## Pride, Jealousy, Anger, Murder

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.—Ephesians 4:31,32

A dam and Eve were sent away from Eden and they could not return. They had been busy in the beautiful garden and they had been happy and comfortable. Now things were different!

The wilderness outside was not beautiful to look at. There was no food such as they had eaten in Eden. Which of the plants of the field would taste good and nourish their bodies? They could no longer pick fruit from a tree or a bush every time they were hungry. Now they spent hours looking for food, and the thorns and thistles pricked their fingers and made them bleed. The perspiration ran down their faces as they tried to get rid of the weeds and help the plants for food grow better.

Perhaps Adam looked at Eve and thought, "Life was easier before she was created, when I lived alone with the animals." Eve may have looked at Adam and thought, "Why didn't he tell me this would be our punishment? He lived before I did and God talked to him. He should have helped me and not followed me into the sin of disobedience to God."

When their first son was born, Eve looked at her child and felt happy and hopeful. She hugged him to her and said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man" (Genesis 4:1). The boy was called Cain. Adam and Eve thought he would be the "seed" or son whom God had promised would help them (Genesis 3:15). Adam and Eve had many more children.

Abel became a shepherd while Cain was a farmer. They brought offerings to God to receive a blessing. God accepted Abel's gift of a lamb, but did not accept Cain's gift of fruits and vegetables. This made Cain jealous and angry with Abel. Cain attacked and killed his brother.

Cain should have asked Abel for a lamb which he then could acceptably sacrifice to God. The lamb pictured the Lord Jesus and his sacrifice. Instead, Cain allowed anger and hatred to burn in his heart, and he became a murderer.



Cain and Abel made offerings to God to receive a blessing.