

WHEN GIANTS WALKED THE EARTH

About the Series: The first 11 chapters of Genesis are foundational to the Christian worldview. But when we read accounts that have similarities to myths and works of fiction, it makes one wonder if the Genesis account is really true or not. This series looks into these chapters to see what the Bible actually says and teaches, and explores the relevancy of its message for us today.

Part 4

Choices and Consequences

Genesis 4:1-26 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan | Watch ▶

DISCUSS

In a sinful world, what is good and bad is very subjective because it is often defined by our own perspective, experience, and bias. We blur the lines between good and bad, leading us to sometimes side with wrong or blame our actions on circumstances or environment. Read Genesis 4:1-26 and discuss the following biblical principles that help us clearly identify what God sees as truth to live by as it relates to our attitude in worship, emotions and sin, our sense of justice, and our life's ambitions, so that we can live God's best in this life and the life to come.

1. **True worship is God's acceptance of what we offer in a right attitude as evidenced by appropriate actions (v. 1-5a).**

- How did Cain and Abel grow up differently? Why did God accept Abel's offering, but not Cain's?
- Why is your attitude the most important aspect when you worship God? What usually distracts you from worshipping God wholeheartedly?
- If you have the right attitude when you worship God, how do you think it would lead to the right actions?

2. **Uncontrolled emotions coupled with undealt sins often lead to tragic actions with terrible consequences (v. 5b-8).**

- How did Cain react when God didn't accept his worship through offering? What did God tell Cain to encourage him to amend his mistake? What made him kill his brother Abel?
- Why is it important to deal with sin before it grows in your life to the point where it dominates who you are?
- Share how you deal with sin and control your emotion so that it will not overpower you.

3. **No wrongdoing escapes the all-seeing eyes of a wise God whose justice is always fair and whose grace is always evident (v. 9-15).**

- What was Cain's response when God confronted him of what he did to his brother? What does it tell you about his heart and character? What was the consequence of the sin he committed?
- In spite of what Cain did, how did God show him grace and mercy?
- What does it mean when God says that He forgives sins and "remembers them no more?" Does it mean that God would reverse the consequences of your sins? How does God combine justice with mercy in people's lives?

4. **Living a godly life and leaving a spiritual legacy are what is most important to God even over great accomplishments (v. 16-26).**

- In what other way did God show His grace to Cain?
- What was missing in Cain's family in spite of their successes and achievements?
- Who was Seth? In contrast to Cain, what was Seth's contribution to human civilization and society?
- What legacy do you plan to leave behind for your family? Do you consider a spiritual legacy more important than any earthly successes in life? Why or why not?

REFLECT

Honestly examine your life for times when you found yourself blurring the line between good and bad in your worship life, in how you deal with emotions and sin, in your sense of justice, and in your ambitions and pursuits. What challenges did you face in making the choices you did?

What were the consequences? What steps have you taken to address this issue in your life or to prevent it from happening?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, You have shown me through Your Word the important truths that will help me to enjoy Your best in this life and in the life to come. Thank You, Lord. And thank You that it is possible for me to be successful in life and honor You at the same time when Christ is the one being highlighted in what I do. May my life be acceptable to you. In Jesus' precious name I pray. Amen.