



The Penetration of Evil

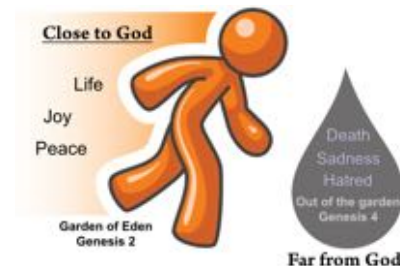
Genesis 4:1-12

Religion Kills

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Review

- Genesis 1-2: Understanding God
 - God is a creative God.
 - He is powerful but good
 - God wants the best for mankind
- Genesis 3: Understanding Evil
 - Evil invaded and stained mankind
- Purpose of Genesis 4
- The Run Pattern



A) The Infiltration of Evil (Gen 4:1-5)

Marriage, Sex & Work (Genesis 4:1-2)

“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.” 2 And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground” (Gen 4:1-2).

- ‘Had relations’ = sex = know => children within marriage
- “It’s a man!” (not “It’s a boy!”)
- Cain means possession - It’s mine
- Occupations

Trouble in the Offering (Genesis 4:3-5)

“So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground. 4 And 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; 5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard” (Gen 4:3-5).

- The Kind of offering
- The Faith in the offering (Heb 11:4,6)
Works without faith cannot please God. (Heb 11:6)
- What is religion? Why is it so dangerous?

B) The Confrontation of Evil (Gen 4:5-12)

“But for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell” (Gen 4:5). “6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 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.”

- Not acceptable
- Got angry
- God’s confrontation

Biblical Counseling in action!

“Why are you angry?”	Points out the problem is rooted with his heart rather than another. Exposes motivation.
“And why has your countenance fallen?”	Carefully observes. Identifies his poor attitude by reminding him of his angry countenance.
“If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up?”	Shows how one’s sinful behavior and guilt is associated with sadness.
“And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door.”	Offers a warning of the dangers without change of course.
“And its desire is for you, but you must master it.”	Provides hope and hints on how to conquer this inner evil.

The Murder (Genesis 4:8)

“And Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him” (Gen 4:8).

- Cain told Abel - Why?
- Cain murdered his younger brother
- The reason murder isn’t more common

Denial & Deceit (Genesis 4:9-10)

Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” 10 And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground” (Gen 4:9-10).

- God’s confrontation
- Man’s denial
- Facts of murder

Sin’s Curse (Genesis 4:11-12)

11 And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. 12 When you cultivate the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you; you shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.” (Gen 4:11-12).

- Disastrous results
- General difficulties > cursed from the ground
- Social problems > vagrant
- Success thwarted > wanderer on the earth

Summary: Beyond the Surface of Your Heart

- Do you have the signs of religion but not faith?
 - Afraid of getting too involved or devoted?
 - Tolerate mediocrity, rather than excel?
 - Live for sight (man), not by faith (God)
- Are you afraid to confront? Chastise?
- Are you paying attention to what God is speaking to you?

