

THE WORLD'S FIRST MURDER: GENESIS 4

Do you know that some people get angry with God? They are sometimes angry with other people at the same time. We'll learn about that from Genesis chapter 4 in our Bible lesson today.

When Cain realized that God wanted a lamb as a sacrifice and had accepted his brother Abel's sacrifice but not his, Cain was angry with God. Yet God spoke kindly to him and asked why he was angry. If Cain would bring a lamb, God told him, then God would accept his gift and be pleased with him too. Cain was angry with God but took his anger out on his brother Abel. One day when they were in the field together Cain killed Abel and the ground was wet with his blood. Then God called to Cain "Where is your brother Abel?" "How should I know" Cain answered. "Am I supposed to keep an eye on my brother?" But God had seen what Cain did and now declared for the rest of his life, Cain must wander from place to place as his punishment for killing Abel always afraid and with no home to stay in. And when Cain planted a garden it would not grow well. Briars and weeds would spring up and choke it or it would have leaves but no fruit. So Cain would have a hard time getting enough to eat. Cain told God that his punishment was too much and that everyone who met him would hate him and want to kill him. But God said that anyone who killed Cain would be punished with a dreadful punishment. For God himself had chosen to punish Cain. No one else was to do it. So God put a mark on Cain. We are not told what sort of mark it was but it was something that other people could see. And when they saw it they knew he was Cain and remembered God's command that no one was to kill him.

Anger is like hate the Bible says. Hate, the Bible tells us is the same as murder in God's eyes. It is all sin. It all has to be punished. But God showed his love towards us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Jesus Christ died for you. He took the punishment for your sin. Do you believe in Him with your whole heart? And love Him for dying to be your Saviour? Read today's Bible story in Genesis chapter 4.