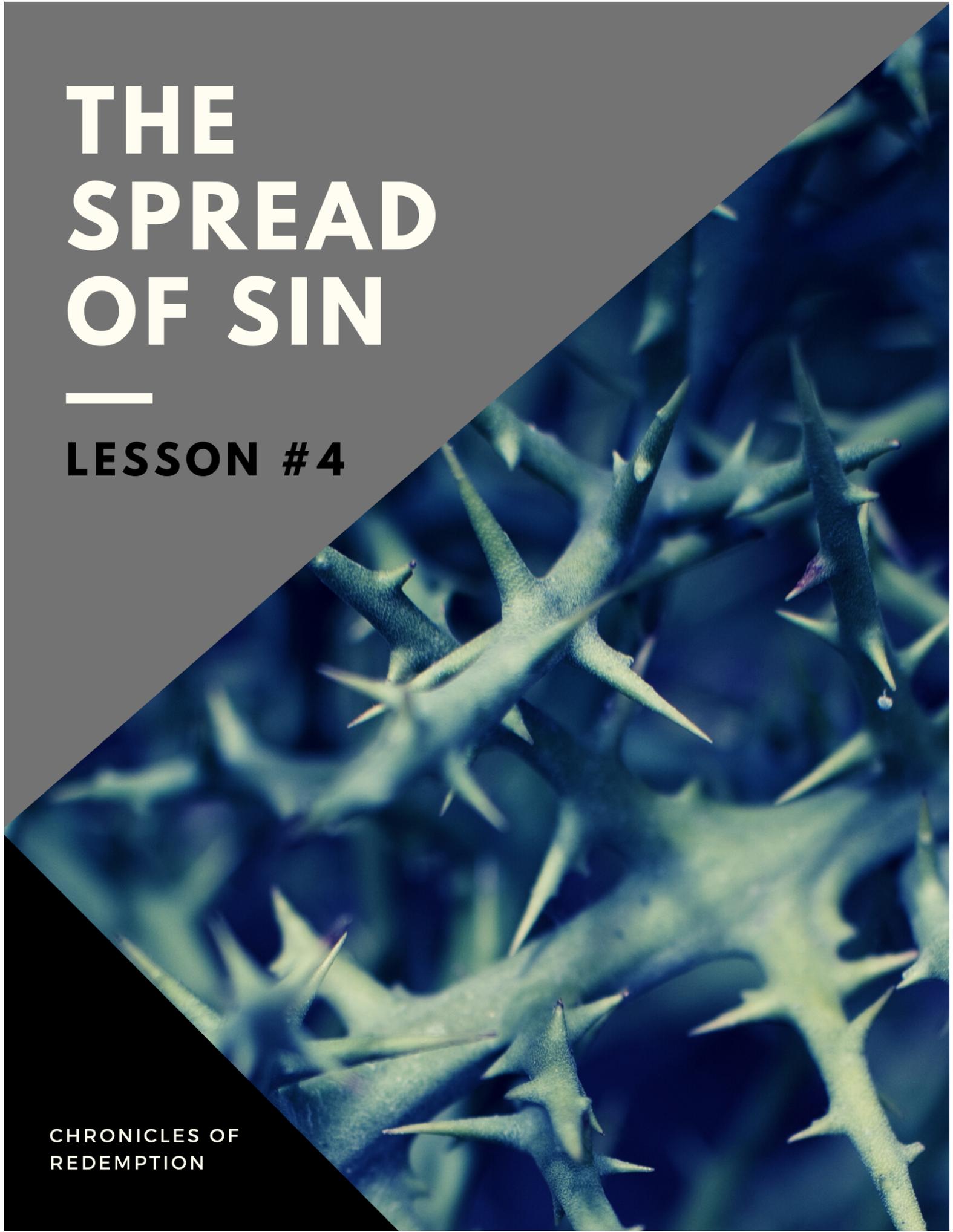


# THE SPREAD OF SIN

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**LESSON #4**

CHRONICLES OF  
REDEMPTION



# The Spread of Sin

Genesis 4:1-5:32

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## THEMES

### ➔ **God:**

- Is gracious—providing man with a way to cover his sin and be reconciled to Him.
- Is all-knowing—*seeing* the thoughts and intents of the heart as well as acts which are hidden from men.
- Communicates with man—instructing and warning him.
- Is holy and just—He sets the standard for man and exacts the appropriate judgment for violations.

### ➔ **Man:**

- Is sinful by birth and by choice. He is born alienated from God, and he also deliberately chooses to sin.
- Is answerable to his Creator for his sin. He needs cleansing from his sin to have his relationship with God restored.

### ➔ **Sin:**

- The payment for sin is death. Through Adam, sin and death passed to all humanity.

### ➔ **Redemption:**

- There is an acceptable and an unacceptable way to approach God: those who come to God for forgiveness must demonstrate faith by coming according to the way *He* has instructed.
- The acceptable sacrifice required by God was that of an animal offered, in faith, as a substitute for the sinner, an innocent for the guilty.
- The animal sacrifice had no power to permanently cleanse the sinner's guilt. It rather provided a temporary sin covering *in anticipation* of the full removal of sin by the promised Redeemer.

### ➔ **The Two Ways:**

- Humanity is divided by the way each individual responds to God's authority: those following the *way of Cain* reject God in unbelief, replacing His authority with self-will or the will of another. Those following the way of the godly come to God in \_\_\_\_\_ and in submission to His will.

## INTRODUCTION

Adam and Eve, now banished from Eden, suffered the full force of sin's backlash. Denied the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, their existence would be hard and their death sure. Moreover, the alienation they experienced from God and from one another would now be passed on to their children through birth. As parents of the human race, they could not have realized the far-reaching and devastating consequences of their sin on future generations, for Adam and Eve reproduced *after their kind*. From that time forward, all people would be born \_\_\_\_\_—separated from God. All children of Adam are born sinful.



### Romans 5:12

*"...Just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned..."*

# 2 SONS



Read Genesis 4:1-2

## ➔ THE BIRTH OF CAIN AND ABEL

- ***"I have gotten a manchild with the help of the Lord" (4:1).***

Adam and Eve obeyed God's command to *be fruitful and multiply* and gave birth to two sons, Cain and Abel. As Eve gave birth to her first son, she recognized that her child had come from God, the Source of life. She also would have experienced \_\_\_\_\_, a stark reminder of His judgment on her sin. Universal pain in childbirth testifies to the far-reaching consequence of sin. But to those who hope in God, it is also a reminder that final deliverance will come through the One promised by God (Gen. 3:15).

## ➔ THEIR OCCUPATIONS

Cain was a \_\_\_\_\_ who worked the land. In contrast, Abel was a \_\_\_\_\_.



## SACRIFICES CONSIDERED

- **“...And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering...” (4:4).**

Abel's offering from his flocks was acceptable to God because it was a sacrifice which took the life of an \_\_\_\_\_ in place of Abel, one guilty of sin. By coming to God in the way He instructed, Abel demonstrated both recognition of his sin, and obedient faith in God's Word. Because of his \_\_\_\_\_, Abel was accepted by God and called *righteous*, meaning *right with God* (cf. Matt. 23:35; Heb.11:4).

- **“...but for Cain and his offering He had no regard” (4:5).**

Cain brought part of his harvest. Though Cain's offering seemed right in his own eyes, he did not sacrifice in the way \_\_\_\_\_ had instructed (cf. Prov. 14:12). Cain's disobedience was evidence of his unbelieving heart. Therefore God rejected both Cain and his offering.

The essential differences between the two offerings were...

**1** Abel's offering conformed to God's will in that it involved the death of an innocent \_\_\_\_\_. (Gen. 3:21, cf. Heb. 12:24). Cain's offering did not.

**2** Abel demonstrated obedient faith (cf. Heb. 11:4). Cain demonstrated \_\_\_\_\_.

God responded in opposite ways to the two brothers. This reveals that not every way devised by man is \_\_\_\_\_ to God. Clearly, God has set a standard by which men are to come to Him. God loves man, yet He is not \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive and forget the actions of those who disregard His way. The sincerity of Cain's effort is not the issue here, but rather his unwillingness to conform to the standard God had appointed.

## MURDER OF A BROTHER

- **“So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell” (4:5).**

Outwardly, Cain professed to worship God by bringing an offering. However, Cain's belligerent response to God's rebuke exposed his true heart. Beneath the pretense of worship was a hidden heart of \_\_\_\_\_. When seen and judged by God, Cain reacted in angry hostility. His \_\_\_\_\_ soon escalated to \_\_\_\_\_.



## 2 God as \_\_\_\_\_:

***"And now you are cursed from the ground...you shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth" (4:11-12).***

Untried by any human court, Cain was nevertheless called to justice by the One Who sees all things. His sentence was tailor-made in that God caused the earth to withhold *its strength* from a farmer—one dependent on the earth. Moreover, he was condemned to live in alienation from both God and man (cf. 4:14). God is the Judge of all mankind. To Him alone will man ultimately answer for his deeds.

## 3 God as \_\_\_\_\_:

***"And Cain said...'My punishment is too great to bear!' ...And the Lord appointed a sign for Cain, lest anyone finding him should slay him" (4:13-15).***

Rather than requiring his life, God mercifully protected Cain by not allowing him to be killed, even though he was a murderer. God grants life and withholds death as He wills.

# 2 FAMILIES



**Read Genesis 4:16-24**



**FAMILY OF CAIN**

- ***"Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord..." (4:16).***

Cain was cursed by God to a life of \_\_\_\_\_. Rather than turning from his sin, Cain turned from God, wanting nothing to do with Him or His ways. He settled in *Nod* (meaning *aimless wandering*).

- ***"...And Cain knew his wife..." (4:17).***

Cain's wife must have been one of Adam's \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Gen. 5:4). At this early date, the biblical prohibition against incest was not yet in place, as the human race was pure, and marriage between siblings would not produce the harmful effects seen later.

- ***"And he built a city..." (4:17).***

Cursed by God to wander, Cain defiantly established a city, naming it after his son *Enoch* (meaning *beginning* or *initiation*). Cain's city marked the beginning of pagan \_\_\_\_\_.





# 2 WAYS

The moral absolute displayed in the biblical account of the two offerings flies in the face of modern pluralistic thinking. Typically, man assumes that he is free to choose his \_\_\_\_\_ way of coming to God. But God has never given man that prerogative. Rather, God has clearly laid out the acceptable way of worship. In God's world, there is right, and there is wrong. He is the final \_\_\_\_\_. Satan asserted his will against the Creator and was cast out of heaven. Likewise, the first couple discovered that God's command could not be ignored without accountability. There are two distinct ways in which people respond to God's authority, and each person is answerable to God for the path he follows.

## ➔ WAY OF CAIN

- ***“Woe to them! ...They have gone in the way of Cain...” (Jude 11).***

Cain is an example of a man who outwardly professes to worship God, yet inwardly \_\_\_\_\_ against His authority. When Cain's attempts to worship were rejected, he turned his back on the true God and ultimately replaced Him with a counterfeit of his own making. Cain symbolically leads the way of all who reject God. Those in the *way of Cain* follow their own authority. They declare allegiance to the world and its pleasures—and like Cain, they are marked by pride, independence, and an unbelieving heart (cf. Psa. 1; Prov. 16:25; Matt. 7:13-14).

## ➔ WAY OF THE GODLY

- ***“How blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways” (Psa. 128:1).***

Abel is an example of a man who came to God in the way that He instructed. His \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrated a loving and trusting heart toward his Creator. Those in the *way of the godly* declare allegiance to God. Though sinful and needy, they are marked by humble submission and obedient faith.



### Psalm 1:1-6

*“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners...But his delight is in the Law of the Lord...And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers...For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”*

## Questions

1. Why did God have regard for Abel and his offering but not Cain and his offering?

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2. What elements did God determine were necessary for an acceptable sin covering?

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3. Was Abel's sacrifice a temporary sin covering, or did it remove sin altogether?

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4. Is all sincere worship acceptable to God?

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5. How did God show mercy to Cain?

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6. What was the progression of Cain's sin?

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7. Why is Seth significant in the Biblical record?

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8. What were the differences between the descendants of Cain and the descendants of Seth?

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9. What are the two ways people respond to God's authority?

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10. How did the first parents' sin affect their children? How does sin affect us today?

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