- He was jealous. Abel had something Cain did not have. Abel had a faithful relationship with God, and unbelievers often demonstrate animosity and anger toward people of faith.

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- 2Peter 2:9-12 - “Then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, 11 whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord. 12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption”

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- 1Peter 4:1-5 - “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. 4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. 5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- They could have it, too, if they wanted. But they don't want to do what is necessary to get there; so they think somehow it will help to tear down those who are doing it
- The condition of the heart determines the course of the life. What is seen in the life externally is a revelation of the character of the heart internally
  - Prov. 4:23 - “Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.”

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- Matt. 12:34-35 - “Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things”

# Cain's Mark For Us Today

- There is the way of Cain
  - Jude 11 - “Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain...”
- Then there is the only living way
  - John 14:6 - “Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”