**The Apple Didn’t Fall Far from Cain’s “Tree”**

***18To Enoch (Cain’s son) was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech.***

***19Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. 20And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21His brother’s name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute. 22And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.***

***23Then Lamech said to his wives:***

***“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me. 24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”*** Genesis 4:18-24

Genesis 4 is an interesting chapter. The first and second halves of the chapter appear to be mirror images of each other. At the beginning of the chapter Adam lays with his wife Eve and she gives birth to Cain. Following Cain’s birth, Abel is born. At the end of chapter 4, Adam lay again with Eve and Seth is born.

We have also recorded for us the first murder. Cain rises up and kills Abel because God looked with favor upon Abel’s offering but not Cain’s. Cain’s jealousy drove him to murder his brother, even though the Lord had told him in advance that he was to **master** the sin which was “crouching at his door in the hope of devouring him.”[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1)

The mirror-image to Cain’s murder of Abel in this chapter is another killing. From the standpoint of our English translations, the words of Lamech in verses 23 and 24 sound boastful. How can such boasting of killing or planning to kill ever be appropriate, justifiable, or good? Lamech also seems to extol his ancestor Cain, who killed his brother in cold blood.

Surely there is something grossly wrong with this picture. It appears that the “apple” of the tree of Cain hasn’t fallen far from the ancestral “tree.” It also looks as though sin has become exalted and magnified in the eyes of Cain’s descendants. Sin should never be praised. **Sin is lawlessness. It is rebellion against God and an affront to Him!** Sin is what got Adam and Eve expelled from the Garden of Eden. Sin is what led God to send His only-begotten Son into the world to be its Savior and Lord. There is NOTHING good about sin. It separates us from God and from one another.

Is there a way out of the mess of sin? Absolutely! First, we turn to Jesus Christ by faith. We believe what he did on the cross, he did for all people. Then, with God’s continual help through His Holy Spirit, we seek to live our lives to honor God in all that we do, think, or say. This may seem impossible for us – and it is! But the impossible is possible with God. With God ALL THINGS are possible – even our turning away from the sins of our ancestors and the sins we’ve been engaged in all of our lives.

God delights in “making all things new.” His goal is to make us all like His Son Jesus. I yearn for this in my life. I pray you will yearn for it as well.

*Kathleen*

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/01/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref1) Genesis 4:7