

# WHAT ABEL'S BLOOD CRIES

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Genesis 4:1-16 (p. 6-7)

February 10, 2019

*The Lord said, "What have you done?  
Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground."  
Genesis 4:10 (with commentary in Hebrews 12:24)*

## Scene 3, Act 1

*Adam lay with his wife Eve, she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.  
She said, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man."  
Genesis 4:1-2 → Genesis 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:15 (and Keller's definition of gospel)*

## The heart of worship

*In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord.  
But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel  
and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.  
So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast."  
Genesis 4:2b-5 (see also Hebrews 11:4)*

## The history of the world

*The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? . . . 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*

## Cain and Abel still happens

*Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field."  
And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.  
Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother, Abel?"  
"I don't know," he replied, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The Lord said, "What have you done?"  
Genesis 4:8-9 (1 John 3:11-12)*

## The gospel even for Cain

*Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is more than I can bear."*

*. . . . But the Lord said to him, "Not so, if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over."*

*Then the Lord put a mark on Cain . . . .*

Genesis 4:13-15 (see Hebrews 12:22-24)

## Resources for further study of Genesis 1-4

Timothy Keller's "The History of the World in a Nutshell" <https://www.monergism.com/topics/sermon-manuscripts-mp3s-scripture/genesis/chapter-genesis/chapters-03-05-fall>

Bruce Waltke's "Cain and His Offering" at [http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/te\\_d\\_hildebrandt/OTeSources/01Genesis/Text/Articles-Books/Waltke\\_Cain\\_WTJ.pdf](http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/te_d_hildebrandt/OTeSources/01Genesis/Text/Articles-Books/Waltke_Cain_WTJ.pdf)

Eugene Merrill's "Covenant and Kingdom" at [http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/te\\_d\\_hildebrandt/OTeSources/01-Genesis/Text/Articles-Books/Merrill-Gen1-3Theology-CTR.pdf](http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/te_d_hildebrandt/OTeSources/01-Genesis/Text/Articles-Books/Merrill-Gen1-3Theology-CTR.pdf)

Julie Roy's *Redeeming the Feminine Soul* (Nelson, 2017) is the best new book I've read on male and female in God's image, even after the fall!

Spurgeon's "The Blood of Abel and the Blood of Jesus" at <https://www.monergism.com/topics/sermon-manuscripts-mp3s-scripture/genesis/chapter-genesis/chapters-03-05-fall>

The CRCNA's "Our World Belongs to God" has a powerful statement of the fall at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/contemporary-testimony/our-world-belongs-god>

The Belgic Confession, especially Articles 14-15, at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/belgic-confession>

John Currid's biblical theology study at <https://www.monergism.com/topics/genesis>

Commentaries I like include John Sailhamer (*Expositor's Bible Commentary and Genesis Unbound*); Bruce Waltke (*Genesis*, Zondervan, 2001); Allen P. Ross (*Creation and Blessing*, Baker, 1988).

Study Bibles on creation I like include Zondervan's *NIV*, Nelson's *New King James Version*, and Crossway's *ESV*.

Scott Lindsay's sermon at [http://reformedperspectives.org/newfiles/sco\\_lindsay/OT.sco\\_lindsay.Genesis.4.17.26.html](http://reformedperspectives.org/newfiles/sco_lindsay/OT.sco_lindsay.Genesis.4.17.26.html)

C. Leupold's helpful commentary at [https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/bible\\_book/genesis\\_leupold.html](https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/bible_book/genesis_leupold.html)

## Scripture reading this week:

### Texts from *Our World Belongs to God* (15,17,18)

15. When humans deface God's image,  
the whole world suffers:

we abuse the creation or idolize it;  
we are estranged  
from our Creator,  
from our neighbor,  
from our true selves,  
and from all that God has made.

*On the defacing of God's image, see Romans 1:21-23; for the restoration of the image in Christ, see Romans 8:29,*

*2 Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 4:22-24, and Colossians 3:10.*

17. In all our striving to excuse or save ourselves,  
we stand condemned before the God of truth.

But our world,  
broken and scarred,  
still belongs to God,  
who holds it together  
and gives us hope.

*See Psalm 62 and 89:28-37; Romans 5:3-11; 15:13;  
and Hebrews 11:1.*

18. While justly angry,  
God did not turn away  
from a world bent on destruction  
but turned to face it in love.

With patience and tender care the Lord set out  
on the long road of redemption to reclaim  
the lost as his people  
and the world as his kingdom.

*For God's response to sin, see Genesis 3:9-15, John 3:16, and Luke 1:68-75; for the aim to restore the kingdom, see Revelation 11:15.*