A view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and the blue atmosphere. A bright sun is visible on the left side, creating a lens flare effect. The text "the book of GENESIS" is overlaid in a large, white, bold font, with "the book of" in a smaller font above "GENESIS".

the book of
GENESIS

what it tells us about God and life



¹ Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, "With the Lord's help, I have produced a man!" ² Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel. When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground.

³ When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. ⁴ Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵ but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

⁶“Why are you so angry?” the Lord asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? ⁷ You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”

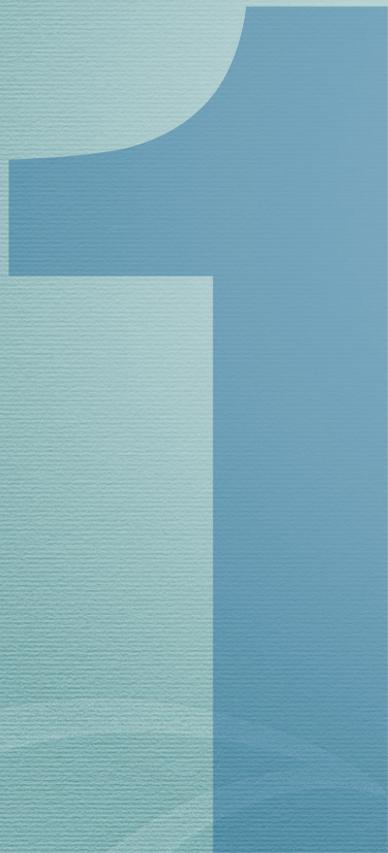
⁸ One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.⁹ Afterward the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?" "I don't know," Cain responded. "Am I my brother's guardian?"

¹⁰ But the Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! ¹¹ Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother's blood. ¹² No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth."

¹³ Cain replied to the Lord, "My punishment is too great for me to bear! ¹⁴ You have banished me from the land and from your presence; you have made me a homeless wanderer. Anyone who finds me will kill me!" ¹⁵ The Lord replied, "No, for I will give a sevenfold punishment to anyone who kills you." Then the Lord put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who might try to kill him. ¹⁶ So Cain left the Lord's presence and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.



How Sin Hides

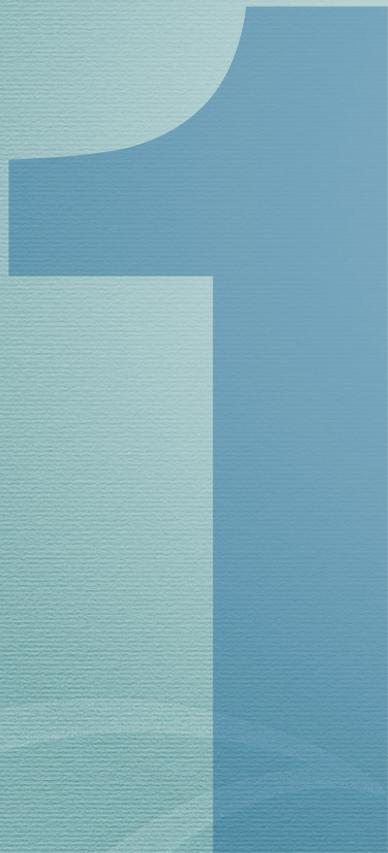


What's the difference
between Cain
and Abel?

How Sin Hides

1 Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.

How Sin Hides



(Sin) ...it's eager to control you but you must master it. vs.7



God's Graciousness On Display

2

Genesis Chapter 4 is about as old as the Old Testament gets.

God's Graciousness On Display

2

- *God is the one who initiates.*

God's Graciousness On Display

2

God did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected. vs. 5

God's Graciousness On Display

2

The Lord asked Cain...
vs. 6

God's Graciousness On Display

2

- *God comes as a counselor.*

God's Graciousness On Display

2

“you must subdue it
and be its master.”

vs. 7

God's Graciousness On Display

2

- *God gets to the motives of our sin.*

God's Graciousness On Display

2

The Lord asked Cain
“Why are you so angry”
vs. 6





Miroslav Volf
Director
Yale Center for Faith

"Cain was angry because Abel, who was literally a nobody, would be regarded, and Cain, who was clearly a somebody, should be disregarded."



Miroslav Volf

Director

Yale Center for Faith

“Cain’s identity was constructed from the start in relationship to Abel. He was great because he was better than Abel. Cain either had to readjust his identity or eliminate Abel.”



...the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7





Miroslav Volf

“Maybe Cain had defined himself all of his life as being the better brother. Therefore if Abel is actually the better kid, in any way, Cain would naturally think, Then who am I, especially if God looks unfavorably on my gift?”



How Salvation Is Discovered

3

It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did.

Hebrews 11:4

How Salvation Is Discovered

...without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6





You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel. Hebrews 12:24



But the Lord said, "What
have you done? Listen! Your
brother's blood cries out to
me from the ground!

Genesis 4:10

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”?



...the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?" "I don't know," Cain responded. "Am I my brother's guardian?"

Genesis 4:9

Cain replied to the Lord,
"My punishment is too great
for me to bear!

Genesis 4:13



