

## **"WHERE DID CAIN GET HIS WIFE?"**

*By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.*

After Adam & Eve's son Cain killed his brother Abel, God sent him forth from his parents' domain to a strange land. It was named Nod (Genesis 4:1-16).

Cain impregnated his wife and she gave birth to a son (Enoch), according to 4:17. Man has often asked, "Where did Cain obtain his wife?" This is a good question, and I will attempt to give some enlightenment on the subject.

To the best of my ability - I will have to admit like a multitude of Bible scholars, no one really knows for certain where Cain got his wife. However, since Eve was the "mother of all living" (3:20), no doubt she was an offspring of Eve, and a sister of Cain. Adam & Eve had many children besides Cain and Abel (4:25; 5:4).

One must keep in mind that this was a day prior to "birth control" and man lived for hundreds of years instead of our limited years of today (5:5; 17:17; 21:5). Seemingly child bearing ceased at an old age & began as we know it today, or older men could produce sperm and father children by younger women.

God permitted inter-family marriages for a period of time, as in the case of Cain. Likewise, in the situation with Cain's son, Enoch. Where did he get his wife to whom gave birth to Irad (4:18)? When Noah's sons (Shem, Ham, & Japheth) stepped off of the ark, who did their children marry and began families? Only their cousins were available. Thus, no doubt this is who they married. God permitted this for a period of time. However, in His own time table God decreed that intermarrying was to cease as is stated in Leviticus 18:6-18, "No one is to approach any close relative to have sexual relations..." Also see I Corinthians 5:1-5 where a man is involved sexually with his step mother and he is to be excommunicated from the church, for his sin. This sin (sex with close relatives) is called "Incest".

Now - mankind is always attempting to change God's plans. Lamech married two women (Genesis 4:19), whereas God had created one woman for one man (3:20-25). Then, in the same Bible book, we read of man deciding to change his sexual preference and engage in homosexual activities. To this, God brought down His wrath from heaven and consumed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (19:1-29).

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