

GENESIS
WHERE DID CAIN GET A WIFE?
GENESIS 4:16-24

Introduction

After **righteous ABEL** was killed by his **unrighteous** and **unrepentant** brother **CAIN**, we saw that the **LORD** proclaimed a few things that would become a reality in **CAIN'S** life:

1. We saw how the **ground was additionally cursed** to him such that **his farming days were over!** *Genesis 4:11-12*
Now, we're not told what **CAIN** occupied himself with after that point! And it doesn't really matter! But what we do know is that he had learn something new because he would **never be able to raise crops again because of the punishment the LORD put upon him!**
2. We saw that he would be a **fugitive** and a **vagabond!** **CAIN'S** life became a fearful life of both **exile** and **wandering!** *Genesis 4:12*

Genesis 4:16-24 show that the **complaining, bellyaching and full of self-pity, CAIN (Vs 13)** moved to dwell in the land of **NOD** ("**NOD**" means "**wandering**") where— And here is where critics see a problem! **He began a family with his wife!**

Now what's the question that comes to mind? Where did **CAIN** get a wife? **BIBLE** critics point to this as a problem with the veracity of the **BIBLE**. And there are even some well meaning Christians that think, "*Oh no! We've got to be able to answer this with a satisfactory answer because, if we don't, the BIBLE critics will claim the BIBLE is not true!*"

Well, I'm going to give you the **BIBLE** answer to that question. And in just the last couple of decades **SCIENCE** has caught up with the **BIBLE!** But, understand that it is **NOT** going to satisfy all of the **BIBLE** critics! That's because there are some people **determined** or **hardened** in their **UNBELIEF** who will stay in **UNBELIEF!** They will **NOT** be satisfied with the **TRUTH** because they are **hardened against** the **TRUTH!**

"*Well then preacher, who was CAIN'S wife? I've got to know!*" It really is very simple. **He married one of his sisters!** There were no other choices! That's the answer from the **BIBLE** and it is in agreement with **SCIENCE!**

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I. UNDERSTAND WHY THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS IMPORTANT?

To many people, this question is a stumbling block to accepting the **CREATION** account of **GENESIS** and its record of **only one man and woman at the beginning of history.**

Many skeptics have claimed that for **CAIN** to find a wife, there must have been other "*races*" of people on the earth **who were not descendants of ADAM and EVE.**

As defenders of the **GOSPEL**, it is important to show that **all human beings are descendants of one man and one woman (ADAM and EVE)** because **only descendants of ADAM and EVE can be saved.**

So, **BELIEVERS** need to be able to account for **CAIN'S** wife and show clearly **she was a descendant of ADAM and EVE.**

In order to answer this question of where **CAIN** got his wife, we first need to cover some background information concerning the meaning of the **GOSPEL.**

II. UNDERSTAND WHAT HE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE FIRST ADAM!

The **Apostle Paul** wrote in *1 Corinthians 15:45* that **ADAM** was "*the first man*" which agrees with the **GENESIS** account of **GOD'S CREATION OF MANKIND!**

The **BIBLE** makes it clear that **only the descendants of ADAM can be saved.** *Romans 5:12* teaches that **ALL of MANKIND SINS** because **ADAM SINNED** and we are **ALL IN ADAM.** **ADAM'S SIN NATURE** became **ALL of MANKIND'S NATURE!** Additionally, the **DEATH** penalty, which **ADAM** received as **JUDGMENT** for his **SIN** of **REBELLION**, has also been passed on to **ALL** his descendants.

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Romans 5:12—“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

Now, since **ADAM** was the head of the human race, understand that when he fell we, who were in the loins of **ADAM**, fell also. So, that means **ALL** of **MANKIND** came into this world **SEPARATED** from **GOD**. Without **GOD’S** intervention, the final consequence of **SIN** would be **ETERNAL SEPARATION** from **GOD!** (**ETERNAL DEATH!**)

Because the **first man ADAM** brought **SIN** and **DEATH** into the world, the human race, **ALL** of whom are descendants of **ADAM**, needed a **SINLESS MAN WHO** would be willing to pay the **PENALTY** for **SIN**, the resulting **JUDGMENT** of **DEATH**.

However, the **BIBLE** teaches that *“all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)*. So, what was the solution?

III. UNDERSTAND WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT GOD’S SOLUTION IN THE LAST ADAM—JESUS CHRIST?

The **GOOD NEWS** is that **GOD** made a **WAY** for us to return to **HIM** through the **PERSON** and **WORK OF REDEMPTION** found in **HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, JESUS CHRIST, alone!**

The **Apostle Paul** explained in *1 Corinthians 15* that **GOD** provided another **ADAM** as the **WAY** to deliver **MANKIND** from his wretched state.

JESUS CHRIST, the **ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD** became a **MAN—a PERFECT MAN, a GOD-MAN** by way of the **VIRGIN BIRTH**—yet **HE** was still our relation.

Galatians 4:4–5—“4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law...”

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In *1 Corinthians 15:45*, Paul refers to **CHRIST** as *“the last Adam”* because **HE** took the place of the **first ADAM**. **CHRIST** became the **new HEAD** and, because **HE** was **SINLESS**, was able to **PAY THE PENALTY FOR OUR SIN!**

1 Corinthians 15:21–22—“For since by man came death, by Man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

CHRIST suffered **DEATH** (the penalty for **SIN**) on the **CROSS**, shedding **HIS BLOOD** (*“and without shedding of blood is no remission,” Hebrews 9:22*)! **CHRIST** did that so that those who **REPENT** and put their **TRUST** in **HIS FINISHED WORK** on the **CROSS** can **BE RECONCILED TO GOD IN HIM!**

So, only **DESCENDANTS** of the first man **ADAM** can be **SAVED** by **TRUSTING** in the **FINISHED WORK** of the **SECOND ADAM!**

IV. UNDERSTAND THAT THE BIBLE SHOWS MANKIND TO BE ALL OF ONE BLOOD!

So, there was only one man made by **GOD** at the beginning—made from the dust of the ground! *Genesis 2:7—“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”*

The **BIBLE** describes all human beings as **sinners**, and we are all of one blood according to what the **Apostle Paul** said:

Acts 17:26—“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth...”

So, the **GOSPEL** makes sense only on the basis that **all humans alive and all that have ever lived (except for the first woman)** are descendants of the **first man ADAM**. If this were not so, then the **GOSPEL** could not be explained or defended.

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This also means that **CAIN'S wife** was a descendant of **ADAM**. She could not have come from **another race of people** and must be accounted for from **ADAM'S DESCENDANTS**.

Also, we read in *Genesis 3:20*, "*And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.*" In other words, all people, other than **ADAM**, are **descendants of EVE**—she was the first woman.

EVE was made by **GOD** from **ADAM'S** side (*Genesis 2:21–24*)! That was a **unique event**. In the **NEW TESTAMENT**, **JESUS** (*Matthew 19:4-6*) and **Paul** (*Ephesians 5:31*) use this **historical and onetime event** as the **foundation** for the **marriage of one man and one woman**.

Also, in *Genesis 2:20*, we are told that when **ADAM** looked at the animals, he couldn't find a mate—there was **no one of his kind**.

All this makes it obvious that **there was only one woman, ADAM'S wife, EVE**, from the beginning. There could not have been a "*race*" of women.

So, if we cannot defend that **ALL HUMANS**, including **CAIN'S** wife, can trace their ancestry ultimately to **ADAM** and **EVE**, then how can we understand and explain the **GOSPEL** and every one of **MANKIND'S** need for it?

V. UNDERSTAND THAT ADAM AND EVE HAD OTHER CHILDREN WHOSE NAMES ARE NOT GIVEN!

CAIN was the first child of **ADAM** and **EVE** recorded in **SCRIPTURE** (*Genesis 4:1*). He is named and so are two of his brothers, **ABEL** (*Genesis 4:2*) and **SETH** (*Genesis 4:25*)! But they were only part of the first generation of children ever born on this earth. Even though these three males are specifically mentioned, **Adam** and **Eve** had other children.

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In *Genesis 5:4* we read a statement that sums up the life of **ADAM** "*And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters:*"

So, during their lives, **ADAM** and **EVE** had an **undisclosed number of male and female children**. In fact, the **Jewish historian Josephus** wrote, "*The number of Adam's children, as says the old tradition, was thirty-three sons and twenty-three daughters.*"

Now the **SCRIPTURE** doesn't tell us how many children were born to **ADAM** and **EVE**, but considering their long life spans (**ADAM** lived for 930 years—*Genesis 5:5*), it would seem logical to suggest there were many. Remember, they were commanded to "*be fruitful, and multiply*" (*Genesis 1:28*).

VI. UNDERSTAND THAT CAIN MARRIED HIS SISTER (OR POSSIBLY A NIECE)—THERE IS NO OTHER EXPLANATION!

If we work totally from **SCRIPTURE**, without any personal prejudices or extrabiblical ideas, then in the beginning, when there was only the **first generation children!** **Brothers** would have had to marry **sisters** or there wouldn't have been any more **generations!**

We're not told when **CAIN** married or many of the details of **other marriages and children**, but we can say for certain that **CAIN'S wife** was either **his sister or a close relative such as a niece**.

There is a slim possibility that she was his **niece**, but either way, **a brother and sister would have married in the beginning**.

So, **CAIN'S wife** was also a descendant of **ADAM!** Therefore, she had to be his **sister (or possibly niece)**.

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VII. OBJECTIONS ABOUT CAIN MARRYING HIS SISTER.

A. Objection Based On GOD’S LAW.

Many people immediately reject the conclusion that **ADAM** and **EVE’S** sons and daughters married each other by appealing to **GOD’S LAW** against close relation marriages.

Some say that you can't marry your relation. Actually, if you don't marry your relation, you don't marry a human! A wife is related to her husband before they are married because all people are descendants of **ADAM and EVE—we all are of one blood.**

The **law forbidding close relatives marrying** was not given until the time of **Moses (Leviticus 18–20)**. So there was no disobedience to **GOD’S LAW** originally (before the time of **Moses**) when close relatives (even brothers and sisters) married each other.

Remember that **Abram** was married to his half-sister **Sarai**. (*Genesis 20:12*). **GOD’S** law later forbade such marriages, but that was some four hundred years later!

B. Objection Based On Biological Deformities.

Today, brothers and sisters (and half-brothers and half-sisters, etc.) are normally not permitted by man’s law to marry and have children.

Now it is true today that children produced in a union between **brother** and **sister** have a greater chance to be deformed. As a matter of fact, the closer the couple is in relationship, the more likely it is that any offspring will be deformed.

Each person inherits a set of genes from his or her mother and father.

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Unfortunately, genes today contain many mistakes (**because of SIN and the CURSE**), and these mistakes show up in a variety of ways.

So, **the more closely related two people are, the more likely it is that they will have similar mistakes in their genes, inherited from the same parents.** Therefore, a brother and a sister are likely to have **similar mistakes** in their genetic material that might lead to deformities.

Conversely, the further away the parents are in relationship to each other, the more likely it is that they will have different mistakes in their genes. Children, inheriting one set of genes from each parent, are likely to end up with some of the pairs of genes containing only one bad gene in each pair.

But overall, the human race is slowly degenerating as mistakes accumulate generation after generation.

However, this fact of present-day life did not apply to **Adam and Eve**. When the first two people were created, **they were perfect**. Everything **GOD** made was *"very good"* (*Genesis 1:31*). That means their genes were perfect—no mistakes.

But when sin entered the world because of **Adam (Genesis 3:6)**, **GOD cursed the world so that the perfect creation then began to degenerate and decay**. Over a long period of time, this **degeneration** would have resulted in all sorts of mistakes occurring in the genetic material of living things.

But **CAIN** was in the **first generation of children** ever born. He, as well as his brothers and sisters, would have received virtually no imperfect genes from **ADAM or EVE**, since the effects of **SIN** and the **CURSE** would have been minimal to start with.

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By the time of **Moses** (about 2,500 years later), *degenerative* mistakes would have accumulated to such an extent in the *human race* that it would have been necessary for **GOD** to bring in the laws forbidding brother-sister (and close relative) marriage (*Leviticus 18–20*).

(Also, there were plenty of people on the earth by that time, and there was no reason for close relations to marry.)

Conclusion

Some may resist these **TRUTHS** found in *Genesis 1-5*, but understand that back in August of 2013 it was discovered that all scientific evidence points to the fact that if you go far enough back, all life on Earth is related through common ancestry. Turns out that applying the same sort of analysis shows that all humans alive today are descendants of one man and one woman who walked our planet thousands of years ago.