

## **THE LAND OF NOD**

This is our final study of Toledoth I (Gen. 2:4 - 4:26). Today's lesson reminds us of two important exile punishments by God during the Antediluvian period.

- **The first exile punishment** was Adam and Eve expelled from the Garden of Eden to the land East of Eden (Gen.3:23-24).
- **The second exile punishment** was Cain, being expelled from the land East of Eden to the Land of Nod (Gen.4:16).

The English translation of the Hebrew word Nod is “wander or exile”

**This lesson will study five aspects of Cain being exiled to the Land of Nod.**

### **1. God tried to intervene, before Cain's evil thinking resulted in murder (Gen.4:5-10).**

Why did God try to intervene? The answer is that the volition of man is the battlefield of the angelic conflict (AC) regarding the Directive Will of God.

#### **The makeup of the Soul:**

- Self-consciousness
- Conscience
- Mentality
- **Volition** (free will / choices)
- Emotion.

God asked Cain two questions in Gen.4:6. They were intended to provoke self-examination, objectivity, and rational thinking and were intended to reverse his concentration back to divine viewpoint thinking.

This was divine justice appealing to man (Rom.3:26; 1 John 1:9). God did the same thing with Adam and Eve (Gen.3:11, 13).

It is interesting that God addressed Cain's body language related to his evil thinking (Gen.4:5-6).

### **2. God explains to Cain's old man cosmos diabolicus thinking process as “sin (chattath) crouching (rabats) at the door” (Gen.4:7).**

Sin crouching reminds us of:

(1 Pet.5:8) “Be sober, be on the alert. **Your adversary**, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, **seeking** someone to devour.”

(Eccl.8:8c) “Evil will not deliver those who practice it.”

(1 John 3:12) “Not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his **deeds were evil**, and his brother's **were righteous**.”

God is still intervening on our behalf in angelic conflict (2 Cor.2:11; 4:4) (2 Tim.2:26).

**3. God was not able to talk Cain out of his “old man cosmos diabolicus” mind set because of criminal intentions (4:5-8; Rom.8:5-8; Col.3:2).**

An evil mindset devalues human freedom, life, property, and the pursuit of individual happiness.

Note how simply the spiritual solution **IF** Cain would reverse his concentration from OMCD to NMDV thinking (Eph.4:22-24).

- **NMDV:** “If **you do well** (yatab / hipil impf. 2ps), will not your countenance be lifted up?” (Gen.4:7a; Heb.11:6)
- **OMCD:** “And if **you do not do well**, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.” (Gen.4:7b)

**4. During the Antediluvian period, God was the judicial authority over capital punishment (Ps.9:8, 16-17; Heb.2:1-3).**

After Cain killed Abel, The Lord asked Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” Cain gave a sarcastic defiant answer, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Gen.4:9)

In the Postdiluvian period, God designed government of nations with judicial authority over crime and capital punishment (Gen.9:6; Rom.13:4).

The reason for capital punishment for murder is that mankind is made tselem Demuth (image according to likeness of the Godhead) (Gen.1:26-27; 9:6).

Natural death is the body returning to dust (Gen.3:19) while murder is the blood of man returning to the ground (Gen.4:10).

Murdered blood on the ground is contrasted to atoning blood on the ground (Gen.4:10; Lev.4:32-35/ Christ; John 1:29).

**5. Cain was given a two-fold punishment for murder (Gen.4:11-15).**

- **First punishment** was a divine curse against his vocation (Gen.4:11-12a). God cut his green thumb off figuratively (Gen.4:12a).
- **Second punishment** was exile to the Land of Nod as a vagrant wanderer (Gen.4:12b-16).

God established an Antediluvian law dealing with murder:

(Gen.4:15) “So the Lord said to him, “Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold.” And the Lord appointed **a sign** for Cain, so that no one finding him would slay him.”

**The sign** involved the fact that Cain had been judged and sentenced by God’s justice.

Cain was lawless in the land East of Eden, but wanted law and order in the Land of Nod.

God’s law of murder was challenged and changed in the Land of Nod during the Lamech dynasty (Gen.4:23-24) [seventy-sevenfold].