The Spread of Sin
From Jealousy to Murder
Genesis 4 (Study 6)

A.   The Curse of Sin! (Sin tends to spread, getting worse.) Gen. 4:1-8

1.   Two Sons, Two Values. Gen. 4:1-4a

   a.   What were the professions of Abel and Cain?

   b.   What offerings did they bring?

2.   Rejected Sacrifice. Gen. 4:4b-5a

   a.   What responses did God have toward their offerings?

   b.   What does Hebrews 11:4 add?

3.   A Dangerous Reaction. Gen. 4:5b-7

   a.   What was Cain's reaction? (Gen. 4:5b)

   b.   What did the LORD ask Cain? (Gen. 4:6)

   c.   What did the LORD promise Cain? (Gen. 4:7a)

   d.   Of what did He warn Cain? (Gen. 4:7b)

   e.   What would Cain have to do? (Gen. 4:7c)

4.   The Bitter Fruit (Gen. 4:8)

   a.   What did Cain communicate to his brother, Abel?

   b.   What did Cain do while they were alone together in an isolated spot?

   c.   Why did he do it?

      d.   What additional information can we learn? (1 John 3:11-18).

          1)   Who was the power behind Cain? (1 John 3:12)

          2)   What was Cain's reason for killing his brother? (1 John 3:12)

B.   The Curse of God. Gen. 4:9-15

1.   Was Cain truthful? (Gen. 4:9)

2.   What was God's view? (Gen. 4:10)

3.   What was the curse God placed on Cain? (Gen. 4:11-12)

4.   What was Cain's protest? (Gen. 4:13-14)

      a.   About the severity of his punishment? (Gen. 4:13)

      b.   About his status in life? (Gen. 4:14a)

      c.   About his fear? (Gen. 4:14b)

      d.   In your opinion, did Cain accept responsibility for his action against his brother?

5.   How did God show grace to a murderer? (Gen. 4:15)

      a.   How did He promise to punish the one who would kill Cain?

      b.   What protection did He provide for Cain?

C.   The Culture of Cain. 4:16-24

1.   A sad walk away. (Gen. 4:16)

      a.   From whom did Cain depart?

      b.   Where did he live?

2.   Cain's legacy. (Gen. 4:17)

      a.   Whom did Cain's wife bear?

        b.   What city did Cain build?

3.   Who are Cain's descendants? (Gen. 4:18)

4.   Basking in Bigamy. (Gen. 4:19)

        a.   Cain's descendant Lamech married two wives. Who were they?

        b.   This is the first recorded account of bigamy. Hereafter, polygamous marriages are always reported as engendering pain and hostility.

5.   Nomadic Herdsmen. (Gen. 4:20)

        a.   Who was Adah's son?

        b.   He was the father of whom?

6.   Musicians. Gen. (Gen. 4:21)

        a.   Adah's other son was who?

        b.   He was the father of whom?

7.   Manufacturers. (Gen. 4:22)

        a.   Lamech's wife Zillah gave birth to whom?

        b.   For what was he known?

8.   Arrogant Self-Defense. Explain how was sin affecting society. (Gen. 4:23-24)

        a.   What did Lamech tell his wives he had done? (Gen. 4:23)

        b.   What excuse did he give? (Gen. 4:23)

        c.   To what protection from God did he presume he was entitled? (Gen. 4:24)

D. The Culture of Seth. (Adam's Godly Replacement Offspring.) Gen. 4:25-26

1. Adam's wife gave birth to another son. (Gen. 4:25)

   a. What did she name him?

   b. Why?

2. Seth had a son. What was his name? (Gen. 4:26a)

3. What did people begin to do at that time? (Gen. 4:26b)

4. It seems that the family of Seth had a beneficial effect upon mankind. How would you describe that influence? (Gen. 4:26b)

E. The Implications

1. How is Cain an example of what happens when we don't deal with bad attitudes?

2. What do we learn about God's grace from this chapter?

3. It appears that even though Cain departed from God, his society made significant advances in agribusiness, technology, and culture. What conclusions can you make about society's progress in these and many other areas in the last 6,000 years despite peoples' general lack of relationship to the God of the Bible?

4. What is significant, in this chapter, about the line of Seth?

5. Which is more important to you? Advancing in culture or worshiping God?