

God's Eternal Plan #8
Murder and the Sons of God
Genesis 4:1-8

Tonight's study actually begins in Genesis 3:24, "So (God) drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life." So many times we look at God's response to man's rebellion simply as judgment but God always operates from His grace and mercy. In reality, it was God's mercy that drove the guilty, but forgiven pair, from the Garden lest they eat of the "Tree of Life" and be doomed to live "forever" in their fallen and pain riddled mortal bodies. And the sun sets on another sad and difficult day in the life of Adam and Eve.

Although the Bible does not tell us, it is probable that God in His love explained to Adam and Eve the significance of a "Bloody Sacrifice" for sin, but it is a remarkable fact that Adam is not mentioned in the Scriptures as offering such a sacrifice, neither is he mentioned in the list of Old Testament saints listed in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. The list begins with Abel, who is the first one mentioned as offering up a "bloody" sacrifice.

Back up for a moment to Genesis 1:28 where God told Adam and Eve to "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth." A careful study of Scripture seems to indicate that Adam and Eve had no children before the "Fall." But the Scripture also seem to make it clear they were created for that purpose.

How soon after the expulsion from the Garden the first child was born to Adam and Eve we are not told. Given their newfound revelation of the "flesh" probably it was not very long. The first child was a son, Cain. The name means "gotten" or "acquired," and implies that Eve took him for the "Promised Seed." Cain seems to have been a disappointment to Eve, and when Abel was born she called him, which means "vanity" or "vapor."

The Scriptures really do not say that Abel was the second child. There may have been a number of children, both sons and daughters, born between Cain and Abel. The key here is that Cain and Abel was "Representative" of humanity: one of the wicked line, and the other of the righteous line from Adam.

Intermarriages among the children of the same family were not forbidden until after the Flood. In no other way could the human race multiply as it did in those early days, and for some time after the Flood.

Cain and Abel were not children when Cain killed Abel. They possibly could have been over 100 years of age. Abel was a "keeper of sheep," not his

father's, but his own. He was a grown man and a cattle owner. **Cain was an agriculturist and the possessor of large estates.** Abel was probably born soon after the death of Abel. Genesis 5:3 tells us that Adam was 130 years old when Seth was born. And if that is the case, that would have made Abel over 100 years old when he was killed.

As sad as it sounds, it seems as if the death of Abel was probably due to a religious dispute between he and his brother Cain, and was based on the merits of a religious offerings. Abel claimed that a "Bloody Sacrifice" was necessary. Cain claimed that an offering of "works" taken from the soil was sufficient. They put the matter to a test. God accepted Abel's offering and rejected Cain's.

This angered Cain. He did not kill Abel that day. But he harbored his anger, as warned in Hebrews 12:14-15, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled."

Once more God's grace prevailed, as seen in verses 6-7, "So the LORD said to Cain, Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." **The sad truth still prevails today, when unforgiveness and bitterness rules our thinking, even God himself can't reason with us!**

But Cain would not listen and was driven by his anger, possibly for a long time. And Genesis 4:8 tells us, "Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him." We know that Abel was a shepherd, but the bible says, "when they were in the field..." The indication is that Abel must have went to where Cain was to try and settle their differences, but the discussion turned ugly, and in the heat of the argument Cain killed his brother.

I hope you understand that this was far more than just an argument between two brothers. This was a deliberate plan of Satan's to destroy, through which the "Promised Seed" was to come. The fact that Abel was childless, or at least did not have a son to succeed him, is clear from the fact that Seth took his place.

Satan was not only the instigator of Abel's murder he was also the author of Cain's "Religion," spoken of by Jude as "the way of Cain," which was the origin of all human religions.

Look closely at Genesis 4:16-17 as we try to clear up an miss reading if the passage, “Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son - Enoch.” **Please notice - the Scripture did not say that Cain’s wife was from the land of Nod!** The Scripture says, “And Cain *knew* his wife; and she conceived...” The indication is that when Cain fled he took his wife with him. **He did not get his wife in the land of Nod, he "knew her" there. That is, she there conceived and bore a son, Enoch.** This was not the Enoch who was translated.

After the birth of Enoch, Cain began to build a city. Here we have the beginning of the city with all its attendant evils. Among the descendants of Cain were Jubal, the inventor of musical instruments, and TubalCain, an instructor of workers in brass and iron.

Men in those days used their knowledge to improve and develop a "godless civilization," which resulted in humanity living much longer, even to being nearly a 1000 years old. In other words, their immense accumulation of knowledge, experience and skill must have advanced the arts and sciences and resulted in the invention and manufacture of all the things necessary for a luxurious civilization. The building of such a ship as that constructed by Noah is an illustration. We have the echo of that skilled civilization in the construction, after the Flood, of the Tower of Babel, and later of the Great Pyramid, which involved in its construction a knowledge of mathematics and astronomy as the world has never as yet surpassed.

The outcome of that brilliant but godless civilization was to promote the rapid increase of population. Genesis 6:1-4 says, “Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years. There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.”

Who are these “sons of God”? To find the answer we must allow the Scripture to speak for itself, as seen in 2 Peter 2:45 concerning these fallen angels, “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; and spared not the old world but saved Noah, the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly...” **And then we have been told in Jude 67,** “And the angels who kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment

of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

Who are these angels? They are not Satan's angels, for his angels are free, and like him roam about, but these angels are in "prison," in "darkness," and "reserved in chains" for judgment. The place of their confinement is not Hell, but "Tartarus." **What was their sin?** It must have been more than those angels that rebelled with Satan, for Satan's angels are still free for his service. Jude tells us that their sin was "fornication," and fornication of an abnormal character, the unlawful sexual intercourse of angelic beings with "strange flesh," that is, with beings of a different nature. **When was this sin committed?** Peter talks about the days of Noah, and that it was the cause of the Flood.

There are those who claim that these "sons of God" were the sons of "Seth," and that the "daughters of men" were the daughters of "Cain," and that the godly line of Seth intermarried with the godless daughters of Cain, which resulted in a godless race.

The expression "sons of God (Elohim)" occurs but four times in other parts of the Old Testament, and is in each of these cases indisputably used for angelic beings. Twice in the beginning of the book of Job we read of the sons of God presenting themselves before Him at stated times, and Satan also comes with them as being himself a son of God, though a fallen and rebellious one (Job 1: 6; 2: 1).

For the term "sons of God (Elohim), the mighty Creator," seems to be confined to those who were directly created by the Divine hand, and not born of other beings of their own order. Hence, in Luke's genealogy of our Lord, Adam is called a son of God (Luke 3:38). And so also Christ is said to give to them that receive Him power to become the sons of God (John 1:12).

The third repetition of the phrase occurs in a later chapter of Job, where the morning stars are represented as singing together, and the sons of God as shouting for joy, over the creation of our earth (Job 38:7).

And, lastly, the same expression is found in the book of Daniel (Daniel 3:25); but in the singular number, and with the necessary difference that "bar" is the word used for son instead of "ben," the singular of the latter being unknown in Chaldee. The King James Version says that Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed that he saw four men walking in the midst of the fire, "and the form of the fourth is like a son of gods," but the New King James Version says, "and the

form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” Either way, the Hebrew wording refers to a supernatural or angelic being, distinct as such from the others.

It appears, therefore, that in the Old Testament the title "sons of God" is restricted to angels, but in the New Testament it applies to those who have become the "sons of God" by the new birth. John 1:12; Romans 8:14-16; Galatians 4:6: and 1 John 3:12 show forth this truth. Therefore all men born of Adam and his descendants by natural generation are the "sons of men," and it is only by being "born again" (John 3:37), which is a "new creation," that they can become the "sons of God" in the New Testament sense.

The objection to the "Angelic Interpretation" is based on the words of Jesus, found in Mark 12:25, when He used angels as an example to address the marriage relationship of the redeemed in Heaven, "For when they shall rise from the dead (that is, the dead in Christ), they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels who are in heaven." **The legitimate conclusion from Jesus' statement is, that the angels do not marry, but it does not therefore follow that they are "sexless."** It says they do not marry in Heaven, not that they do not have the power of procreation, but that it is not the nature of "holy angels" to seek such a relationship. But it does not follow that if they have the power they will not exercise it in a fallen state. **What these passages teach is that angels do not multiply by procreation.** Angels as far as we know were created "enmasse," and as they are immortal, and never die, there is no necessity for marriage among them. Marriage is a human institution to prevent the extinction of the race by death. **If the bodies of the dead are to be resurrected, as the Scriptures clearly teach, the inference is that those bodies will be male and female.** Although the Scripture declares in 1 Corinthians 13:12, "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known," the physical relationships that we have in this life will be greatly overshadowed by the eternal relationship that we will have with Christ.

Therefore, in the Eternal State, the marriage relation as we know it today will be discontinued, and we (the Church) will then become the "Bride" and Christ Himself will be the "Bridegroom."

The Bible teaches that angels and human beings are members of the great family, and on certain occasions angels have taken on a materialistic form of a man, and could eat of Abraham's calf (Genesis 18:18), and of Lot's unleavened bread (Genesis 19:13), and this "kinship" between them implies a relationship under conditions might result in a fruitful marriage union.

There is one other fact that we must note, and that is that the angels are always spoken of as of the masculine gender. We meet with "BneHa-Elohim," "sons of God," but never with "Bnoth-HaElohim," "daughters of God." The

indication is that all the angels are of the masculine gender. **If this is true, the reason why they do not marry in Heaven is because there are no female angels to marry.** But it does not follow that they do not have male generative organs and cannot cohabit with females of the human race.

Genesis 6:4 tells us the result of the unholy union was that it produced a race of “mighty men who were of old, men of renown.” **It is clear that those “mighty men” and “men of renown” were not ordinary men.** And from this unholy union came the source or origin for the classic writers of antiquity to write of the gods and demi-gods, and the legends of beings half human and half divine. And Genesis 6:5-7 give us this conclusion, “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

Then came the Flood.