

Cain's Wife

By Allen Young

One of the most often repeated questions about the origin of things is "where did Cain get his wife". The answer is quite simple, she was his sister, but quite removed.

We need to remember that Adam lived nine centuries; 930 years to be exact. To put that into perspective, a man who died this year at the age of 930 would have been born in 1077 A.D. And one might presume that long life means healthy life.

We're not sure how long Eve was healthy enough to bear children, but Scripture states she had a son to replace Abel who was killed by Cain and named him Seth when Adam was 130, and afterwards had other sons and daughters. Scripture then states when Seth was 105 he became the father of Enosh. We cannot say with certainty Enosh was Seth's first child, but it is likely he was Seth's first son. However, if he was Seth's first child then Adam at the age of 235 had a daughter old enough to marry Seth and bear children. And if a daughter was available for Seth, she was certainly available first for Cain.

Though punished for his sin, Cain was assured by God he would not be slain by another. By this only two possibilities can be implied. Either there were at this point other unmentioned created humans on earth, or during the course of his life Cain would not be avenged by siblings for the slaying of Abel. It is unlikely the former is true given there is no hint of corroboration in scripture. Thus, the latter must be the case. And if Cain is forbidden to be slain by another then he must have died naturally, and probably very old, as Adam lived 930 years, and Cain's younger brother Seth lived 912 years, and Seth's son Enosh lived 905.

If Cain was born one year after Adam was created, then he was 129 when Seth was born, as the scriptures state Adam was 130 when Seth was born. If Eve bore a daughter the year after Seth and she is the future wife of Cain at 15-20 years of age, then Cain is still very young at age 149 compared to a potential lifespan of 900 years, when he marries.

But if Cain waits to marry a daughter of Seth, which is possible but unlikely, and Seth's daughter is born the year after his first son, and marries Cain when she is 20 years old, then Cain is still only 255 years old.

If he waits like Noah until he's 500 years old to have kids, and marries at that time, then he has the pick of Adam's, Seth's, Enosh's, Kenan's, Mahalalel's, or Jared's daughters, or any of their descendents' daughters to marry.

To put it all into perspective, consider the following. If there are no skips in the Biblical record of generations between Adam and Noah, then the flood occurred 1706 years after Adam was created, and Adam saw Noah's dad Lamech live to be 6 years old! Lamech was Adam's great, great, great, great, great, great grandson.

Allen Young

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