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Cains Wife

(Who was She?)

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Cains Wife (Who was She?).

Topics.

- Who was Cains wife?
- Intermarriage with close relatives, brothers and sisters.

Who was Cain's wife?

The question is often asked, "if Adam and Eve were the first people on this planet, then how did the population become what it is without incest especially since the book of Leviticus states that it is forbidden for a man to have sexual intercourse with a female relative or a sister (Lev. 18:6-18), because of this law sceptics have used Cain's wife to try to discredit the Book of Genesis as a true historical record, but the story of Adam and Eve concerning Cains wife can be biblically explained in the following way. The first two children to be born of Adam and Eve recorded in Scripture was Cain and Abel (Gen. 4:1-2).

The third recorded son was Seth who was born when Adam was one-hundred and thirty years old (Gen. 5:3). One of the great difficulties throughout history in explaining where Cains wife came from is the fact that Scripture only mentions Cain, Abel and Seth and because of this much of Judaism, Christianity and Islam generally believe Seth to be the third son of Adam and Eve. Holding fast to this theory means that no children could have been born to Adam and Eve for at least one-hundred and thirty years.

But just because Cain, Abel and Seth are the only sons mentioned does not necessarily mean Seth is the third son born to Adam and Eve and certainly does not mean that no daughters were born long before the birth of Seth. Consider the Christmas story of the three wise men bringing gifts to Jesus almost all the world believe there were three wise men, but the Bible does not say how many there are, it is only supposed there were three because of the gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh (Matt. 2:7-12) so it is possible there were more than three.

Likewise, the Bible does not tell us Seth is the third son of Adam and Eve scholars have simply assumed this because he is the third son mentioned. But good Bible study never establishes a doctrine upon something that is only based on a supposition and because of this it is wrong to teach Seth was the third son as an absolute truth. To help understand why Cain, Able and Seth are named the following three things should be mentioned:

1. The story of Abel teaches us what is acceptable to God in worship and the book of Hebrews tells us that Abel's faith speaks to us even today. This is because Abel's sacrifice of an innocent animal was accepted by God and today it is through the blood of the innocent Lamb of God without blemish that was slain on the bloodstained cross of Calvary that we are all accepted and saved today. (Heb. 11:4).
2. The story of Cain not only teaches us the tragic results of Adams and Eves fall and the horrors of sin that followed, but also teaches us that offerings given with no sense of faith and a corrupt character counts for nothing before God.
3. The story of Seth teaches us that those who remain faithful will be rewarded. Imagine Adam and Eves overwhelming joy on that glorious day of the resurrection when they see that from the line of their son Seth the Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ came.

This is why Cain, Able and Seth are named their stories teach us important lessons concerning the foundations of our world that are relevant to us today and relevant to God's eternal plan of salvation that He planned and purposed before the world began. When, it is remembered that God created Adam and Eve on the sixth day of creation and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth (Gen. 1:28) it is most unlikely that they would go one-hundred and thirty years without giving birth to any more children.

Concerning Adam and Eve's children the following verse sums up their life:

- The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. (Gen. 5:4).

This does not say when the other sons and daughters were born it is just telling the reader that Adam live eight-hundred years after Seth was born, many of these sons and daughters could have been born in the one-hundred and thirty years prior to the birth of Seth. The Bible does not tell us how many children were born to Adam and Eve, but considering their long-life spans Adam lived for 930 years (Gen. 5:5) it would seem reasonable to suggest there were many especially since they were commanded to "Be fruitful, and multiply." (Gen. 1:28).

Intermarriage with close relatives, brothers and sisters.

Because of God's law against brother and sister intermarriage and marriage to close relatives (Lev. 18:6-18) many people reject the conclusion that Cain took a daughter of Adam and Eve to be his wife, but to apply this law to the first family of creation is to stretch the law far beyond its intended purpose for the following five reasons:

1. This law was not given until the time of Moses (thousands of years later). Prior to this law there was no disobedience to God's law when close relatives and even brothers and sisters married each other provided that marriage was one man to one woman for life.
2. Laws are given to protect humanity from harm and hurt. During the birth process the new born child inherits a gene of each parent. Adam and Eve did not have genetic misprints. When the first man and woman were created, they were physically perfect. Everything God made was "very good" (Gen. 1:31), so their genes were without any form of genetic misprint so there was no need for such a law.
3. People at this time lived for almost a thousand years, but once Adam and Eve could no longer eat of the tree of life the human body very slowly began to deteriorate so that now we are thousands of generations on this degeneration has produced all sorts of genetic misprints in the process of childbearing.
4. Cain was in the first generation of children ever born. He (as well as his brothers and sisters) would have received virtually no imperfect genes from Adam or Eve, since the effects of sin and the curse would have been minimal to start with (it takes time for these copying errors to accumulate) so brother and sister could have married with God's approval to fulfil the command, "Go forth and multiply," because there was no potential to produce deformed offspring.
5. By the time of Moses (a few thousand years later), degenerative misprints would have built up in the human race to such an extent that it was necessary for God to forbid brother and sister and close relatives to marry. Also, there were plenty of people on the earth by then so there was no reason for close relatives or brothers and sisters to marry.

Remember:

Abraham married his half-sister (Gen. 20:12) and God blessed this union to produce the Hebrew people through Isaac and Jacob. It was not until some four-hundred years later that God gave Moses laws that forbid such marriages. The Bible does not say how old Cain was when he killed Abel (Gen. 4:8), but since they were both farmers it is very likely that they were both full-grown adults, possibly with families of their own. The fact that Cain was scared for his own life after he killed Abel (Gen. 4:14) indicates that there were likely many other children and perhaps even grandchildren of Adam and Eve already living at that time so it is very possible that Cain had chosen a wife before he murdered Abel, but whatever the case the fact remains that Cain's wife was a descendant of Eve born on an unknown date who may have been his sister or niece or great-niece, etc.

The Amplified Old Testament: describes Cain's wife simply as one of Adam's offspring. Since mankind was then so close to human perfection, such a marriage evidently did not pose the health risks that may endanger the offspring of such a union today so it was safe for Cain to marry the daughter or granddaughter of Adam and Eve which would have been in full harmony with God's approval and original intention for the expansion of the human race at that time. Concerning the laws forbidding intermarriage, consider the following words of the apostle Paul:

- The law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. (Rom. 4:15).
- Sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. (Rom. 5:13).

These verses shine a brilliant light on the truth that there can be no violation against a law that does not exist. Since the law against intermarriage was not given until thousands of years later, there was no prohibition against such marriages at the time of Cain so there is no biblical or theological problem with Cain marrying his sister.