



# **THE BEGINNINGS!**

**The Book of Genesis**

**Calling on the Name of the Lord!**

**Genesis 4:1-25**

**Message #5 of 50 – S902**

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**@ Hawk Ranch, Murrieta, CA**



**Sunday Morning Service**

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# Calling on the Name of the Lord!

## Genesis 4:1-25

### Opening Comments

- Good morning – turn to **Genesis 4**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- There are lots of big questions in life
- The world wrestles with questions like:
- Why is there something rather than nothing?
- What happens after death?
- What is happiness, or contentment, or fulfillment?
- Why is there evil in the world?
- As Christians, we know that there are all of the big questions of life
- In fact, the Bible has answers for every question
- There is one question all of humanity wrestles with, including most Christians – Why am I here? What is my purpose?

**Purpose: the reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists.**

- It is a question that is so vital that if we don't answer it, we will miss out on much of what God has prepared for us
- Every Christian was created on purpose and for a purpose **Ephesians 2:10**

**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

- It is within our divinely ordained purpose that we will find everything the rest of the world is futilely searching for
- It is within the sovereignly determined reason for our existence that we will experience the greatest joy, peace, happiness, fulfillment
- The book of Genesis is a book of beginnings
- Including a description of why your purpose is different than Adam and Eve's were in the Garden
- You have heard me say regularly that all of life can be boiled down to three things: Glorify God – Bless others – Grow faith
- How we do those things is a function of discovering our specific purpose and living it out in the world around us

- There is no way I can help you discover your specific purpose in a single message, but I hope to point you in a direction that will help you to discover it
- Let's pray and then get into our text for today
- **Pray**

## Teaching

- **Calling on the Name of the Lord!**
- In Genesis 3 Adam and Eve did what God told them not to do
- They were then given a curse which has been passed down to all generations since
- We look at this world and suggest that it is really messed up – it seems like it is getting worse every day
- What we see today was the reality of the first generation after Adam and Eve
- Adam and Eve were ejected from the Garden of Eden
- They may have stayed close enough to see the cherubim and his flaming sword
- **Genesis 4:1-2**
- So far, so good – they are being fruitful and multiplying
- **Genesis 4:3-5a**
- It is obvious from this that there was some sort of worship of God going on
- That worship including bringing an offering
- God respected, or accepted, Abel's offering, an animal from the flock sacrificed
- God did not respect, or rejected, Cain's offering, the fruit of the ground
- The question is, why? **John Phillips**
- **"It is obvious, therefore, that Cain and Abel were not left to their own ideas in deciding how God was to be approached. They had been told."**
- I am sure that Cain's offering, from man's viewpoint was good, generous, beautiful
- There is no sense in the text that Cain believed he was doing it wrong
- It was a pious act of worship executed with great sincerity
- Only one problem – it wasn't what God had told him to bring

- This is the beginning of all false religions in the world
- The premise that mankind can determine how to worship
- Here is a definition for **False Religion**  
**Worshipping the One True God, or an imagined deity or deities, or anything in creation utilizing man's interpretation of Scriptures or rejection of God's Word and adopting man's idea for worship.**
- Cain knew what God wanted and decided to do what he wanted to do instead
- Cain's response makes it clear that something is not right in his heart
- **Genesis 4:5b**
- Cain is furious with God and possibly with Abel as well
- **Genesis 4:6-7**
- 'Why are you angry?' – remember God already knows the answer
- This would be a good question for anyone who gets angry
- There is rarely a righteous reason for anger **James 1:19-20**  
**So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.**
- God warns Cain that he is in great danger
- 'sin lies at the door' – crouching like a lion, waiting to pounce
- 'you should rule over it' = he is capable of ruling over it – choice
- Sadly, he doesn't
- **Genesis 4:8**
- This is the first murder in the Bible
- Not only does Cain murder his brother, he then lies to God's face about it
- **Genesis 4:9-12**
- Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden but still had access to the presence of God, which is clear by this account
- Now Cain will be driven from God's presence
- That is what sin does – it separates people from their God
- And the more they sin, the further they get from God, which makes it easier for them to sin
- That is why the world is the way it is – sin has separated God's precious creation away from Him and the awareness of His love, grace, mercy, joy, and peace

- If only they knew how easy it would be to change that, simply repent and turn to Him
- Cain continues to reveal his heart
- **Genesis 4:13-15**
- Notice, no words of remorse or regret or repentance
- Only self-centered fear
- And then, in an act of amazing grace, God promises vengeance upon anyone who might kill Cain
- ‘Lord set a mark on’ – not certain what the mark is – something visible
- Then we see the natural progression of sin in Cain descendants
- **Genesis 4:16-24**
- First occurrence of polygamy
- Cain’s descendants were creative, innovative, and industrious
- They prospered materially, but morally were in declension
- Lamech took two wives in clear violation of God’s design for marriage **Genesis 2:24**

**Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

- God’s design is one man joined to one woman for a lifetime
- Lamech determines his own morality
- We might look at this world and wonder how we ended up with abortion on demand and same-sex marriage and transgenderism
- It began thousands of years ago when Cain decided to go his own way
- **John Phillips** says there are two ways to approach God  
**“There are two ways to approach God. He can be approached the way of the cross, or He can be approached the way of Cain. The one way leads straight to heaven, the other directly to hell.”**

- Only through Jesus can we actually reach God
- In a way Eve lost both of her sons when Cain murdered Abel
- **Genesis 4:25-26**
- In **Genesis 3:15** the Lord told the serpent, Satan, that there would be enmity between his children and the children of the woman  
**And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.**

- The children of the devil are all those who follow the way of Cain, determining how they will worship God and deciding their own morality
- “her Seed” points to Christ and includes all who will follow Him in simple faith and obedience
- It is through the line of Seth that Jesus will eventually come into the world
- I started this message discussing our purpose
- The end of verse 26 is the beginning of the path to finding and living your purpose
- ‘Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.’
- The descendants of Cain ‘advancing’ society and culture
- But the more it advances the further people get from God
- Look at our society today – more advanced by light years
- But can we honestly say the world is a better place?
- Oh there is plenty of good, but people are still killing each other or themselves or their unborn babies
- Most of the world is going the way of Cain
- As Christians, we are called to the way of Christ **Philippians 2:5-8**  
**Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.**
- Finding your purpose begins with humbling yourself before the Lord and calling upon His name and **Seeking Him Diligently**  
**Deuteronomy 4:29**  
**But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.**
- That means you are seeking to know Him through His Word
- You are seeking to commune with Him in prayer
- You are seeking to learn about Him through the teaching of the Word
- And you are seeking to follow Him by yielding to the will of God through the Holy Spirit
- You will not find your purpose if you are not diligently seeking the Lord
- Second **Diligently seek to be like Christ**

- The church is made up of two basic types of Christians
- Believers and disciples
- A believer is someone who has made a confession of Christ
- They have had their sins forgiven and are heaven-bound
- They live in this sin-sick world and do their best to glorify God, bless others, and grow faith
- A disciple is a Christian who has given their whole life over to Christ
- The difference between a believer and a disciple is that for a believer Christ is a part of their lives – for a disciple Christ is all there is to life
- For most Christians, their faith is not costing that much
- For a disciple, they have laid everything at the feet of Jesus and are willing to sacrifice anything He asks of them
- And it is this very reason why most believers do not sense their greater purpose in the kingdom of God – they have counted the cost and determined they are not willing to give that much of their life to God
- Becoming a disciple begins with a commitment to the Lord followed by a process we call discipleship
- Jesus disciplined twelve men for three years – takes time – they changed the world
- Find your purpose – diligently seeking the Lord and being like Jesus
- Third **Diligently Serve the Lord**
- One of the things that a disciple of Christ discovers as they grow in their faith is that they have a God-ordained need to serve God and His church
- This is where some disciples stumble – they behave like Cain – decided how, when, and where they will serve
- A true disciple simply offers themselves to the Lord to be used anywhere He chooses
- A simple way to do that is to come to the elders of the church and ask them to help you find a place to serve
- As more and more of this world goes the way of Cain, the more important it is for God's people to call on His name
- To diligently seek Him, to be like Christ, and to serve Him

- And along the way you will discover that amazing purpose God created you for
- And in that purpose, you will know God's presence as very few other people do
- You will know His pleasure, blessings, and fulfillment
- And not only will you call on the name of the Lord but your life will draw others to do the same
- That is a life worth living!
- **Pray!**