



In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

Jim Hoffman

The Journey 2018

In the Beginning

What likely dominated the conversations between Adam and Eve after the events of Genesis 3?

The Temptation

The Fall

The Judgments

Coats of Skins

The Expulsion



In the Beginning

- Genesis 4:1 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.”



In the Beginning

- In Genesis 4 we will begin to see what life in a fallen world will be like – we will see obedience in one, and willful sin in another of the first couple’s children.
- We will see that it did not take long at all for the worst kind of sin to show up in the unbelieving.
- We will see the first person ever to go heaven after death.
- We will see “the just shall live by faith” played out before those words are ever uttered.



In the Beginning

Now put yourself in the place of Adam or Eve and tell me what you are talking to Cain and Abel about as they grow up?



In the Beginning

- Imagine the hope, the wonder of Adam and Eve when Cain was born – all of the normal amazement at the tiny fingers and toes PLUS “could this be the promised One?”.
- If anyone has ever known the difference between light and darkness it would have been Adam and Eve.
- They had God’s promise that “the seed of the woman” would crush the head of the devil and then try to grasp how desperately they wanted to regain Paradise.



In the Beginning

- I would expect that Adam and Eve were looking for God to fulfill His promise of a Deliverer very much like the Israelites expected a deliverer from Egypt.
- And also very much like the disciples had heard “I will come again and receive you unto Myself” and thought Jesus was coming right back.
- As we discussed last week, God’s time table for fulfilling His promises is not necessarily the same as our expectations.



In the Beginning

- Bear in mind that God, as He always does, was going to keep His word, but there was lots and lots of preparation to be accomplished before the Deliverer would come.
- It was a matter of preparing the world for the redemption plan of God – the plan would be unique in the purest sense of the word for it would not be by the works of man, but by faith in the works of God.
- John 16:12 ““There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now.””



In the Beginning

- So when Cain is born it certainly makes sense that the first couple might expect, might even presume that this new born Cain is the Deliverer.
- They would not have had any sense at all as to how God's plan might actually work out – the plan where God would accept a “stand in” for their sin debt, but that would not have stopped them from hoping.
- They had been with God, they lived in a perfect universe, and it would be an incredible thing for them NOT to want it back.



In the Beginning

- And then Abel was born – “Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.”
- We are given an unbelievable economy of facts for this time period.
- Were Cain and Able twins as some think? Were they born 9-12 months apart? Were they 50 years apart?
- We just do not know those facts, but we are told the facts we really need to know.



In the Beginning

- Meaning of the name, Cain means “possession”, or something acquired.
- Abel means “a mere breath” and you have to wonder why Eve chose that name.
- James 4:14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.



In the Beginning

- Two necessary and noble professions – “keeper of sheep, tiller of the ground.”
- Abel eventually brought the required “blood offering”, but we should not assume that had any thing to do with him being a keeper of sheep.
- Cain was a tiller of the ground, but we not should assume that his profession was the reason for his not bringing the right offering to the Lord.



In the Beginning

- Time passes – we do not know how many years had passed between several events in Genesis.
- Two of those events are the time between the fall and the birth of Cain, and another one is the time between the birth of Cain and the occurrence of Cain and Abel's offerings.
- Offerings are brought – and in our modern world of everyone gets a trophy, what happens around these two young men and there offerings might seem quite unfair. 😊



In the Beginning

- “Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord.”
- Notice what is not said about Cain’s offering – the text does not read, “Cain brought his best”, it doesn’t even read, “Cain brought his first”.
- The text reads, “Cain presented some of his crops” and I suppose that, in the mind of Cain, despite whatever instructions he might have received, God was supposed to be satisfied with whatever he decided to bring.



In the Beginning

- We know how this story goes – Cain and his offering are both rejected.
- Do not think for a minute that Cain was somehow in the dark as to what God required – God is going to judge him harshly and He would not do that unjustly.
- There are no verses between Genesis 3 and 4 to tell us all that Cain and Able were told, but we know they had been instructed by God's reaction to their offerings.



Questions

