**‘Who Did Cain Marry?’**

***16Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. 17Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city Enoch, after the name of his son.*** Genesis 4:16-17

There probably isn’t a single person who has read, ***‘Cain had relations with his wife’*** and not asked the question, ***‘Who Did Cain Marry?’*** It’s a perfectly reasonable question because the Biblical record has only mentioned to this point Adam, Eve, Cain, and Abel. Though we’ve only read about these four people, we’ve got to remember that the Book of Genesis records a series of “first” things: the first man, the first woman, and the first sin, the first man child, and the first murder. These “firsts” are noteworthy but they aren’t meant to leave us with the impression that these were the only things going on in Adam and Eve’s family. We know that Adam had “other sons and daughters,” we’re just not given any information about them.[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/10/" \l "_ftn1)

This is all well and good, but it doesn’t answer the question, ***‘Who Did Cain Marry?’*** The simple answer is this, *“He married a sister.”* I know. Our reaction is *‘Yuck. Gross.’* and a host of any number of descriptive terms we can think of. It is the only possible answer we have available to us if we truly believe that Adam and Eve were the only people God created on the sixth day of creation. I believe what God has revealed in the Bible so Cain, by necessity, had to marry a sister.

However, my simple answer may not at all be satisfying to those who read this blog, so I sought out additional information in an article by Rabbi Menachem Posner. Rabbi Posner serves as staff editor for Chabad.org. Seeking additional information outside of the Bible, isn’t what most Christians typically do. Nevertheless, outside sources can be helpful. They do not have the authority of Scripture, but they can help us piece together what may be going on in the texts in question.

Rabbi Posner answers this question, ***“How did Cain and Abel have children? Did they marry their sisters?”*** by stating, ***“Indeed, Cain and Abel*** ***had to marry their sisters, considering that there were no other women around….The Midrash******[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/10/" \l "_ftn2) tells us that Cain was born with a twin sister and Abel was born with two sisters.******[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/10/" \l "_ftn3) They each married the sister who was born with them.***

Rabbi Posner entire answer to the question, ***“How did Cain and Abel have children? Did they marry their sisters?”*** may be found in the footnote link.[[4]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/10/" \l "_ftn4)

*Kathleen*

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/10/" \l "_ftnref1) Genesis 5:4

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/10/" \l "_ftnref2) [Midrash] is the genre of rabbinic literature which contains early interpretations and commentaries on the Written Torah and Oral Torah (spoken law and sermons), as well as non-legalistic rabbinic literature and occasionally the Jewish religious laws, which usually form a running commentary on specific passages in the Hebrew Scripture….The purpose of midrash was to resolve problems in the interpretation of difficult passages of the text of the Hebrew Bible, using Rabbinic principles of hermeneutics and philology to align them with the religious and ethical values of religious teachers. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midrash>

[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/10/" \l "_ftnref3) Genesis Rabbah 22:2

[[4]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/10/" \l "_ftnref4) <http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/960277/jewish/Whom-did-Cain-and-Abel-marry.htm>