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A Biographical Study of Cain

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Cain

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. The apostate
 - A. He brought some of the fruits of the ground as an offering to God, which was not acceptable (Gen. 4:3-5).
 - B. In anger, he rejected God's gracious invitation to bring a blood offering, as his brother Abel had done, which would be accepted (Gen. 4:5-7).
- II. The assassin
 - A. The crime
 - 1. He murdered his brother Abel in the field (Gen. 4:8).
 - 2. He then lied to God about what he had done (Gen. 4:9).
 - B. The curse
 - 1. God pronounced a special judgmental curse upon Cain (Gen. 4:10-12).
 - 2. He was, however, protected by God from mob violence by a special mark (probably until human government could be established) (Gen. 4:13-15).
- III. The architect
 - A. He left God's presence and resided in the land of Job, meaning "wandering," east of Eden (Gen. 4:16).
 - B. He married one of his sisters (implied in Gen. 5:4) and fathered a son named Enoch (Gen. 4:17).
 - C. He built earth's first city and named it after his son Enoch (Gen. 4:17).

THEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Hebrews contrasts Cain's unbelief and disobedience with his brother Abel's faith and obedience (Heb. 11:4).
- II. John gave us both the source and reason which prompted Cain to kill Abel (1 John 3:12).
 - A. The source—Satan himself
 - B. The reason—Envy
- III. Jude referred to Cain, using him to illustrate the works of an apostate (Jude 11).

STATISTICS

Father: Adam (Gen. 4:1)

Mother: Eve (Gen. 4:1)

Spouse: Unnamed wife (Gen. 4:17)

Son: Enoch (Gen. 4:17)

Brothers: Abel and Seth named (Gen. 4:2, 25) (See Gen. 5:4.)

First mention: Genesis 4:1

Final mention: Jude 11

Meaning of his name: "Acquisition"

Frequency of his name: Referred to 19 times

Biblical books mentioning him: Four books (Genesis, Hebrews, 1 John, Jude)

Occupation: Farmer, city builder (Gen. 4:3, 17)

Place of birth: Outside the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:23—4:1)

Important fact about his life: He was the first baby to be born on earth (Gen. 4:1)