The Way of Cain
PART II
Genesis 4:8-24

Main Thought The “way of Cain” (Jude 11) progressed from being a BROTHER (1-2a), WORKER (2b), and WORSHIPPER (3-7) to being a MURDERER (8-10), WANDERER (11-15), and BUILDER (16-24).

AS MURDERER (8-10).
• Because Cain failed at the altar he failed in the field. How much time elapsed is not given, but Cain undoubtedly committed murder many times in his heart prior to the act (Matt. 5:21-23). This was the first religious war.
• Cain’s response to God’s questions was not in words but deeds (Matt. 7:20).
• BROTHER (7x) and sibling rivalry would plague the Genesis families.
• Hatred for others is a sign our heart is not right with God (1 John 3:11-12).
• Because Cain renounced God, he renounced His image – Abel (Gen. 9:6).
• The pattern is the same as the first sin in Eden: (1) the speech (Cain said); (2) the circumstantial clause (when); the sin – fratricide (killed).
• God again seeks out the sinner: “Where is your brother Abel?”
• Cain, a liar and murderer (John 8:44), denies responsibility: “Am I my brother’s keeper”? His answer was an implied “No”.
• But we are each other’s keeper (Matt. 22:39; 1 John 3:11-12).
• Every murder pollutes the land (Num. 35:30-34) and blood cries out TO ME for justice (Job 16:18; Isa. 26:21; Rev. 6:9-10).

AS WANDERER (11-15).
• Cain was under a curse – driven from the ground to be a RESTLESS WANDERER (FUGITIVE) without home, security, or arable soil (Jam. 5:19).
• Cain responds with REMORSE, not REPENTANCE (Heb. 12:16-17).
• He fears exclusion from family and God (Psa. 51:10-12).
• God extends common grace to him in the form of a protective tattoo (WALTKE). He was allowed to live though he feared retribution (Num. 35:19).
• This shows us the WAY OF CAIN (1 John 3:12) – it leads to DEATH (Heb. 9:27).

AS BUILDER (16-24).
• Cain left God’s presence and started a family. His wife was obviously a sister (5:4) which was not prohibited as yet (Lev. 18:9).
• He built a EARTHLY city – the same sin as Babel (9:4) – challenging the supremacy of God. Contrast this to the CITY OF GOD that believers sought by faith (Phil. 3:20; Heb. 11:10; 16; 12:22; 13:14).
• Notice the similarity (2 Cor. 11:14 – imitator) of names from the lines of Cain and Seth (Enosh/Enoch; Mehujael/Mahalael; Methushael/Methuselah; Lamech/Lamech).
• Lamech was a bigamist (monogamy – 2:24) and a boastful murderer.
• Civilization developed with tents, husbandry, music, and metallurgy.
• Lamech brags that his murder was ten times worse than Cain’s murder (Matt. 18:22). He bolstered his reputation. God would soon answer (6:5-7).