

Who did Cain marry?

Jeff Miller

Skeptics argue that the Bible is a book of mythology, filled with inconsistencies and impossibilities. Clarence Darrow, the agnostic defense attorney in the famous Scopes Monkey Trial, scoffed at the Bible's account of Cain finding a wife, asking William Jennings Bryan, "Did you ever discover where Cain got his wife?"¹ Writing in Biblical Archaeology Review, Marry Leith argued that the text implies there must have been "other people 'out there' when God created Adam and Eve" from whom Cain picked a wife.² Genesis 3:20, however, indicates that "all living" descended from Eve. If God created only Adam and Eve, and all other humans came from them, and Eve had only birthed Cain and Abel by the time Abel was murdered, who was Cain's wife (Genesis 4:17)?

First, as discussed elsewhere,³ Genesis 4 gives several indications that a significant amount of time likely passed between the birth of Cain and Abel and the murder of Abel. If humanity was being fruitful and multiplying as God commanded (Genesis 1:28), it is reasonable to assume that Adam and Eve were not waiting many years before conceiving their next child. Genesis 5:4 indicates that Adam and Eve did, in fact, have "other sons and daughters" which are not listed in the text. If they had a single child every two years (i.e., no twins), and their children began marrying at the age of 19 and immediately began having children as well, there would have been roughly 300 people on the Earth by the time Cain was 100—a plausible age as to when Cain may have killed his brother.⁵ Cain likely married either a sister or niece.

Some see a problem with that explanation, as it implies that Cain (and many others) were forced to commit incest—an illicit union in God's sight. God's law concerning incest, however, was not instituted until the Law of Moses came into effect (Leviticus 18), likely at least 2,500 years after Creation. It is generally assumed that the reason God outlawed incest at that point was due to the state of the human genome by the time of Moses. Incestuous relations significantly increase the likelihood of birth defects, as well as deleterious psychological problems.⁶ A child inherits 23 chromosomes from each of his parents. By having children with close relatives, many of those chromosomes are duplicated in the offspring—including those genes that are deleterious, rapidly increasing the odds of major physical problems.

When God created Adam and Eve, however, their genomes were pristine—without defect. Duplicate chromosomes would not have caused the defects observed today. After Adam and Eve were evicted from the Garden, denied the "healing effects" of the Tree of Life, and were subjected to the cursed Earth (Genesis 3:14-19), their bodies and genomes would have begun to suffer the effects of entropy in earnest. The Universe, and everything in it, is growing "old like a garment"—gradually decaying (Psalm 102:25-26). Ultraviolet and other forms of radiation (especially radiation from the Flood), as well as other mutagens and DNA replication errors have increased the accumulation of mutations in the genome. After over two millennia of genetic entropy, by the time of Moses the number of mutations within the human genome would have begun to make incest a dangerous practice.

Cain would have married a close relative. However, as would be predicted if the Bible is inspired by the God Who created the genome, and therefore knew of the growing dangers of incest long before humans had discovered the genome, God asserted Himself at the right time and prohibited the dangerous practice that He had previously sanctioned.

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- EDEN SHEPHERD, 3 years old, passed away
- MEDIA SLOAN and back troubles
- OUR SENIORS and their future plans
- AUDREY TIDWELL and her road to recovery
- ANDY CADDELL and his foot problems
- BRIAN SIDES is recovering from shoulder surgery
- Congrats to Tim and Kayla Banks on the birth of their baby girl "Violet Joanie Rose"
- KEN AND BETTY RAMAY and health struggles
- JACK ADKINS is having surgery May 24.
- ZACHARY DAVIS, friend of Juanita, has had hospice called in.
- FAMILY OF MICHAEL EDMENDSON he passed away April 11th
- JENNIFER, Kayla Banks' friend, is needing prayers for her baby
- MARIE STRAIN in hospital for blood clots in her lungs
- MISSION WORK IN INDIA
- BARBIE SMITH'S FATHER and all of health issues
- LYN'D DUNNWOODY Debbie's Brother in Law's Daughter, has breast cancer
- JAMES HALL needing prayers and is needing encouragement.

ATTENDANCE

Worship A.M. ... 72
 Worship P.M. 53
 Wed P.M.49

CONTRIBUTION

Last Week.....\$3,029.00
BUDGET
 Weekly.....\$3,000.00

