

A person stands on the peak of a dark mountain, silhouetted against a bright, glowing horizon. The sky above is a deep blue and black, filled with numerous stars and the faint, curved band of the Milky Way galaxy. The overall mood is contemplative and vast.

The FIRST Family

Class 5 – The First Siblings

Class 1: God prepares a home for His family

Class 2: God builds His family in His image

Class 3: God shapes His family through relationships

Class 4: God restores His children when they fail

Cain and the ground/earth (same word)

Gen. 4

v2

v3

v10

v11

v12 (2x)

v14 (2x)

Abel's blood cried out to Yahweh from the ground - where Cain had put it.

...**cursed is the ground** for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it ...Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee...In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou **return unto the ground**... Therefore the LORD God sent him forth...to till **the ground** from whence he was taken. **Gen. 3:17-19, 23**



God testifying of his gifts... Heb. 11:4

Fire from heaven consumed the offering:

- Lev. 9:24 – Aaron's burnt offering
- Jud. 6:21 – Gideon's offering
- 1 Chr. 21:26 – David's offering
- 2 Chr. 7:1 – Solomon's offering
- 1 Kin. 18:38 – Elijah's offering



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 by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Prov 21:27

The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when **he bringeth it with a wicked mind?**

Sin lies at the door 4:7

2 possibilities:

1. sin = a sin offering
2. sin = sin nature / sinful tendencies

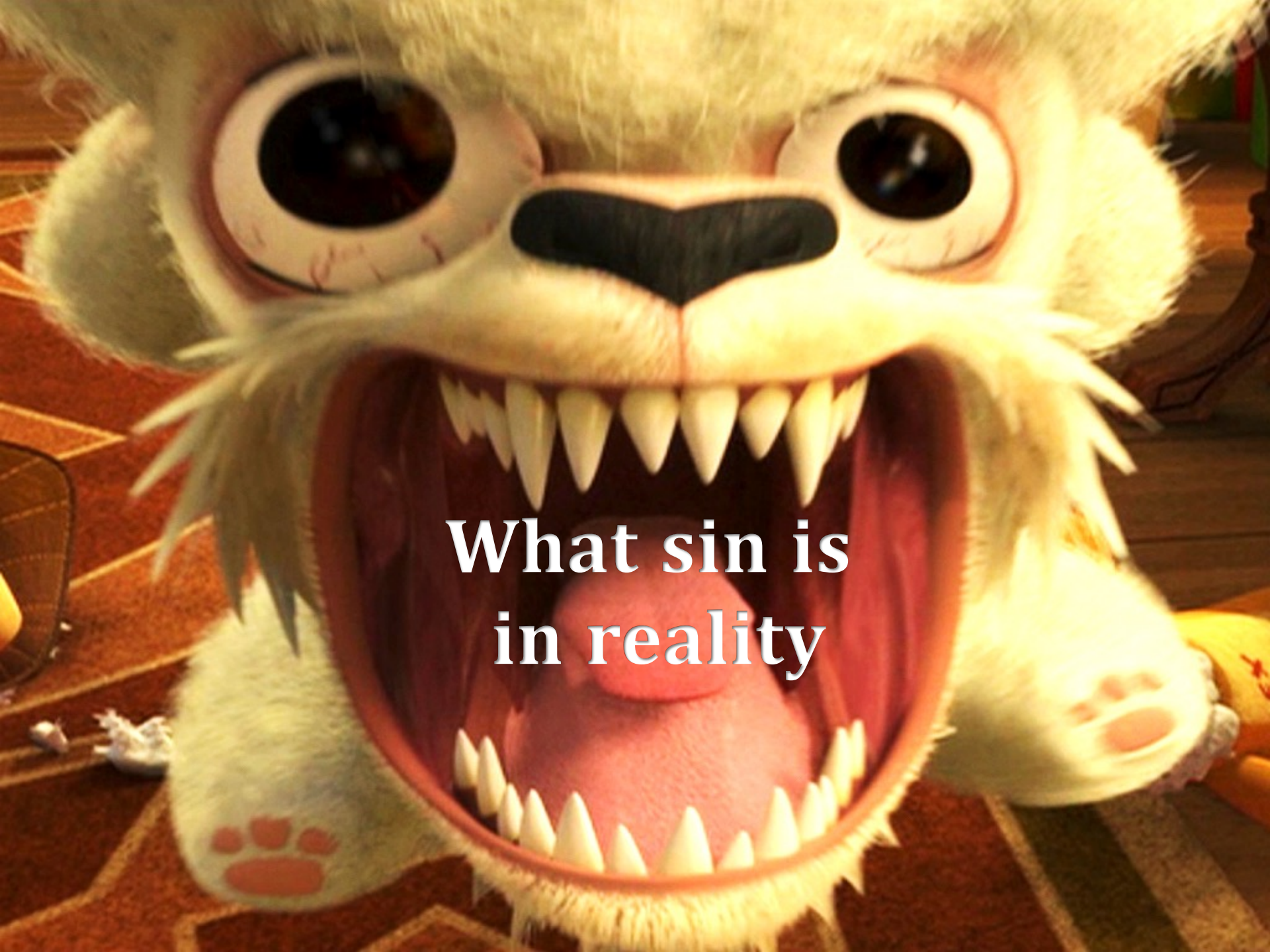


“sin lieth at the door”

→ Every other OT occ. (30 total) → “lying down” “stretching out” - e.g. Gen. 29:2; 49:14; Psa. 23:2



How we view sin



**What sin is
in reality**

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This is the enmity of 3:15! Cain had 2 options:

- a. Let sin rule over you (seed of the serpent)
- b. You rule over sin (seed of the woman)

Rom. 6:12 – let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body...

The First Siblings

v8 – Abel his brother

v8 – Abel his brother

v9 – Abel thy brother

v9 – my brother's keeper

v10 – thy brother's blood

v11 – thy brother's blood

Both raised together...

Both came to worship...

Both made an offering...

Both brought vegetables...

...with 2 very different minds



NT commentary on Gen. 4 ^{1 John 3}

11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

“to butcher, especially an animal for food or in sacrifice; to slaughter or maim violently”

Rev. 5:6, 9, 12; 6:4, 9; 13:3, 8; 18:24

“evil in their effect or influence” – Cain was not a purely evil man

Cain was not just angry with Abel. He was angry with God!

Heaping sin upon sin

- God's correction → he got angry v5
- God's warning → he killed Abel v7-8
- God's inquiry → he lied v9
- God's punishment → no repentance, only concern for self v13-14

“Oh happy is the man who hears
instruction's warning voice!”

Yahweh said to Cain...

- 1) v6 – Why are you angry?
- 2) v6 – Why is your countenance fallen?
- 3) v7 – Don't you realize that if you do well, I will accept you?
- 4) v7 – Don't you realize that if you do wrong, sin will take hold of you?
- 5) v9 – Where is Abel your brother?
- 6) v10 – What have you done?

It's the same method God used in ch. 3

Sin of 1st gen. projected onto 2nd gen.

Adam
& Eve

Cain

2:15	<i>failed</i> to <u>keep</u> the garden	<i>refused</i> to <u>keep</u> his brother	4:9
3:9	where are thou?	where is Abel?	4:9
3:10	I <u>hid</u> myself (from God)	from thy face I shall be <u>hid</u>	4:14
3:11	hast thou eaten...?	what have you done?	4:10
3:14	<u>cursed</u> above every beast	<u>cursed</u> from the earth	4:11
3:16	<u>desire</u> to husband, he shall rule over you	sin <u>desires</u> you, you must rule over it	4:7
3:17	cursed is the ground	ground will not yield strength	4:12
3:24	He drove out the man	thou hast driven me out	4:14
3:24	driven <u>east</u> of Eden	dwelt <u>east</u> of Eden	4:16

Cain had chosen the way of the seed of the serpent.

Cain

The first Adam *witnessed*
what the last Adam would *experience*.

Israel

1 John 3:12	Jealousy and hatred for their brother	Psa. 69:4
Gen. 4:8	Hatred turned to murderous thoughts	John 7:1; 8:44
Gen. 4	The one slain opened not his mouth	Isa. 53:7
1 John 3:12	Murderous deed was violent and brutal	John 19:6
Gen. 4:9	No remorse for their crime	Matt. 27:25
Gen. 4:10	Condemned by the blood of the slain	Acts 5:28
Gen. 4:12	The earth would not produce for them	Hab. 3:17
Gen. 4:14	Became a fugitive and a wanderer	Eze. 36:17-20
Gen. 4:14	Cut off from Yahweh and true worship	Dan. 9:26-27
Gen. 4:14	God's face hidden from them	Eze. 39:29
Gen. 4:15	Protective mark set by God to preserve	Gen. 12:3
Gen. 4:16	Driven from the presence of God	Eze. 34:12

Cain a foreshadow of Natural Israel

Matt. 23:33-35 echoes to the serpent of Gen. 3-4!

Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify...

That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from **the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias**, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

Israel in Christ's day showed the serpent thinking of Cain.



Receiving correction

Proverbs 9:8

Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

Proverbs 17:10

A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.



Spotlight on today's issues:



Cain's focus on self:

- Offered what he wanted to, not what God asked for
- I am not my brother's keeper – my responsibility is myself
- My punishment is greater than I can bear
- Builds his own city centered on his own family

**Lovers of
SELF**

How does our world focus on self?

How can we combat focus on self?

In Perilous Times, Men Will Be... ^{2 Tim. 3:2-5}

Lovers of their own selves
SELF-LOVING

Covetous (lovers of money)
SELF-PLEASING

Boasters
SELF-GLORIFYING

Proud (arrogant / haughty)
SELF-AGGRANDIZING

Blasphemers (Truth-opposers)
SELF-JUSTIFYING

Disobedient to Parents
SELF-WILLED

Unthankful
SELF-ABSORBED

Unholy
SELF-SERVING

Without natural affection
SELF-CENTERED

Trucebreakers (unforgiving)
SELF-INTERESTED

False Accusers
SELF-OPINIONED

Incontinent (unbridled self)
SELF-PROMOTING

Fierce
SELF-PRESERVING

Despisers of good
SELF-RIGHTEOUS

Traitors
SELF-INTERESTED

Heady (rash / reckless)
SELF-CONFIDENT

High-minded (conceited)
SELF-IMPORTANT

Lovers of pleasures...
SELF-GRATIFYING

Having a form of godliness...
SELF-SUFFICIENT

In Perilous Times, Men Will Be... ^{2 Tim. 3:2-5}

Opposite

Lovers of their own selves SELF-LOVING	Preferring others	False Accusers SELF-OPINIONED	Honest
Covetous (lovers of money) SELF-PLEASING	Contentment	Incontinent (unbridled self) SELF-PROMOTING	Self-control
Boasters SELF-GLORIFYING	Modest	Fierce SELF-PRESERVING	Gentle
Proud (arrogant / haughty) SELF-AGGRANDIZING	Humble	Despisers of good SELF-RIGHTEOUS	Lovers of good
Blasphemers (Truth-opposers) SELF-JUSTIFYING	Zealous for good	Traitors SELF-INTERESTED	Loyal
Disobedient to Parents SELF-WILLED	Obedient children	Heady (rash / reckless) SELF-CONFIDENT	Meek
Unthankful SELF-ABSORBED	Thankful	High-minded (conceited) SELF-IMPORTANT	Lowly
Unholy SELF-SERVING	Holy	Lovers of pleasures... SELF-GRATIFYING	Lovers of God
Without natural affection SELF-CENTERED	Kindly affectioned	Having a form of godliness... SELF-SUFFICIENT	Trembling at the Word
Trucebreakers (unforgiving) SELF-INTERESTED	Forgiving		



WHAT CHRIST DID TO "SELF"

Rom 15v3 "But even Christ pleased not him**self**..."

Gal 1v4 "...who gave him**self** for our sins..."

Eph 5v2 "...given him**self**...an offering and a sacrifice"

Phil 2v7-8 "...made him**self** of no reputation..."

"...humbled him**self**...to the death of the cross"

I Tim 2v6 "Who gave him**self** a ransom for all..."

Heb 5v5 "So also Christ glorified not him**self**..."

Heb 7v27 "...this he did...when he offered up him**self**"

Heb 9v26 "...put away sin by the sacrifice of him**self**..."

I Pet 2v24 "Who in his own **self** bare our sins..."

The Son

1. ...for whom God has prepared a home; the high priest over God's house for His family.
2. ...who was in the image and likeness of God; he will have dominion.
3. ...who is the bridegroom; it is not good for him to be alone.
4. ...who is the seed of the woman; he crushed the serpent's head
5. ...whose blood speaks better things than that of Abel

Take Away Points

The decisive moments in life are not when we fail – they're how we respond to our failings and correction.

God calls us to bear responsibility for one another.



He that overcometh shall inherit all things;
and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Rev. 21:7