

Genesis 4A

[Gen. 4:1](#) ¶ Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with *the help of the LORD.*"

- Very interesting verse
 - Adam yada yada ishshah harah yalad Qayin amar - qanah ish Yahweh
 - Adam had relations woman conceived brought forth Cain – acquired man, God
 - Cain means acquisition
 - Eve believes the promised has been fulfilled in her

[Gen. 4:2](#) Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

- This verse is equally interesting
 - The wording in Hebrew suggests twins, but probably not
 - Added conception brother Hebel
 - The opening word "yasaph" can mean added, once again, one more time
 - The name Abel in Hebrew is:
 - Habel – vapor
 - Also spelled Habal - vanity
 - Woman realized the vanity of assuming she would be the one to bring the Messiah
 - God often frustrates men by not choosing the one we assume should be chosen

[Gen. 4:3](#) So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground.

[Gen. 4:4](#) Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering;

[Gen. 4:5](#) but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

- In the course of time...
 - According to the natural course of events
 - Suggests an inevitability rising out of the fall in the garden
 - Cain and Abel brought an offering to God
 - Sacrifices were already an understood necessity
 - God had shown the necessity that men atone
 - Also significant that man is so closely connected with God that they approach Him in this way (though veiled)
- Cain keeps flocks, Abel farms
 - Were the flocks for meat?
 - Interesting, because God had not yet given animals for meat
 - Perhaps the sin of Cain included eating meat (killing was a way of life)
- God has regard for Abel, not for Cain
 - Shaah – paid attention, looked at Abel's
 - God ignored Cain's sacrifice
 - Cain was angry and his face fell
 - Was Abel's contribution better?
 - Maybe blood vs no blood
 - Maybe ground vs firstlings

- Underlying meaning
 - First consider some scripture

[Hos. 6:6](#) For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice,
And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

[Hos. 6:7](#) But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant;
There they have dealt treacherously against Me.

[1Sam. 15:22](#) Samuel said,
"Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
As in obeying the voice of the LORD?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams.

[1John 3:12](#) not as **Cain**, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

- Cain's action reflect his unbelieving heart
 - Abel's actions reflect true faith
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[Gen. 4:6](#) Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

[Gen. 4:7](#) "If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

- Look how quickly men have slipped
 - He's mad at God, not contrite
 - The corrupt nature of Adam in full display
- Countenance = face

- Verse 7: If you do what's right, you will be lifted up
 - Otherwise, sin is ever present, ready to take over and corrupt further
 - We must master it or it will take over us
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[Gen. 4:9](#) ¶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

[Gen. 4:10](#) He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground.

[Gen. 4:11](#) "Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

[Gen. 4:12](#) "When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.