



AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

Volume 4, Issue 1

A BIBLICAL STUDY - Genesis 4:1-15



HEBREW/GREEK DEFINITIONS



- 1 **KEEPER (7462)** "rawaw" - to tend (a flock); by extens. To associate with (as a friend), pastor, shepherd as in Gen. 4:2
- 2 **KEEPER (8104)** "shamar" - to hedge about, to protect; to guard; Gen. 4:9, Ps. 121:5
- 3 **PROCESS of time (7093)** "qets" - an extremity; after, utmost border, end. Used once in the Bible Genesis 4:3
- 4 **BROTHER (251)** "awkh" - brother used literally and metaphorically
- 5 **BROTHER (80 Greek)** "adelphos" - brother literally or figuratively, near or remote
- 6 **RESPECT (8159)** - to gaze about, inspect, consider; used 3 times Ps. 119:117
- 7 **MARK (226)** "oth" - a signal, as in flag, beacon, monument, omen, evidence. Used once.

The sin of self-pity excuses mankind to continue in an ungodly walk. It is the fuel that feeds blame and promotes lack of responsibility. Cain's road to destruction began with the sin of self-pity.



"If Thou Doest Not Well, Sin Lieth at the Door."

The story of Cain and Abel is one of the first we learn of as children. What kind of sin(s) did Cain actually commit? How can Cain's question be answered?

1. According to J.P. Green's Interlinear Bible, the "process of time" in 4:3 is translated as "in the end of days." How does this "process of time" spiritually compare to the end of days known as the Judgment? **I Corinthians 3:13; Jude 14-15; Rev. 22:12**
2. Compare the offering of Cain in 4:3 to **Numbers 18:12** and compare the offering of Abel in 4:4 to **Deuteronomy 12:6**. Why did God not respect the offering of Cain?
 - Why are the first fruits of our labor so important to God? **Ex. 22:29; Prov. 3:5-10**
 - What is the spiritual significance of the first fruits? **Jer. 2:3; Rom. 11:16; I Cor. 15:22-23; James 1:18; Rev. 14:4**
3. What was Cain's attitude after he knew the Lord's response to both offerings? **4:6**
 - Compare the response of the wicked (**Prov. 15:10, Jer. 5:3**) to response of the righteous (**Psalms 51:3; 32:5**) concerning personal sin.
4. What did the Lord warn would happen as a result of this attitude? **4:7**
 - Discuss the warning of "sin lieth at the door." **I Peter 5:8**
5. Read/respond to Cain's response after the additional sin of killing his brother. **4:9**
 - Why could Cain follow through with this horrible sin? **John 8:44-47**
6. Consider the question Cain proposes: "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Review both Greek and Hebrew definitions of "brother;" review the Hebrew definitions of "keeper.") What is the answer to his question? **I John 3:9-12**
 - How do we know that "loving our brother" is not an option? **I John 2: 8-11; 4:20**
 - Who is "my brother"? **Matt. 12:46-50**
 - What does "loving our brother" actually mean?
 - A) Physically: **Heb. 13:1; 2 Peter 1:5-7**
 - B) Spiritually: **Matt. 25:35**
7. What was the spiritual significance of the death of Abel? **Heb. 11:4; 12:24; Matt. 23:35; Luke 11:51**
8. Does the mark of Cain compare to the "mark of the beast?" **Rev. 19:20**



"The Lord is thy keeper, the shade upon thy right hand."
-Psalm 121:5