

A person stands on a dark, silhouetted hill, looking up at a vast, starry night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching across the frame with a bright, colorful band of light in shades of purple, pink, and orange. The sky is filled with countless stars, and the overall atmosphere is one of awe and wonder.

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

GENESIS 4:1-9

GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

This context frames the ways our sin **captures** and **controls** our lives, so that our sinful **behavior** is the evidence of our sin **nature**.

Cain is the first demonstration we have of how Adam and Eve's **sin nature** is evidenced in their offspring, who in turn reveal that same sin nature alive in **all** mankind. That is the doctrine of **original sin**.

Adam's sin is the **origin** of our sin nature. **God** explains and locates the problems of sin and evil **within us**.

The world explains and locates the problems of sin and evil **systemically**—that is, our problems of evil and wrongdoing come from **outside** of us:

- From the breakdown of faulty human systems, like the failure of political systems and the failure of social systems designed to remedy racial prejudice or poverty
- From the faultiness of cultural stigmas
- From other sources which contextualize human maladies like hatred, prejudice, and murder as **situational/societal** rather than **spiritual/personal**.

The world struggles to comprehend, confront, and cure evil because:

1. They **reject the truth** of where and how sin, suffering, evil, and death all began.
2. They **reject the truth** of what the origin-of-sin issue has done to each of us—that the issue with sin resides **in** us.
3. They **reject the truth** for the only cure God alone has provided for us in His Son, Jesus Christ—He alone is our sin **Conqueror**.

In Genesis 4, we see the **progressive**, **pervasive**, and **pernicious** pattern of sin impacting human beings **immediately** after the fall.

The **war** God promised in Genesis 3:15 hits with devastating effect, and the **two sides** of the conflict are in clear view.

I. Obeying God as Worship (Gen 4:1-2)

Corrupt worship (**idol** worship) seeks to express our worship through a relationship **apart** from or in **addition** to God—our worship is toward a person, an object, an idea, a desire, etc.

At the core of who we are, we are **worshippers**. God designed us so that our worship shapes who we are and what we do. Genesis 4 shows us what sin and salvation do to our **worship in relationship to God**.

I. Obeying God as Worship (Gen 4:1-2)

Moses is demonstrating how the spiritual warfare between the seed of the woman and the seed of Satan will develop and play out in the **godly line** of Savior worshipers and in the **ungodly line** of Satan worshipers.

II. Contrasting True and False Worship (Gen 4:3-5a)

What was wrong with Cain's offering of worship and **what was right** about Abel's offering of worship?

1. Notice that verse 3 tells us that **Cain** brought an offering to God of the **fruit of the ground**, whereas in verse 4, **Abel** brought the **firstborn** of his flock. Abel gave God the **best** of what he had to offer; Cain did not.
2. Notice from the latter part of verse 4 and the beginning of verse 5 that God looked on both the **giver** and the **gift**. God looked at the **heart** of worship behind the **hands** of worship of Cain and Abel.

What we offer God in the worship of our **lives** is only acceptable to God because we offer it in **faith** through our **relationship** of love and obedience to **Jesus Christ**.

III. False Worship is Death-Producing (Gen 4:5b-9)

*“So Cain became **very angry**, and his countenance fell. Then Yahweh said to Cain, why are you **angry**? And why has your countenance fallen?”*

What’s the issue with Cain’s **heart**?

Burning anger, malice—the desire to do evil harm to another.


Stemming from what?

Pride. He wants his life governed by his own rules and not by God’s rules for their relationship.

III. False Worship is Death-Producing (Gen 4:5b-9)

“For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother’s were righteous.” (1 John 3:11-12)

“Am I my brother’s keeper?”

A person stands on a dark, silhouetted hill under a vast night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching from the horizon towards the top of the frame, with a vibrant purple and pink nebula at its core. The sky is filled with countless stars, and the horizon is a dark line of grass and trees.

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