

Genesis 4,5

Day 1

Cain and Abel. Read Genesis 4:1-7

1. From Eve's words in 4:1, how did she feel about the birth of her firstborn son? What hope would the birth of a child have given her? (See 3:15)

2. From 4:3-5, fill in the chart below contrasting Cain and Abel:

| | Cain | Abel |
|-----------------------------|------|------|
| Occupation 4:2 | | |
| Offering 4:3,4a | | |
| God's Response 4:4b,5 | | |

3. How do you think Cain and Abel knew about offerings?

4. What does Hebrews 11:4,6 add to the understanding of why Abel's sacrifice was approved and Cain's wasn't?

Digging Deeper
 What titles did Jesus give Abel? Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:50,51a

FYI: "Some feel that Cain's offering was rejected because it wasn't a blood offering." (See Lev 17:11; Hebrews 9:22) *However...* "In the later sacrificial system of Israel, God blessed the presentation of grain offerings alongside the sacrifices of animals (see Lev. 6:14-23)." – Nelson's Study Bible

"Here, it was one lamb for a man. Later, at the Passover, it will be one lamb for a family. Then, at the Day of Atonement, it was one lamb for the nation. Finally, with Jesus, there was one Lamb who took away the sin of the whole world ([John 1:29](#))."

- David Guzik

5. What does Cain's reaction to the Lord's disapproval indicate about his heart? 4:5b

6. How does the Lord's second question to mankind (4:6) compare to His first (3:9)? What would have been the honest answer to this besides Cain's envy of Abel?

Digging Deeper
 What do the following say about the kind of sacrifices God desires?
 Micah 6:7,8

Psalm 51:16,17

7. What opportunity did the Lord give Cain? 4:7a (See 2 Timothy 2:25-26) *How do you think the Lord was appearing and talking with him?*

- What warning did God give Cain? 4:7b (See James 1:13-15)
- What guidance? 4:7c See 1 Peter 5:8,9
- What does this say about the Lord's patience and desires by speaking truth to Cain?

FYI: "Cure for emotional problems is found in spiritual realignment."

- The Tony Evans Study Bible (7)

8. How should Cain have responded? What do you think would have happened?

- How does this compare to the warning Jesus gave Peter? Luke 22:31,32

9. Underline what sin does.

- Numbers 32:23 But if you fail to keep your word, then you will have sinned against the Lord, and you may be sure that your sin will find you out. NIV
- Proverbs 5:22 His own iniquities entrap the wicked *man*, And he is caught in the cords of his sin.
- Galatians 6:7, Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.
- Galatians 6:16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?
- Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

Applying the Word: *What are some of the best ways you have seen parents encourage love and friendship between their children and/or discourage sibling rivalry?*

Day 2

Cain Kills Abel. Read Genesis 4:8-16

10. What actions did Cain take? 4:8 Why do you think he hated and, in essence, blamed his brother for God's disapproval? (How does that compare to Adam and Eve? 3:12,13)

11. What does the succinct description of Abel's murder add to your impression of this heinous act? *What does the repetition of the word "brother" add to the account? What emotions would Cain have had to deal with as he killed Abel?*

Digging Deeper

See problems with other brothers in scripture: Genesis 27:41; 37:17-20; 2 Chronicles 21:4

Article: "Cain and Abel" by Troy Lacey "The mention of being out in the field at first seems merely circumstantial, but this meant that Cain might have left his crops and went out to Abel's 'work area' where he herded his flocks. Furthermore it was away from Adam and Eve and any other children they likely had by this point...Some translations of verse 8...say here that Cain asked Abel to come out with him to the fields. But however this murder played out, the fact that Cain could be casually talking with his brother whom he was about to kill shows how callous Cain was."
- From <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-characters/cain-and-abel/>

12. What reasons does 1 John 3:12 give for why Cain killed his brother?

Food for Thought: "Jude 11 warns of the *way of Cain*, which is unbelief, empty religion leading to jealousy, persecution of those truly godly, and murderous anger."
- David Guzik

"Cain killed [Abel] with his own bloody hands. Why? Because he hated Abel? Yes, but also no. 'Why does Cain murder?' as Bonhoeffer rhetorically asked. 'Out of hatred for God,' he answers. Murder is an act of hatred toward God for making or accepting another who offends us or troubles us or is favored with gifts and honors we do not have or stands in our way..."

That's precisely the way it was with King David, the murder of Uriah the Hittite, as evidenced by his astonishing confession to God: 'Against you, you only, have I sinned' (Psalm 51:4)...King David saw within himself the cause of his horrendous crime: It was with God that he was offended because God had limited his freedom by forbidding him the wife of Uriah the Hittite. David's crime was directed at his restricting God."
- R. Kent Hughes (105)

13. How do God's questions to Cain (4:9a, 10a) compare to the ones He asked of Adam and Eve (3:9,11,13)?

- What adjective(s) would you use to describe Cain's response in 4:9b? How did this compare to the attitude his parents had shown? 3:10-13 *What was the answer to Cain's reply?*

14. How did God feel about Abel's death? 4:10 What do you think that metaphor means? (See Numbers 35:33,34; Isaiah 26:21b)

- Of what does Jesus' blood speak? Hebrews 12:24

FYI: Cries out Strong's OT:6817 *tsa' aq* "To cry out, to summon. It refers to shouting, complaining loudly, to pleading for relief or justice, calling for help. The earth, figuratively cries out because of injustices done to it."
- The Complete Word Study Dictionary Old Testament

15. What is one of the first commands that God gave to Noah and his family after the flood? Genesis 9:5,6 What reason did He give for this?

16. What curse did the Lord pronounce on Cain? 4:11,12 *How does this compare to the curse on Adam? 3:17,18*

FYI: "4:11 All his relationships with his family were broken...The earth itself would be his enemy. Cain, who had once worked the soil, had watered it with his brother's blood. That blood had cried against him from the soil, so that he was banned from it forever – to wander over it as an enemy of the earth." - R. Kent Hughes (106)

17. How did Cain react to the Lord's "punishment"? 4:13 *What did Cain deserve?*

- List the concerns Cain gave. 4:14 *What do you see missing from his response?*

FYI: "One of the consequences of sin is that it makes the sinner pity himself instead of causing him to turn to God. One of the first signs of new life is that the individual takes sides with God against himself." (Barnhouse)" – David Guzik

18. How did the Lord provide for Cain's concerns? 4:15 *Why do you think He protected Cain?*

FYI: "That was the utmost mercy that God could do, and does, for the unrepentant." - R. Kent Hughes (107)

Applying the Word: *What is something or someone who is causing you to have frustration and anger? How could this lead you to unloving, destructive behavior? Do you see any way that you are also angry with God? What warning do you think He would give you?*

Day 3

Cain's Descendants. Read Genesis 4:17-26

19. What happened to Cain after he went to the land east of Eden? 4:17,18

- Who could Cain have married? Compare Genesis 3:20 and 5:4 (See the article "*Who was Cain's Wife?*" at the end of this lesson.)

FYI: "Close marriages are genetically dangerous today because of the accumulation of harmful mutations in the human genetic system over many generations, and incest has been prohibited since Moses' time (Leviticus 20:11-20). In the first few generations, including those after the Flood, marriages of near relatives were necessary in order for mankind to obey God's command to 'multiply' (Genesis 1:28; 9:1), and accumulated mutations were few... [Cain's] wife was probably one of Adam's daughters although it could have been a later descendant...Adam had daughters as well as sons (see Genesis 5:4)." - The Defender's Study Bible

20. What professions are mentioned in chapter 4? (Since these are pre-flood civilizations, what would have happened to the evidence of their endeavors: i.e. buildings, metal works, material goods...?)

- 4:2
- 4:17b
- 4:20
- 4:21
- 4:22

➤ How do you think people acquired these skills? Apparently, how intelligent/accomplished were they? How does this compare to the idea of man arising from a primitive hunting-and-gathering, stone-age culture?

FYI: "Evolutionary archaeologists have attempted to organize human history in terms of various supposed 'ages'—Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age, etc. The Noahic record, however, indicates that early men were very competent in brass and iron metallurgy, as well as agriculture, animal husbandry, and urbanization....Modern archaeology is confirming the high degree of technology associated with the earliest human settlers all over the world...Scripture gives us a glimpse of what appears to be advanced technology almost from the beginning. Cain had the knowledge and talent to know how to build a city!"

- from The New Answers Book 1 Chapter 6 "Cain's Wife

<https://answersingenesis.org/bible-characters/cain/cains-wife-who-was-she/>

"Jubal's name also corresponds with the melodic ram's horn (the yōbēl), which in later Israel was used to joyously announce the Year of Jubilee."
- R Kent Hughes (112)

|| **Article:** "Ancient Man and Intelligence: Were People Originally Dumb Brutes or Brilliant?"

|| Answers Book 4 Chapter 11 <https://answersingenesis.org/human-evolution/brilliant-or-dumb-brutes/>

|| "...ancient peoples had exceptional capabilities in construction, astronomy, and transportation. Their architectural skill is still an unsolved mystery. Without the use of modern power tools or machines, early man constructed large buildings with incredible precision..."



21. In only seven generations from Adam, what happened to marriage in Cain's genealogy? 4:23 (How is polygamy a departure from God's will? 2:24)

22. How did Lamech belittle and challenge God's curse on Cain? 4:23,24 What would you say about his moral position on life and relationships?

- How was his response to murder and vengeance (4:23) more degenerate than Cain's (5:9)? What path does this family line seem to be on?

Digging Deeper

What does the Lord say about forgiveness and vengeance? Matthew 18:21,22; Romans 12:19

FYI: "Rather than shame, **Lamech** wore violence as a badge of honor. This was a remorseless, carnivorous man. Just as marriage was debased with the rise of Cainite civilization, life was devalued...God's vengeance upon anyone killing Cain was seven fold, meaning a perfect measure, appropriate to the crime. But Lamech threatens that he would take vengeance seventy-seven fold – an avalanche of vengeance."
- R. Kent Hughes (114)

Adam's Descendants

23. What did Eve recognize about her son, Seth? ("child" = "seed") 4:25

- How did Eve's focus/attitude compare to Lamech's?

24. What do you think scripture means by the phrase "*men began to call on the name of the Lord*" (4:26b)? Compare Acts 2:21. How does this contrast with the lineage of Cain?

Digging Deeper

What is it associated with "calling on the name of the Lord" in Gen. 12:8; Romans 10:13?

Applying the Word: *What does the story of Cain and Abel teach about the depth of our sin nature? What does it teach about God?*

Day 4

Seth's Line of Descendants. Read Genesis 5

25. Which son of Adam does the family line follow in Genesis 5 and with whom does it end? 5:3,32 (To whom does this lineage ultimately lead? Luke 3:23,36,38)

FYI: 5:1 "The use of the word '**book/written account**' in this connection strongly implies that reading and writing were abilities commonly shared by the earliest generations of mankind. These records, finally edited and assembled by Moses, must originally have come from eye witnesses, and there is no reason (other than evolutionary presuppositions), why their transmission could not have been by written records instead of orally-repeated tales. This is the second of the *toledoth* statements in Genesis (the first at Genesis 2:4a). Since Adam (and only Adam) could have personal knowledge of all the events in Genesis 2, 3 and 4, it is reasonable to conclude that this section was originally written by him. Genesis 5:1a is thus Adam's signature at its conclusion." - The Defender's Study Bible

26. List the phrases in 5:1b-2 that describe the creation of Adam and Eve. (Cf. 1:26,27) *What honor does calling them both "Adam/mankind" give?*

FYI: Adam/mankind Strong's OT:120 *adam*; ruddy i.e. a human being (an individual or the species, mankind)

"Can be used to signify a man...a human (Num. 23:19; Prov. 17:18; Isa. 17:7), the human race in general (Gen. 1:27; Num. 8:17; Ps. 144:3; Isa 2:17) and the representative embodiment of humanity."

- The Complete Word Study Dictionary OT

27. What was remarkable about Enoch? 5:21-24

- Compare Hebrews 11:5,6 What does this indicate about him?
- The lives of Lamech (4:19-24) and Enoch (5:21-24) are both 7th in line from Adam. How do their lives compare? *What battle is going on for the hearts and souls of men? How is God's promise unfolding? (See 3:15)*

28. Who else "was not/was no more"? 2 Kings 2:11,12

FYI: "This phrase '**walked with God**' is only applied to Enoch and Noah and describes the closest personal communion with God – as if walking at the side of God...The phrase also indicated the deepest obedience, for the metaphor of walking suggests walking along God's path, in the same direction." - R. Kent Hughes (120)

"Both **Enoch** and **Elijah** were prophets of judgment to come, ministering in times of deep apostasy. Enoch...a contemporary of ungodly Lamech (4:18-24), prophesied midway between Adam and Abraham, when God was dealing directly with mankind in general. Elijah prophesied midway between Abraham and Christ, when God was dealing with Israel in particular. Both were translated in the physical flesh directly to heaven." - The Defender's Study Bible

29. From Jude 14,15 what amazing prophecy did Enoch give? What insight does this give you into Enoch's zeal for the Lord?

30. Underline how we are to "walk."

- Psalm 89:15 Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD. NIV
- Psalm 128:1 Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways. NIV
- Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. NASU
- 2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight -- NASU
- John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." NIV
- Ephesians 5:2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. NASU
- Colossians 2:6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, NASU
- Colossians 1:10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; NASU
- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. NIV
- 1 John 2:6 Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. NIV
- 3 John 3 It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. NIV

31. What is the longest age recorded in this genealogy? 5:27 How would life have been different with this amazing longevity?

- Why do you think Seth's genealogy includes the life spans of the fathers but Cain's does not?

FYI: "During this era, the world would be populated quickly. One writer has estimated that if Adam, during his lifetime, saw only half the children he could have fathered grow up, and if only half of those got married, and if only half of those who got married had children, then even at these conservative rates, Adam would have seen more than a million of his own descendants."
- David Guzik

"Methuselah' may mean 'when he dies, judgment.' He died in the same year that God sent the Flood, suggesting that his father Enoch received a prophecy concerning this coming judgment at the time Methuselah was born."
- The Defender's Study Bible

32. What did Lamech (not the same Lamech in Cain's lineage - 4:18-24) *prophesy* about his son? 5:28,29 Why do you think the Lord gave him this understanding?

FYI: **5:29 Noah.** Noah means 'rest,' and his father prophesied that he would bring the rest and comfort so desired by the godly remnant in that day."
- The Defender's Study Bible

33. From the chart "*Life Spans of the Patriarchs*" on the next page, how many generations overlapped with Adam? What kind of learning/transfer of knowledge would have taken place with that many generations co-existing at the same time?

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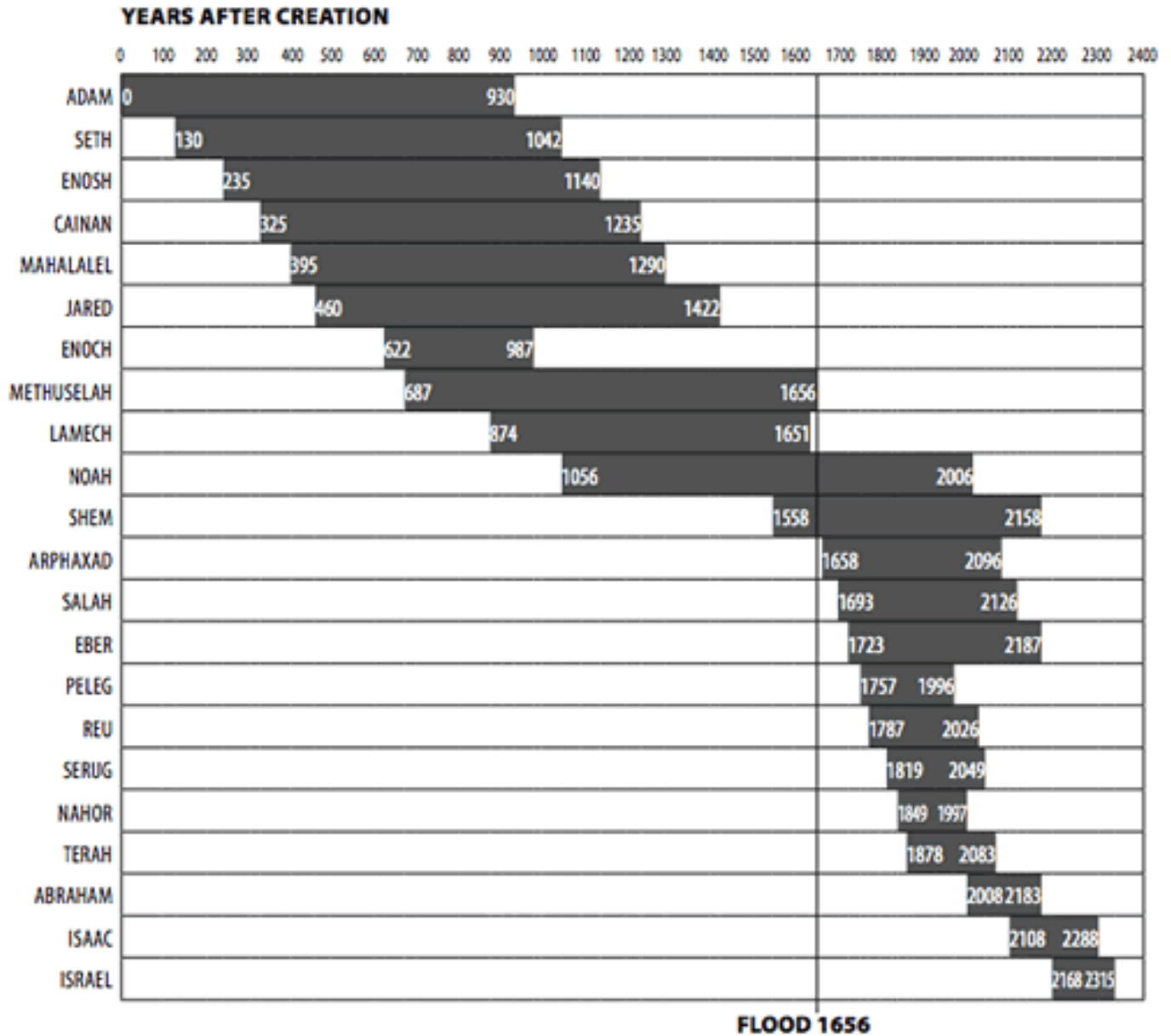
All the antediluvian patriarchs are said to have begotten sons and daughters, probably many of each, so the world population grew explosively. The names listed are not those of the firstborn, but of the one in each family who would serve as spiritual leader of his people and who would be in the line of promise. In Noah's case, his brothers and sisters were probably ungodly like the rest of their generation, finally perishing in the flood."
- Defender's Study Bible

Applying the Word: *Who is/was your longest living relative or acquaintance? In what ways did you benefit or learn from them because of their long life span?*

Conditions Enhancing Knowledge and Technology of Early Mankind

1. Man created with intelligent, healthy brains; no mutations
2. Long lives (knowledge builds with age)
3. Several generations living at once (learn from father, grandfather, great-grandfather...)
4. No language barriers
5. No harsh, climatic conditions; world more orderly at the start (2nd law of thermodynamics)

Life Spans of the Patriarchs



*Consider: How many generations could **Adam** have known? Might he have known Noah's grandfather? Could Adam's **children** or **grandchildren** have known Noah? (Adam and Eve probably had many other children after Cain, Abel and Seth.) How many years after the death of Seth was Noah's born?*

For Further Study

Article: "Were Stone Age Britons Trigonometry Experts?" By Brian Thomas, PH.D
<https://www.icr.org/article/were-stone-age-britons-trigonometry>



Video: "Smoking gun of human history" Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson (45:26)
 (Part 6) Discussion about the Y chromosome, DNA and the "genetic clock" that tabulates the years of history.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yTESdLBPOY>



Video and links to articles: “Bible Genealogy”
<https://answersingenesis.org/bible-timeline/genealogy/>



Who Was Cain’s Wife?



And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. (Genesis 4:17)

Perhaps no woman mentioned in Scripture has caused more confusion among Christians....

The simple answer is that Cain married his sister or another close relation, like a niece. This answer may sound revolting for those of us who grew up in societies that have attached a stigma to such an idea, but if we start from Scripture, the answer is clear.

1 Corinthians 15:45 tells us that Adam was “the first man.” *Genesis 3:20* states that Eve “was the mother of all the living” (NASB), and *Genesis 5:4* reveals that Adam and Eve “had sons and daughters” (besides Cain, Abel, and Seth).

There were no other people on earth as some have claimed. God did not create other people groups from which Cain chose a wife, as we are all made of one blood (*Acts 17:26*). If He had made others, these people would not have been able to be saved from their sins, since only descendants of Adam can be saved—that’s why it was so important for Jesus to be Adam’s descendant.

Doesn’t the Bible forbid marriage between close relations? It does, but the laws against marrying family members were initially given as part of the Mosaic covenant, approximately 2,500 years *after* God created Adam and Eve. Due in part to genetic mistakes, these laws were necessary to help protect offspring from mutations shared by both parents.

But that’s incest! In today’s world, this would be incest. But originally there would have been no problem with it. Looking back through history, the closer we get to Adam and Eve, the fewer genetic mistakes people would have, so it would have been safer for close relatives to marry and have children.

Christians who have a problem with this answer need to remember that Noah’s grandchildren must have married brothers, sisters, or first cousins—there were no other people (*1 Peter 3:20; Genesis 7:7*). Abraham married his half-sister (*Genesis 20:2, 12*); Isaac married Rebekah, the daughter of his cousin Bethuel (*Genesis 24:15, 67*); and Jacob married his cousins Leah and Rachel. Clearly, the Bible does not forbid the marriage of close relatives until the time of Moses.

<https://answersingenesis.org/bible-characters/cain/who-was-cains-wife/>