

Why do they leave?  
Moving to the land of Nod  
Genesis 4.16

*Then Cain went away from the presence of the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, East of Eden.*

One Point: Spiritual rebellion always leads to a spiritual exodus.

One Question: What do you do with your inner Cain?

Issues with God.

A land that earns a name.

A name gains generational notoriety.

Invisibility is impossible.

Our series on Jude was a good place to begin our journey understanding the choice to travel from the promise a new Eden to a land with nothing to offer. We had brief introductions of angels, Cain, Balaam, and Kora; all of them, like the son in Luke 15 left for distant lands. All three went to doom, the son of Luke 15 returned. For the next few weeks, we will look at some who left and never returned.

Cain was born before Abel and their was disharmony between them. Adam and Eve had more children than the two boys. Cain took a wife; it was either a sister or a niece. We can be sure that Mom and Dad told Cain, Abel, and the other children about their beginning days in the Garden, their walks with the LORD, and the goodness of the land, but a curse was on the land outside Eden. They could never return to the good land of that Garden.

The name Adam means man and Eve is life. Abel is a vapor, and Cain is “I bought.” Eden means “the good life.” Nod means “disturbance and wandering.” The earth was under a curse, but the land of Nod seems to be under a greater curse. The land was harsh for Adam “by the sweat of your brow” Gen 3.17-19. For Cain, it was worse still, Gen 4.11-12.

Cain’s issue with God was one of Jealousy. His offering was lacking, and God did not find the gift acceptable because of the heart that presented it. God did reach out in a warning of grace. He told Cain how to resist the homicide in his heart. Cain refused the advice. Remember, God knew the course the stream of Cain’s heart would take. God created the human spirit and freely gave it free will knowing the pains it would give him. The pain was relieved in the agony of the cross.

Cain chose wandering in a land called wandering disturbance. He never had contentment and rest. Banished from his family and removed from God’s presence and he fathered seven generations of depravity.

He removed himself from God’s presence, but I think he always had the chance to repent and return. We all have an opportunity to repent and return until the last breath of life.

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