

Genesis 4:1-2

1. Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have gotten a man-child with the help of the Lord.”

Here we learn of the conception and birth of the first human being. Both Adam and Eve were created by the Lord Himself, but their son was a direct result of their relations as man and wife. One of the main things that I want to really draw specific attention to is the fact that Cain was the first-born of Adam and Eve. For those of you who are parents, you are fully aware of the dreams and high hopes that you have for your children. In fact, Adam and Eve were promised in **Genesis 3:15** that a messiah would come from Eve's seed who would bruise the head of Satan. It would only be obvious for them to believe that Cain would be that messiah. In fact, the name Cain means “here he is”, or “I've gotten him.” Adam and Eve gave Cain this unique name, because they believed the promise and that their Savior had come in the form of their firstborn son; but the truth be known, they had not given birth to a Savior, but rather to a murderer. I don't know how many of you have ever heard a promise from the Lord, whether it was a prophecy given, or something that He shared with you on a personal or intimate level, “I have”. In fact when those promises were shared with me, I always tried to look ahead as if I could figure the timing and the specifics of that promise. If you are like me, then you know perfectly well that you can “Never” do this with any success! Irregardless, our logic always tries to determine what our faith needs, to simply wait patiently for.

Verse 2 And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

Isn't it amazing how the first man and woman could conceive and bare the first two children of civilization, yet; have those two sons be so very different. One son enjoyed or loved to work the ground and to see the fruit of his labor spring forth; while the other son was drawn to caring for the animals. Both jobs were necessary, but I find it amazing how each son was drawn to opposing tasks. Today things really aren't much different, are they? A parent can have several children, and each has different things that appeal to them. They may have one child who lives in town, another who lives in the country and still another who is drawn to a big city. When you throw in personalities, things only get more complicated from there. My Dad once told me of an article that he read about pilots in War World II. A military survey was done, and they found that the majority of bomber pilots were the eldest sons of the family; and that the fighter pilots were often the middle children. What they discovered was that the oldest children were often more disciplined because of having cared for there younger siblings, and were more apt to hold to a fixed course and altitude even though it was so inherently dangerous. On the other hand the middle child was more likely to be a fighter pilot, because of having to fight with his siblings for his place in the family; and his personality was more apt to take dangerous and aggressive risks. My point simply is that even though Cain and Abel were from the same parents; they were very different men, who ultimately, had very different values.