

The guy who murdered his brother [Cain]

{Before reading this, see the article in the *Your Grandmas* section titled '**Why did Eve name her first born 'Spear'**'}

Cain & Abel Genesis 4:1-24.

When **Spear**(Cain) and **Breath**(Abel) became adults, **Spear** was a tiller of the ground (a grain farmer) and **Breath** raised flocks (Sheep, and possibly goats). Maybe he raised them for milk, clothing and sacrifices. They didn't eat meat until after The Flood.). At a certain time they each brought offerings to YAHWEH. **Breath** brought the best of the first born of his flock and sacrificed them to YAHWEH.(In a flock, each ewe has the possibility of having twins or triplets. Back then it may have been common to have four lambs at once. The one who opens the womb and is the first lamb a ewe ever produces would be classified as 'the first born'. If you have a dozen ewes, and they are all giving birth for the very first time, you would have a dozen first born lambs. He would have picked the choicest ones out of that dozen.) He sacrificed more than one critter. One of them could have been a sin offering, and another one could have been a Thanksgiving offering. The Bible doesn't specify what he did at that point. We gain an understanding of why sheep etc were sacrificed later on in Scripture, and scripture explains scripture. They would bring a 'clean' animal to the altar, place their hands on that animal's head, and confess their own sins over the animal. Then they would take a sharp knife and slit that animal's throat, and the animal would then die as a covering for their sin. They had to do this over and over again every time they sinned. The thing that made them acceptable to God was that during that time in history that was 'His way' for making coverings for sins. They had to put their faith in 'that way'. When Jesus died on the cross, God put all our sins on Jesus' head and then He killed Him in place of us. All our sins were put on Jesus' head before we were even alive. Jesus only had to die once. That was all it took. Now our sins aren't just covered, they are completely taken away! We've been cleansed completely from them. The minute a person believes in Jesus, he or she receives eternal life. Once you have eternal life, you can't ever loose it because it is eternal! Apparently **Breath's/Abel's** offering was an act of obedience to do things God's way because of his faith in 'that way', and God accepted it. **Spear** on the other hand brought an offering from the fruit of the ground and YAHWEH did not accept his. Although it was acceptable to bring a Thanksgiving offering from the fruit of the ground, you still had to present a blood sacrifice to go with it to make a covering for your sins before you could approach God. **Cain/Spear** didn't do that. [By not bringing a blood offering, he was declaring that he wasn't a sinner, and that God should accept him on the basis of his own merit.] He believed that his own way was right. He didn't put his trust in God's way. (See also Jude verse 11, Hebrews 11:4, 1 John 3:12) Abel was declared righteous because he did put his trust in God's way. **Cain** on the other hand had no respect for God's way, so God had no respect for his offering!

Apparently after **Adam** sinned, before The Flood happened, there were some types of animals that preyed on other critters. Cats crouch down and then wait for their victim to pass by. Snakes, on the other hand don't crouch. When YAHWEH says to **Spear** in verse 7, "And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it", He may have been referring to something like a cat of some sort, or possibly a dog. Any kind of animal that crouches would be an unclean animal, not suitable for a sacrifice. [In the

KJV it says "sin *lies* at the door", but the actual Hebrew word means 'crouch'. Because of this, I believe that certain animals started eating other animals right after the fall of **Adam**. The fossil record also bears witness to this, because we find fossil fish in the process of eating other fossil fish at the very moment of their death.]

There's also another interesting thing to notice here: The Hebrew meaning for 'sin (chata)' means 'to miss the mark', just like it does in the Greek. The word for sin used here comes from chata, and it means 'sin-offering'. Because **Spear** 'missed the mark (target)', he now had a 'sin-offering' crouching at his door, longing for him to appear. YAHWEH said to him, "You must master (rule over) it." **Spear** didn't obey YAHWEH this time either. He didn't pay any attention to what He said. So... the wild 'sin-offering' beast captured him! Another way of thinking about this is, "Because you didn't kill it to begin with, now it has grown into a predator who is hiding at your door, waiting for you to come out so that it can devour you. Lately I have been watching my six moth old boarder-collie puppy dig furiously into ground squirrel holes, trying to capture them. Yesterday she finally caught one, but I had mercy on the little ground squirrel! She caught it by the tail, and the ground squirrel squealed, and I yelled at her! She let go of the tail just long enough for the little critter to get away, and then it ran down a hole. My dog then proceeded to dig at that hole and wait for it to appear again. She desired that ground squirrel and she was determined to get it!! Finally I demanded that she come into the house and forget about the squirrel. Today, as soon as she got the chance, she ran back out to where the ground squirrels' holes are in the front yard and immediately caught a whole squirrel in her mouth. I made her let go of it again! When we choose not to do what's right, sin is right there waiting to pounce on us and eat us up! We put ourselves in that position by our own choices. We choose to walk in dangerous territory when we are angry. The only way to be the master of the 'predator' is to make the right choice to begin with and don't go where the 'predator' can attack you."

Spear decided that he wanted to do things his own way, so he brought the wrong kind of offering. YAHWEH wouldn't accept his way. In fact, YAHWEH wouldn't even look at his offering! The Hebrew meaning of the word 'respect' or 'regard' actually means 'to gaze' or 'to look at with fixed and prolonged attention'. So, **Spear** got angry with YAHWEH and sin caught him and ate him up! MacArthur has an interesting note on **Cain's** anger. He says, "Rather than being repentant for his sinful disobedience, he was hostile towards God, whom he couldn't kill, and jealous of his brother whom he could kill." (1 John 3:10-15; Jude 11). It says in the NKJV in verse 8, "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." What probably happened was that **Spear** told **Breath** what YAHWEH had said. Then **Breath** spoke words to encourage **Spear** to do what was right, but **Spear** didn't want to hear his brother's voice anymore! While he was out in the field with **Breath**, his own brother, he rose up against him and killed him. [He could have killed him by slitting his throat in the same way that he had always seen the sacrifices killed.] Then his breath was gone and his blood soaked into the ground. He silenced him!

Then YAHWEH asked **Spear**, "Where is **Breath**, your brother?"

Spear answered YAHWEH, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" which basically means, "I don't know. Am I supposed to keep track of him like he keeps track of his sheep?"

Then YAHWEH said to him "**Spear**, what have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries to Me from the ground!" (Even though **Spear** may have permanently damaged his brother's wind pipe, he was still speaking!!

Spear couldn't make him be quiet, no matter what he did to him!)

The Lord Jesus calls **Abel** a prophet in Luke 11:50-51. Dr Henry Morris in his comments on this verse (Defender's Study Bible) says, "**Abel**, son of **Adam** was thus the first prophet- that is, a man who supernaturally receives and then proclaims inspired words from God. Evidently **Abel** was speaking God's words to **Cain**, when the later slew him in jealous wrath" (All through history the ones who didn't want to come to God, God's way, have mistreated the ones who obeyed God.)

Then YAHWEH punished **Spear**. YAHWEH forbade the ground to grow anything for **Spear** and told him that he would be a restless wanderer on the earth. The JPL Tanakh says that he would be more cursed than the ground! **Spear** complained that his punishment was more than he could bear. He was afraid that whoever found him would kill him, but YAHWEH gave him a promise saying that whoever kills **Spear** would receive vengeance from YAHWEH seven times over. Seven is YAHWEH'S number of perfection or completion. In other words, God would completely wipe them out if they did so. Then He put a mark upon **Spear** so that if anyone found him, they wouldn't kill him." (When I was a kid, many people thought that this is how the races got started and that God changed the color of his skin and made it dark like an African, but that's a bunch of nonsense! None of us came from **Cain**. All **Cain's** descendants were wiped out during The Flood. All of us came from Noah's three sons, not **Cain**. Nobody knows what the actual mark looked like. There's a possibility that it could have been the Hebrew letter 'zayin' somehow forever imprinted on his forehead. It's both a picture of a weapon, and the number seven. The symbolic meaning of this letter is to 'cut' or 'to cut off' which is what happened to **Cain**. Zayin makes the sound of 'z' and that is where we get our 'z' from. In the earliest forms of this letter, it even looked like our modern day 'z'. It also looks like a modern number '7' if you leave the bottom off.) Whatever it was, maybe God carved it on his forehead where everyone could see it.

Incase you were wondering....

Adam & Eve's sons married Adam & Eve's daughters, or their brother's descendants {nieces, & grand nieces, & great grand nieces, etc...} depending on when they were born & when they married....**Adam & Eve** could have continued having children for close to 900 years! Back then the genetic code was perfect. It didn't become dangerous to marry close relatives until Moses gave the Ten Commandments about a thousand years after the Flood. By then the genetic code had begun to break down.

Answers In Genesis has a book that you can read on line titled '**THE NEW ANSWERS BOOK** (& it's in 9 different languages!) One of the chapters has a discussion about Cain's wife. It's called, '**Cain's Wife- Who Was She?**' Here's the link: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab/who-was-cains-wife>