

Audio Teaching Sermon

Message #37

A Sibling's Ambush

[**A** Intro – Pastor Jefferson 0:00 thru 1:29]

Hey folks! Welcome once more to the teaching of God's word. It is my sincere hope and prayer that it is the content of these audio sermons what keeps bringing you back. I pray that God has given you a deep-seated desire to hear the true, genuine Word of the LORD being taught. My job is to merely to open the Bible and show you what God and Jesus really said. Nothing I will ever teach, can or will alter the message of the Gospel. My only purpose here is to reflect a lot more light into your brain on this critically important topic. You are listening to messages from the **Audio Teaching Sermon Series**, where the messages are being presented in sequential numerical order. We are now up to the **37th Message**. Pastor Jefferson here with you and today we will be finishing up with our brief study of humanity's first offerings brought before **Yahweh**. The proper analysis of these offerings is critically important, as within the details, God laid out the procedure for having our own offerings accepted. As we observed back in **message 32**, the meaning of *unmerited favor* is the key to unlocking the whole of God's process for the salvation of mankind.

[**B** Doing Right By the Word of God 1:29 thru 3:10]

Open your Bibles now to **Genesis**, chapter **4**, **verse 7**. By way of review, we are discussing the very first sacrifices reported in Scripture. It was God Who asked Cain, "*Hey! if you do what is right*" ("Right by Me," God is saying), *will not your life be lifted up and you then be exalted?"* I want you to notice that at this point in time, so far as we know, there were at least **4 people** living on the earth. **Adam**, his wife **Eve**, and their 2 sons, **Cain** and **Abel**. We don't know how old the boys were at this time, but it makes sense that as a minimum Abel was a full adult at this point, since the Hebrews deemed a person became a legal adult at 20 years of age. This was when men became liable to pay the annual Temple Tax and could bring offerings before the LORD. Take note: Moses would not begin writing down the **OT**, or the **Pentateuch** for another 2500 years. So, there were no **10 Commandments**, no Temple worship rules, no nothing. At this time, each person communicated directly with God. We also know that Cain had a wife (**Genesis 4:17**). We also know that each boy had grown into men, with proven skills in farming and ranching.

They had become established citizens within the burgeoning society of mankind by this point in time.

[**C** Adam & Eve’s Children 3:10 thru 4:29]

Let’s discuss Adam & Eve’s children for a moment. It is likely that Adam and Eve birth’d children on an annual basis. Let’s assume their 2 boys moved out of the house at age 18 to go and begin building their own lives. This means any kids born after they left, while technically still siblings, would not be known by them as such. So, when these younger siblings reached an age of around 18, they too would go off to live their lives elsewhere. It is conceivable that Cain met one of the girls when she was 18, meaning Cain could have been around 40-45 by this time. Abel would have been a year younger. This means Adam and Eve could have had perhaps as many as 40 to 50 children at this point, assuming Eve gave birth to a child on a more or less annual basis. Once these new families began having children of their own, the human population would have exploded due to people living long lives back in that time. Cain and Abel weren’t kids. They were grown, established men with families of their own at the time they offered their sacrifices.

[**D** An Unconditional Surrender 4:29 thru 5:55]

Obviously, Cain and Abel both knew the rules that God stipulated for bringing offerings before Him. God’s rule for bringing offerings was likely just the one mentioned in **Genesis** and is very simple. ***“If you elect to bring an offering before Me, it needs to be the choicest portion of your labor and it must be given freely, surrendered completely without any expectation of a return.”*** And, if and at such time that anyone would properly fulfill that one rule, they would then receive God’s favor, which amounted to being lifted up to live an elevated life with the person being exalted in the eyes of God Almighty. And, as we discussed back in **message #34**, the penalty for not doing right by God, is that Satan and his demonic horde would be waiting for the first opportunity to pounce. We can become master over our desire to sin only when we allow Yahweh to take full control over our lives. Not just on Sundays and when we are in need. But every day, 24-7. God requires an unconditional surrender of each person’s life over to Him.

[**E** A Hostile or Civil Argument 5:55 thru 7:34]

Open your Bibles now to **Genesis 4:8**. Once more in the *Hebrew*, ¹ *“And talked Cain*

with Able, his brother, ² and it came to pass, ³ when they were in the field, ⁴ Cain rose up against Abel his brother, ⁵ and killed him.” Just as there is in every verse of Scripture, the meaning of the original words bring added context missing from the modern translation. When you examine only the words present in your Bible, as you already have learned, most of the detail contained within Scripture is missing, hidden by the lack of vocabulary in modern languages. Let’s begin breaking down this verse. The word for **and talked** that we see in T-1 is **way-yo-MER** and it means **‘to say, to speak or to utter words.’** This is a frequently used word and so it requires the full context of the verse to know its true meaning. This is a fundamental verb used to introduce expressions of verbal thought. And in this instance it carries with it a notion of *violence* and *discord*. You don’t see that in the modern translation, do you? Therefore, as translated here from the *Hebrew* it means **‘argued, threatened or challenged.’** So, we can determine that whatever conversation Cain and Abel had, it could not have been very productive or civil based on the end result we read in Scripture.

[**F** Meeting in a Dark Alley 7:34 thru 9:06]

Cain was doubtless still angry over having his offering rejected. In T-2, we see our now familiar term, **“and it came to pass.”** This means the following events were based on the subsequent conversation the two brothers had together. What most likely took place is a heated argument over the rules regarding offerings made to Yahweh. Friends, I’m here to tell you that when you challenge someone’s personal beliefs regarding their faith, you can count on plenty of heat and a raised temperature in the room. Look now in T-3. Here we find the word for the phrase **when they were** is [4] **bih-YOW-tam**. The word infers a locality, e.g. to be in a certain place. The place where they were—is defined by the words **in the field**. We discover in the *Hebrew* it’s **bah-sah-DEH** and translates to **‘a place unfrequented, for the purpose of being exposed to violence.’** So, we can tell from the definition of these 2 Hebrew words that Cain brought Abel to a specific isolated place for the purpose of being exposed to violence. Cain had a plan, and it wasn’t just to talk. He was meeting his brother in the first “dark alley” in history, as it were.

[**G** A Premeditated Ambush 9:06 thru 10:29]

Okay, now for T-4. Look at the words **rose up**. In the *Hebrew* the word **way-yah-**

QAM is present. It translates to mean **‘to arise, in a hostile sense, out of an ambush scenario.’** The dictionary doesn’t lie folks. As I’ve stated a hundred times, you can’t make this stuff up! The incredible precision of God’s Word is evident in every single verse. Cain brought Abel or met him at an unfrequented or isolated place—for the purpose of ambushing him. The word **ambush** means **‘a concealed position from which a surprise attack is made.’** We see the end result in **T-5**. The word for the phrase **and killed him** is **[3] way-vah-hah-REG-hu**. And it translates **‘to slay or kill having deadly intent.’** The word implies the application of ruthless violence. In today’s lingo, we would say that Cain was guilty of *premeditated murder* in cold blood. Now look at **verse 9**. It reads, ¹ “And said Yahweh to Cain, ² “Where is your brother Abel?” ³ And Cain said, “I do not know. ⁴ Am I my brother’s keeper?”

[**H** **The First Recorded Human Lie** **10:29 thru 12:03**]

God is clearly our Heavenly Father, as He asks questions of us as He did in **T-1**, which clearly He already knew the answer to. Just the fact that God was inquiring of Cain about his brother’s location should have tipped him off that God already knew what happened. **T-2** is the question, “Where is your brother, Abel?” In **T-3** we read the first human lie recorded in Scripture when **Cain** said, “I do not know.” The truth is yeah, he knew precisely where **Abel** was and exactly what happened to him. It always surprises me that men lie to God when He asks us a question. As so often happens in the life of fallen men, Cain’s answer to God is what I describe as a calculated lie. Since Cain already knew what had happened, he formulated his answer to God by beginning a verbal defense. In **T-4** we see the word for **keeper** is **[1] hah-so-MER**. This particular word is seen just this one time and means **‘a bodyguard, to be one’s protector, or to guard thoroughly.’** Cain already knew that his brother was dead and so his answer sought to make it clear that he was not the protector or keeper of his brother.

[**I** **Spilled Blood Has a Voice** **12:03 thru 13:31**]

The earth was already in a sinful state and so perhaps Cain thought he could blame Abel’s death on some wild animal attack—as God had already described sin as a crouching tiger, ready to spring. Maybe that’s where Cain got the idea from to claim that he was not his brother’s bodyguard. Okay, moving on to **verse 10**: ¹ “And Yahweh said, ² ‘What

have you done? ³ The voice of your brother's blood ⁴ cries out to Me ⁵ from the ground! ” We see in **T-2** that God cuts straight to the point when He asks Cain, “What have you done?” Next God provides the evidence as to how He knows Cain did something. **T-3** tells us that the life within the spilled blood of **Abel** had a voice. And that it was able to speak to God. We read in **T-4** how it cried out to God. In **T-5**, the Bible tells us from the ground, which means the blood was no longer contained within the body of Abel. The Hebrew word for **cries out** is [2] *so-ah-QIM*. In the 2 places we see this word in Scripture it translates ‘**to shriek, to shout or to summon.**’ It is a cry meant for God alone.

[**J** Cain was Now Cursed 13:31 thru 14:55]

It brings with it the idea of a sound delivered to the ear of God as being like that of a clap of thunder. It was a cry which could not be hidden or missed. The other instance this word appears was when the Hebrew people collectively cried out to Yahweh from the low point of their cruel slavery in Egypt under the iron fist of Pharaoh. I think the point to be made is that God is **100% aware** of the actions of men well prior to the moment they do anything. The reality is God knows about everything long before it ever happens. And the amazing part of that fact is His foreknowledge of our sin does not change how He treats and interacts with us. He does not levy consequences *prior* to us failing. That is the basis for Him allowing us the exercise of free will. But consequences do follow actions. In this, God does not play favorites. **Verse 11**, speaking of Cain it reads, ¹ “So now you are cursed, ² banished from the ground, ³ that opened its mouth ⁴ to receive the blood of your brother ⁵ which you shed from your hand.”

[**K** A Fugitive and a Vagrant 14:55 thru 16:30]

Here we see once more, God graciously issued a warning prior to Cain’s indolent stumbling into sin. And then, when the crime of murder was committed, the consequences quickly followed. God continues in **verse 12**: ¹ “If you try and work the ground, ² it will never again give you its yield. ³ A fugitive ⁴ and a wanderer you shall be ⁵ on the earth.” If you ever had any thoughts that sin wantonly committed does not bring long term consequences, they are erased within the text of this verse. The word for **a fugitive** we see in **T-3** is [2] *nah* and it is defined as ‘**a person who flees trying to escape danger (such as persecution).**’ The Hebrew root word is *NOO-ah* and it means ‘**to**

shake, to waver, to move to and fro.’ It is reflective of how a person feels on the inside. Thus, Cain experienced the mental stress of being a fugitive. In **T-4**, Cain is described as a wanderer. The word we see for **a wanderer** is **[2] wah-NAD**. The Hebrew root for this word is **nood** and it means **‘to be disturbed, agitated or to tremble in fear.’** This word has a very similar meaning to the word **nah** we just discussed.

[**L** **No Visible Means of Support** **16:30 thru 17:48**]

However, the word **[2] wah-NAD** is only used twice in Scripture and it means **‘one to be driven away, to cause to wander, to suffer actions of taunting or derision.’** Here God is describing Cain as one who today we’d call a **vagrant**. And a vagrant is **‘someone with no established residence or visible means of support.’** People in such circumstances do not see themselves as vagrants. This word describes how others view them. Towns and cities do not want such folks hanging around, so they establish laws and methods to keep vagrants away from their municipalities. Cain, a farmer by trade, had the curse of the inability to grow crops placed upon him, and by definition, God made him into essentially a **vagrant**. He would remain a persecuted man, unable to make an honorable living, forced to keep moving from place to place for the rest of his life. The result is he, as one who committed murder, was to be kept away from all other people, apart from his wife and their resulting offspring.

[**Z** **Some Final Thoughts** **17:48 thru 19:01**]

The point is that God offers us all a choice. We can at our discretion choose to do what is right, according to God Almighty, or we can choose to ignore His Word and go about our biz and do whatever we wish. But I want you to see that while consequences follow human behavior, when we choose to intentionally and willingly ignore God’s word, there is a different penalty awarded. We lose access to God on a permanent basis. But, when we choose to become obedient to His word, our lives are lifted up and we are exalted before the LORD. Which camp do you aspire to be a part of? And remember, pretending by going thru the proper motions doesn’t count. We are unable to fool God Almighty. He knows the true intent of our hearts. We will continue this discussion in the following message. **So, until next time my beloved, this has been Pastor Jefferson, speaking in God’s Holy name and for His glory alone. Amen!**