

## The Fall: Living East of Eden

Sunday, January 26/20 ---- Genesis 4:1 – 16

*The Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.'* – Genesis 4:6 – 7

*The author's purpose is apparently to use the narrative of Cain and Abel to teach a lesson on the kind of worship that is pleasing to God. Worship that pleases God is that which springs from a pure heart. How does the narrative teach this? By allowing the reader to see, behind the scenes, the response of Cain... Rather than attempting to discover what was wrong with Cain's offering, we would be better advised to note what was wrong with his heart. - John H. Sailhamer*

### 1. Content: The Historical Significance of the Passage (Three Firsts)

- First Giving of Human Life (4:1 – 2)
  
- First Offering made to God (4:3 – 7)
  
- First Taking of a Human Life (4:8 – 16)

### 2. Intent: The Theological Significance of the Passage (Three Lessons)

- We must learn to offer God our 'first-fruits', not just our left-overs (4:3 – 4)
  
- We must learn to offer God our hearts, not just our offerings (4:5 – 7)
  
- We will be 'spiritual wanderers' far from God unless we take responsibility for our sin (4:8 – 16)

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- i. John H. Walton writes, '*We need to practice the discipline of reading the lines instead of reading between the lines*'. How might his comment be understood in our study of Genesis? What are some of the 'between the lines' subjects that intrigue you?
- ii. How might our life and worship resemble the offering that Cain brought to God? What does this teach us about true worship from a pure heart?
- iii. Describe the condition of the first human family at the end of Genesis 4. What had become of it, and how does it compare to the attack on the family today?
- iv. When the writer of Hebrews speaks of the sprinkled blood of Jesus that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel (12:24), what is that 'better word'?