



[DTGm Revelation Studies](#)

Episode 125 - Cain and Abel: The Spiritual Parable of Worship and the Death of Self

2026-04-22

www.theLambsLove.org

Hey friend — come sit with me for a bit. In this episode, Scott walks us through Genesis 4 like a close conversation, showing how Cain and Abel aren't just old characters but living symbols of how people respond to God's call — either by dying to self or clinging to their own way. He connects the story to Jesus, the cross, and the struggle within the church today, and offers a simple, heart-level message: share Jesus and the reality of his death and resurrection, not arguments about the details.

It's gentle, honest, and practical — the kind of talk that makes you want to examine your own heart and be ready to give the reason for your hope.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to the KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi, I'm Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries. In our podcast today, I want to take a look at Genesis chapter 4. I have hesitated to do this because every time I study it out, get up and walk away, come back, I see something new. And then I think, well, I'm glad I didn't record this yet because I wouldn't have had that information. This just goes on and on,

and I realized, well, if I could just simply get something recorded and get started on this, I can always go back and tweak it, try to make amends to the damage I'm doing to it.

This is an important podcast for me. I have seen for some time that Genesis chapters 1, 2, and 3 are parables, and if you have never heard those podcasts, I would ask you to go back and find them, listen to them, recognizing that the scriptures literally do point to Genesis chapters 1, 2, and 3... in the New Testament, they will point back to things in those Genesis chapters that show it's a parable.

So you come to Genesis 4, and this was my struggle because I couldn't readily see how it was a parable. As I began to study the prophecy of Enoch in Jude 14, it caused me to come back, look again at Genesis chapters 4 and 5, and the Lord just began to open it up to me. So with that in mind, let me say this. I am learning to read Genesis chapter 4 the way I read Luke 16, the parable of the rich man and Lazarus.

I know there are people who think that's literal, and you really need to have an understanding of death to understand why that's a parable. Nobody is in hell lifting up their eyes to Abraham, asking for water. What you need to understand in Luke 16 is that it is a parable of the Jew and Gentile, and the Jew calls Abraham his father. The Gentile is carried by the angels or the messengers into Abraham's bosom.

Abraham, of course, we've been studying Abraham recently in the podcast, and we see people who can believe like Abraham believed, become Abraham's children. So here we see Lazarus being carried into Abraham's bosom. Lazarus means "God is my helper." Well, what does that matter? Because it's a parable, and God chose the name to fit the story.

God is my helper. Even though he's a Gentile, God is my helper. He's carried into the bosom of Abraham. I've heard preachers say the bosom of Abraham is a section where dead people go, and they wait on Jesus to come and get them and take them to heaven. That is not so... and they're basing it on this parable.

Again, if you could understand death, then you could understand why that is a parable. Just because the name of a person is used does not mean it's literal. That's what I was told. "Well, they're using an actual name, so it has to be literal." No, the name is a

description of the Gentile who is brought into a close relationship to Abraham- God is my helper.

Why all of that? Because when I come to Genesis 4, I'm reading this the same way. I'm reading this as when I see Adam and Eve bringing forth a son. I'm seeing this as mankind, and mankind brings forth two kinds of people who are serving God. Everyone in this chapter, Genesis 4, wants to serve God. No one in this chapter denies that there is a God. When I look at Adam and Eve bringing forth Cain and Abel, both Cain and Abel wanted to serve God.

It was not an argument whether God exists. So, mankind will bring forth in this service to God, you will have a Cain and an Abel every time. What is the difference? I could just start explaining this, and let me tell you, we're not going to get all of this finished. There is too much in this chapter to finish it in one podcast. So I pray as God leads, that we just keep building on the truths we're learning here today.

But let me start reading here again, reading this as a parable. You know, you wonder, well, is this a parable? Is it an allegory? Is this something that literally happened, and we're able to see spiritual truths from it? However, you want to take it, I'm not exactly sure what to call this other than a parable. Maybe it is an allegory. You know, I look at Genesis 1, 2, and 3, and I realize those are parables. So the first four chapters of Genesis are telling parables.

The first four chapters are different from the rest of the book. But four always divides into three plus one. So maybe I could say, "Well, the first three chapters are parables. The fourth chapter is an allegory." But one thing we do know is that Genesis chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 are all in such a way that we can receive spiritual truth. In fact, Genesis chapters 1, 2, and 3 don't make sense unless you see them spiritually, and I'm beginning to realize that about Genesis chapter 4.

The first three chapters show you the formation of the church, how the Lord brings them into the knowledge of the truth, and how the problem is iniquity with the serpent. Genesis chapter 4 is more about the formation of an evil mind in rejecting the Lord. So in that way, I've got three plus one. All three are teaching spiritual truth. All three are for

the purpose of teaching spiritual truth. But the fourth one deals with the wicked. The first three deal with the righteous.

God's put this in here for us to discern the spiritual truth behind it. I know that because when he lists the people born coming from Cain, he doesn't tell how old anyone was when they gave birth to their son. He leaves out how many years they lived. And I'm thinking by taking the names of these people and looking them up and putting them in context with what we're going to learn about Cain, we see the way the wicked develop into more complete, perfected wickedness.

Again, these are not people who don't believe in God. They all believe in God, but they are refusing the truth. If you can see that, you will see in Genesis chapter 4 what is going to happen at the end of this thing when the true message is given. I think this is a warning to us. It's a flag, man... It's a red flag. I want you to see what you're dealing with. I think that's what the Lord is telling us because again, he doesn't give anything about the lineage of Cain. I've been told, "Well, that's because it's the wicked and he's not going to track the wicked." I don't think so. I think it's because you're seeing how wickedness is perfected.

Remember, Lamech, who is the end of this thing for Cain, Lamech is the seventh from Adam of the wicked. The seventh from Adam of the righteous is Enoch. Enoch was taken. He never died. Enoch walked with God. He's the seventh from Adam. Well, Lamech is the seventh from Adam of the wicked, and we will see how this develops. Let me go back. Genesis chapter 4, verse 1.

Gen 4:1 Adam knew Eve, his wife...

I want you to recognize this is Adam and Eve. In the first three chapters of Genesis, we see where Eve listens to the serpent. Adam, Eve, and the serpent are all within the same individual. Adam and Eve conceive and bear Cain, verse 2

Gen 4:2 She continues to bare Abel...

So immediately, I mean, if I'm looking at this spiritually, I see within the human agent, the children that come forth as Cain and Abel, they're brothers. You could say they're

twins. What you'll see develop is the flesh and spirit. Again, we're looking at this spiritually. I am not saying this did not literally happen because I don't know. But I think in this is a parable, God would have us understand spiritual truth.

Gen 4:1 Adam knew Eve. She conceived and bare Cain.

Gen 4:2 She continued to bare his brother Abel. Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

Gen 4:3 In process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto Jehovah.

Gen 4:4 Abel brought of the firstling of his flock and of the fat of it. And Jehovah had respect to Abel and to his offering:

Gen 4:5 But unto Cain and his offering he did not have respect.

Why? I want to read a text to you from Hebrews chapter 11, starting at verse 4.

Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and of it he being dead yet speaks.

Now, let me ask you a simple question. What is faith? *Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the word of God. How will you hear without a preacher?* (Rom 10:17, 14) When it says that Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice, through faith, showing he's righteous, well, righteousness comes through faith. So that means when I'm reading Genesis chapter 4, Cain brings of the fruit of the ground an offering. Who told him to do that? Who told Abel to do what he was doing?

We know they were told something because Abel showed righteousness by faith. Abel showed he had faith. He was listening to somebody. Cain refused to listen. Now just consider the two. If Abel was told what God desired, Cain was told the same thing. You just have to realize they didn't just pull Abel aside and whisper in his ear, "Hey, go do this," and then Cain, "You go do whatever you want to do."

Well, when Cain does what he does, God doesn't have any respect for it. Why? Because Cain was told the truth, just like Abel was. I want you to realize something right here. Abel was a keeper of sheep. To tell Abel, "Sacrifice one of your lambs," he would have

had to die to self to offer the lamb. Cain was asked to die to self, too, and to do that, he would have had to die to self. Because he wanted to worship the way he wanted, he refused it.

So one of the first things I saw in this was God desiring in his worshipper's death to self. If you've been following this podcast at all, you recognize the purpose of the cross, showing us... what if I said, the purpose of the lamb, showing us the iniquity we have and how to overcome it. So both Cain and Abel were to die to self in order to worship God, and Cain would not do it. The argument here is not whether there is a God. The argument is, how does he want us to worship him? How are we going to do it?

And if I wanted, I could just fit in "love God and love your neighbor," because that is how you show love to God, and that's how you worship him, by showing love. If you're going to show love, you're going to have to die to self. How are you going to do it? We're going to offer the lamb. So you see the parable there? You see the spiritual meaning?

Abel offers the lamb and finds death to self. Just think about that. So let's keep reading this again in Genesis 4:5.

Gen 4:5 But unto Cain and his offering God did not have respect. Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Gen 4:6 And Jehovah said to Cain, Why are you wroth? Why is your countenance fallen?

Again, this tells me this is a parable. See, somehow in our mind, we get this Cain and Abel thing, and we can only be literal. No, this is like Adam and Eve and a serpent talking to Eve. I've had people tell me, well, you know, animals were different back then. No, they were not. God is telling you a spiritual truth. God is not talking to this man, saying, "Why are you mad?" See, if this is going on, this is happening in the conscience of Cain because he has been told what to do. He has been told about God. To what extent?

See, if you go back looking at that exact time, I don't know, but I'm not looking at that exact time. I'm looking at this as happening today. What you're going to read is what happens today when people are told how God wants them to worship and serve him,

and they would rather go in the direction of their denomination or whatever in the heck it is. They will not die to self and let you help them. They won't do it.

So again, looking at Genesis 4:7, here's what the Lord tells him.

Gen 4:7 If you do well, you'll be accepted. (Don't tell me Cain didn't understand that.) If you don't do well, sin is lying at the door of your heart. And unto you is its desire, but you should be ruling over it (like your brother Abel).

Gen 4:8 Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in a field, Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Now stop a minute. What do you mean, Cain talked with Abel? Do we have to wonder what they were talking about? Do we have to even think twice about it? Do you think they were talking about the weather, the latest football scores, or how to bake a pot roast? You know, I mean, what in the world do you think they talked about? Well, they were talking about the issue. Abel knew God's will. He had faith, and Cain was refusing it. And Cain rose up and slew him.

I have seen this a thousand times, if I've seen it once, where you're talking about service to God, and the person is refusing it, and they become infuriated and come at you. That is a trademark of the fool. That is a trademark of the universal church. You try to help them. You share the truth, and they will rise up and kill you. They will put you to death. They will not listen to what you have to say. Again, verse 8,

Gen 4:8 Cain talked with Abel his brother...

What about? Well, it was something that really made him mad. I'm telling you, they were discussing the sacrifice, what God desires. They were discussing the sacrifice. Verse 9,

Gen 4:9 And Jehovah then says to Cain (in the conscience), Where's Abel your brother?

...

Now remember, I'm reading this like Luke 16. This guy is in hell, "*Abraham, Abraham, bring me some water over here.*" See, there are principles God is showing you. Verse 9, Genesis 4,

Gen 4:9 Jehovah said unto Cain, where's Abel? He said, I don't know: Am I my brother's keeper?

I think that's him easing his conscience. And the Lord speaks to him in his conscience,

Gen 4:10 And he says, What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries unto me from the ground.

The ground is his mind. The earth is his mind. He knew what he had done was wrong. And what he had done was killing his conscience.

Gen 4:10 ... Your brother's blood is crying unto me from your earth, from your mind.

Gen 4:11 Now you're cursed. You're cursed from the earth. The earth has opened her mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

See, you cannot deny, you just cannot deny what you've done to yourself. You can't deny it. To say, "Am I my brother's keeper?" ... that's not going to ease your conscience.

Gen 4:12 When you till the ground, it's not going to yield unto you its strength (you have no strength to overcome iniquity). You're a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth (refusing to deal with yourself). You're a fugitive and a vagabond.

Gen 4:13 Cain said unto Jehovah, My iniquity is greater than I can bear.

Now, this word "bear" is "lift up," just like the rich man asking for water. *Tip your finger in some water, put it on my tongue.* Well, Cain is stating that the iniquity he is carrying is greater than he can bear. If you look at "bear," you could say, well, it's "to lift up." He can't lift up his iniquity, but he can't carry it around either. It's greater than he can carry. He is going to need relief somehow, finding relief from what he has done. So he turns to God, and this is what he says.

Gen 4:14 You have driven me out from the face of the earth...

I find that term, "the face of the earth," significant because in Genesis chapter 6, this was how the Son of God filled man.

Gen 6:7 ... I will destroy man whom I have filled from the face of the earth, the person of the earth...

Gen 4:14 (Cain stating) You've driven me out from the face of the earth, and from thy face shall I be hid...

Who did that to you, Cain? Well, "God is doing this to me. God is doing this to me." He is refusing to face the truth of self.

Gen 4:14 You've driven me out from the face of the earth; and from your face I'm going to be hid. I'm going to be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth (in my own heart, in my own mind, I'll find no place to rest). It'll come to pass, that everyone that finds me will slay me.

Now, the truth of the matter is, in this podcast, I knew I had to get at least to the Mark of Cain.

Gen 4:14 ... Everyone who finds me will slay me.

Gen 4:15 And Jehovah said unto him, Whoever slays Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And Jehovah set a mark on Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

Now, what is the mark? The mark of Cain is what the Lord just stated. Whosoever slays Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold. How is that the mark? This is what God wants you to see. The Lord is not saying, whoever slays Cain, I'll get him sevenfold. No. Cain is the one who will take vengeance. You just saw it when Abel and Cain talked. What do you think Abel was saying? Abel was telling him, "Cain, you're wrong. We understand to sacrifice a lamb." What was he doing? In essence, he was killing Cain.

Cain would not find death to self. Abel was trying to help him do that. So the Lord is giving us the warning. Anybody who tries to slay Cain, vengeance will be taken on you sevenfold. That's the warning. Cain is the one who will do this. He just proved it to you.

Let me read some other scriptures that give us this warning. First one, Matthew chapter 7, verse 6.

Mat 7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

A pearl is a redeemed truth. A pearl is the lie you've been told, corrected. *Don't give that which is holy to the dogs. And your pearls, don't give those to swine. They will trample them under their feet and rend you with it.* And of course, this connects to 2 Peter 2, verse 20.

2Pe 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, if they are again entangled in it, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

2Pe 2:21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

2Pe 2:22 But it's happened to them according as the true proverb. The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that is washed to her wallowing in the mire.

That is a picture of Cain. That is a picture of the universal church. Let me read another one. This is in Proverbs chapter 9, verse 7.

Pro 9:7 He that reproves a scorner gets to himself shame: he that rebukes a wicked man gets to himself a blot.

Pro 9:8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate you: rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.

Pro 9:9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he'll be wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

Who you don't tell is someone like Cain. Now, I want to be more specific about what we're reading here. I want you to look at the universal church, and you're going to see Cain is everywhere. Cain wants to worship the way he wants to worship. And if you approach him to try to correct his thinking, he will take vengeance on you sevenfold. He will fight you. He will resist you. He will hate you. He will scorn you. You will have a blot because you're trying to help him.

But now understand. The Cains that are out here attack each other. What do you mean?

Well, I mean, all of my Christian life, I have struggled with all the different denominations that will approach you and try to tell you, "Well, you've got to go to church on Saturday. Well, you've got to go on Sunday. Well, the law has been done away with. No, the law hasn't been done away with. You've got to get baptized in water. Well, you don't really have to get baptized. You get sprinkled. You've got to speak in tongues. Well, no, you don't have to speak in tongues."

See, all of the various doctrines that are out there are Cain killing Cain. I am as guilty of that as anyone trying to convince somebody whether to keep the Sabbath or not keep the Sabbath. Trying to convince somebody about various things in the Bible, and that's Cain killing Cain. You see it everywhere, and it creates problems because Cain will take vengeance on you. So then, how do we approach people with the truth of the gospel?

What we need to do is explain to the Cains the truth of the cross. And if they can believe it, then they will find death to self and will die in the Lord and be raised from the dead. If you're trying to kill out all of the things they believe, the one thing they need to understand is the Son of God and him crucified. And if you can do that and get that truth across to them, they can find death to self. I can't say those words without reading 1 Corinthians 2, starting at verse 1.

1Co 2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, I came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

What's the testimony of God? It was at the baptism of Christ. *"You are my Son. This day I have begotten you."* This is the testimony of God as prophesied in Psalm 2.

1Co 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

1Co 2:3 And I was with you in weakness, and fear, and much trembling.

1Co 2:4 My speech and preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but it was demonstrating the Spirit and the ability of God:

1Co 2:5 So your faith would not stand in man's wisdom, but it would stand in the ability of God.

1Co 2:6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect, not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that comes to naught.

1Co 2:7 We're speaking the wisdom of God in a mystery...

That's Proverbs 8. What is it that Jesus said to Nicodemus in John chapter 3? Nicodemus says, *"Well, we know you're a teacher come from God. No one can do these things you're doing except God be with him."* Jesus says, *"You need to understand I'm the Son of God and have a born-again experience."* I'm "Okifying" that. That's what he said. That is exactly what he was getting at.

You see, Cain's problem... in wanting to worship the way they want to worship, the problem is that they don't know who they're worshipping. They don't understand who it is. Paul says, *"I'm preaching Jesus Christ and him crucified. I determined to know nothing but that, Jesus."* ... *"You don't know who I am. I am the Son of God. You need to understand that and be born again (Jhn 3:3)."* What about the woman at the well in John 4? *"If you knew who I was,"* this is how Jesus approached... *"If you knew who I was, you would ask me, and I would give you living water"* (Jhn 4:10). He identified himself in this conversation as Messiah.

I believe that is the message God would have us give, not arguing over what day to go to church on. "Do you speak in tongues?" See, all of the different ways people have devised in their worship of God, which is not of faith... not of God's faith, not of the faith of Jesus Christ. You ask somebody about the faith of Jesus Christ, and they don't even know what you're talking about.

In the King James, if you turn over to Galatians 2:16, they don't even understand that. I say in the King James because all the other Bibles will say "faith in Christ," not "the faith of Christ." *We believe in him and have the faith of him.* So it is the faith of Christ Abel received, and by offering the lamb, it showed death to self... by offering the lamb, and that he had righteousness by faith. I'm not making this up. That is in Hebrews 11:4. We began with it.

Someone told him. Don't go back in your mind and try... Well, now, who in the heck back then told him that? I want you to look at it as present-day. God will reveal what he demands of us, and he will reveal it to everybody. There will be those who will not accept it. Our message, if we can look at the seven churches in Revelation, we see that

process that people go through *in their apostasy*... because remember, we're living in an apostasy. We are coming out of the apostasy.

The seven churches, Ephesus to Thyatira, that is the depth of the apostasy, but it is to Thyatira that Jesus reveals himself as the Son of God. Those words, "the Son of God," are only found one time in the book of Revelation, and it is right there, to Thyatira. They don't know who they're worshipping. So you're going to face Cain, not with arguments about all of this other stuff. The one argument you really need to get in your heart and understand and be ready to share... Remember what we read in 1 Peter 3. Remember what we read, how

1Pe 3:19 Christ preached to the spirits, the people who are now in prison;

1Pe 3:20 These people were disobedient, when the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared. Only eight people got in that boat because of water, through the water, because of the water.

The water is what was preached to them as Christ preached to these people who are now in prison. That water saved eight people. That truth moved eight people to get in the boat.

1Pe 3:21 The antitype of that is the baptism (and I'm just going to say, into the death of Jesus Christ) will save us. It's not the putting away of the filth of the flesh. Baptism into the death of Christ is the answer of a good conscience toward God.

1Pe 3:15 Sanctify the Lord God in your heart: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that's asking you a reason of the hope that's in you with meekness and fear:

1Pe 3:16 Having a good conscience...

... teaching the death of Jesus Christ, the testimony of God. *I know nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified*. That is what you have to say to Cain. That is what will help them find death to self. And if they believe what you're saying, that Jesus really is the Son of God and he died to redeem you from all iniquity, if they really do believe that, they separate from every church on the planet. Maybe I should say every church on the face of the earth.

And they will begin to receive the truth of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And they can look in that mirror and be changed into that same image of the only begotten Son of God.

Again, we're going to go back and continue looking at Genesis 4. But it's imperative that we understand the message we are to give. Are you able to give a reason of your hope? Are you able to give the answer of a good conscience to God, understanding that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is your resurrection?

Most gracious Heavenly Father, we worship you. We serve you with an open heart, open to receive the truth that you have for us, which is endless, deep, and meaningful. May we glorify you in Jesus' name. Amen.