

A photograph of two men with long, dark, curly hair and beards, wearing headbands and simple, light-colored tunics. They are standing outdoors in a desert-like environment with palm trees and a clear blue sky in the background. The man on the left is looking slightly upwards and to the right, while the man on the right is looking towards the left. The text is overlaid on the image.

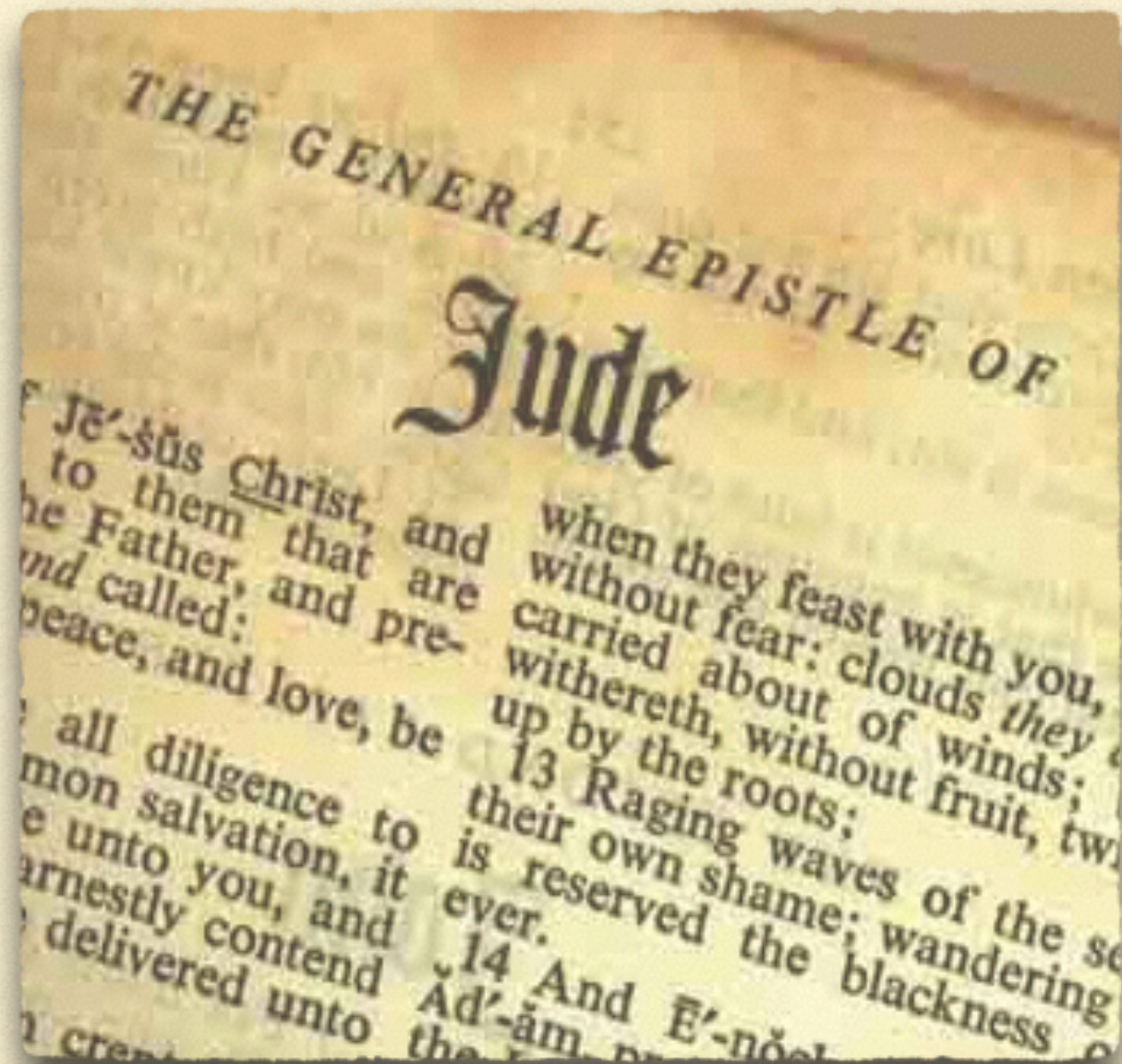
THE WAY OF CAIN

Genesis 4:1-16; Jude 11

The Nature & Consequences of Apostasy

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EARNESTLY
CONTENDING
FOR THE FAITH

OUTLINE

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JUDE 5-11 (NKJV)

⁵ But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

JUDE 5-11 (NKJV)

⁷ as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. ⁸ Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

JUDE 5-11 (NKJV)

⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" ¹⁰ But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

JUDE 5-11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

God's Judgment Against Ungodly



- ❖ Egypt & Disobedient Israelites - (5)
 - ❖ An entire generation perished in the wilderness because of their unbelief (cf. Heb. 3:16–19).
- ❖ Angels (v. 6)
 - ❖ Some rebelled & are now in darkness, bound ... for judgment. - 2 Pet 2:4; Eph 6:12; Mat 8:29
- ❖ Sodom and Gomorrah (7)
 - ❖ The fate of the unbelievers in those two cities (Gen. 19:1–29) foreshadows the fate all who deny God's truth and ignore His warnings. - 2 Pet 2:6; Mat 25:46; Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor 6:9,10; 2 Thes 1:7-9; Rev 21:8

Nature of Current Apostates



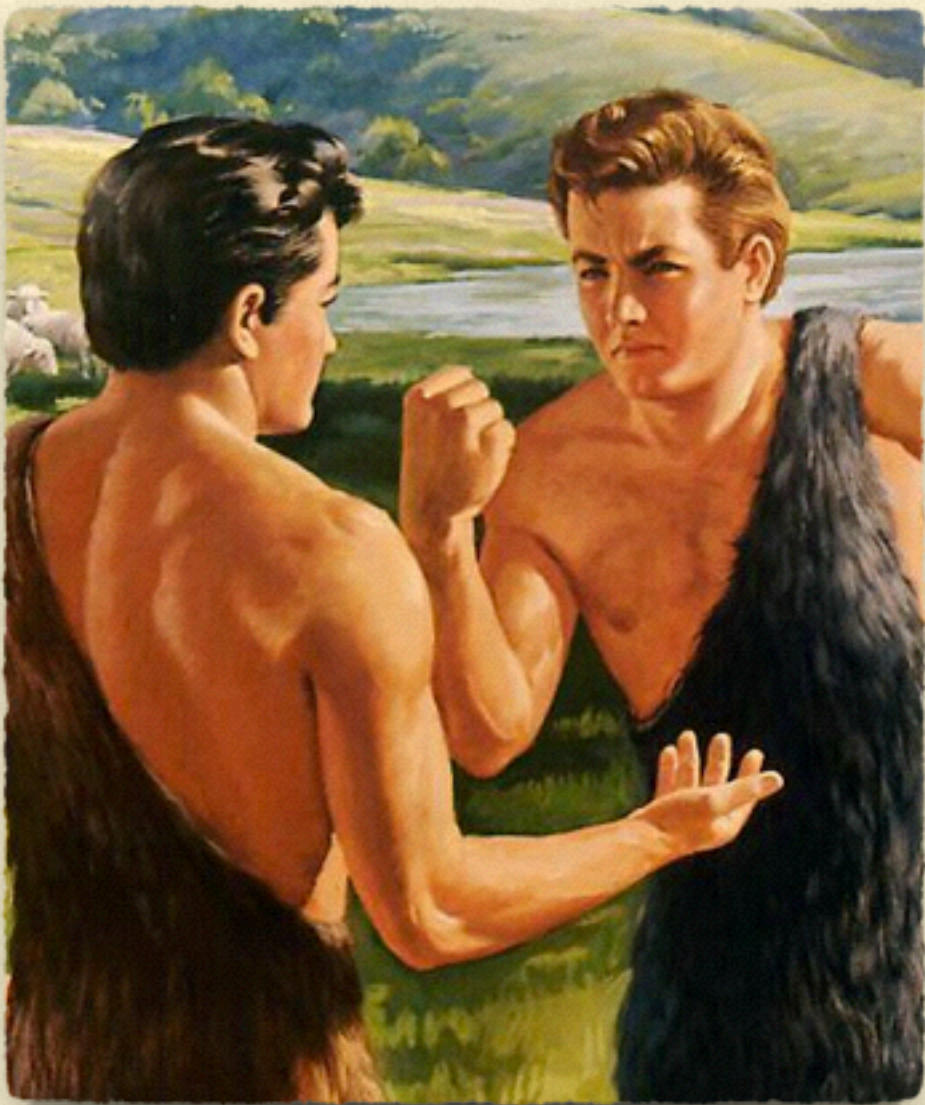
- ❖ Those who pollute their own bodies are like Sodom and Gomorrah. - to “defile, deprave” - (8; Tit 1:15; Heb 12:15; 1 Cor 5; 6:9-11)
- ❖ Those who reject authority - intellectual insubordination, & spiritual irreverence.(8: cf. Rom. 1:24, 26–27; Ep 4:19; Heb 13:7,17; Rom 13:1-7; 1 Pet 2:13-3:6)
- ❖ Spoke evil of others w/out knowledge & in their ignorance—polluted “their bodies” (v. 8) like the sin of Sodom - self-destructive - (10; cf. 2 Pet 2:12; Rom 1:21,22)

Nature of Current Apostates



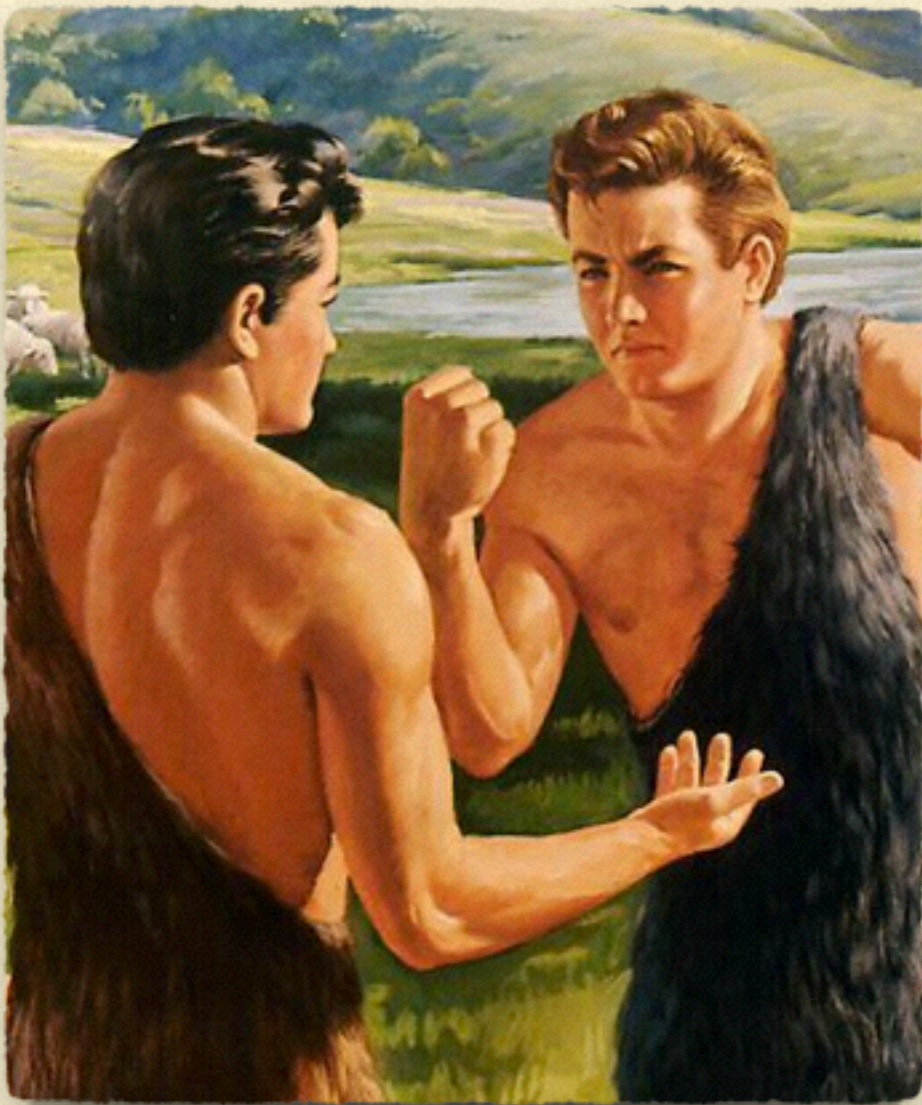
- ❖ Jude uses another triad of examples to illustrate their character & end.
 - ✱ They have taken the way of Cain. (cf. Genesis 4:1-15; 1 Jn 3:12).
 - ✱ They have rushed for profit into Balaam's error - (2 Peter 2:15-16; Num. 22:21-31).
 - ✱ They have emulated Korah's rebellion. [Korah led a revolt against Moses and Aaron, not acknowledging that God had delegated authority to them] (Num. 16).

The Way of Substitution - Gen. 4:3



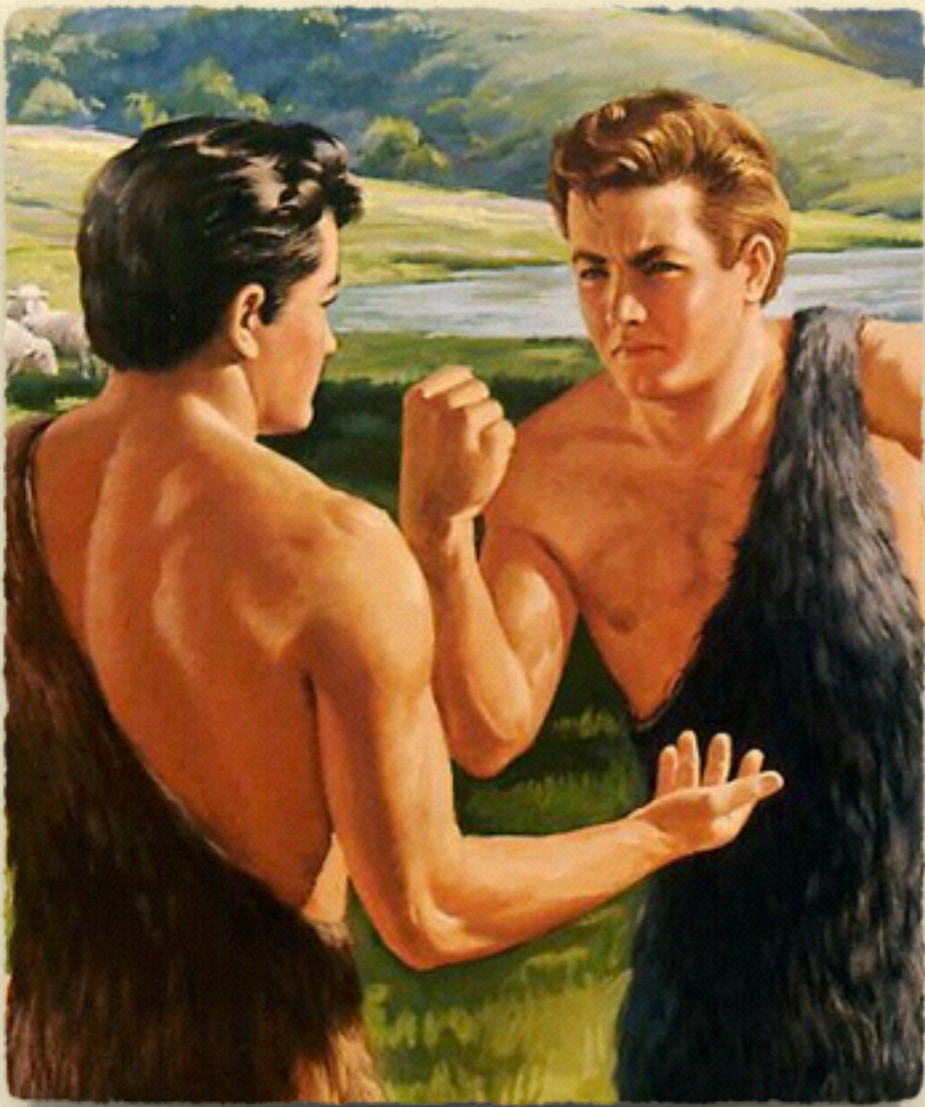
- ❖ Cain's sacrifice was not accepted by God - Genesis 4:3-5a
 - ✳ Not of faith - Heb 11:4; Rom 10:17
 - ✳ His worship was vain - Mat 15:7-9
 - ✳ Neither in spirit or truth - John 4:24
 - ✳ Apostates then & now follow the same course - ignorantly believing God can be worshipped as WE CHOOSE, rather than following God's word - Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23; cf. Mt. 7:21 ff; Isa. 55:8-9; Mat 15:7-9

The Way of Envy & Hatred - Gen 4:5



- ❖ When Cain realized that his worship was not pleasing to God, he didn't change, he got mad.
- ✳ Cain had no one to blame but himself - why was he angry? - 6,7; Jn 3:19,20
- ✳ This anger of Cain shifted to his brother - why? 8; 1 Jn 3:12; James 1:19; Acts 7:54-59; 13:45
- ✳ Sin is progressive. 2 Tim. 3:13
- ✳ Are we willing to receive correction? or does it anger us? - Ga 4:16

The Way of Contempt - Gen 4:9,10



❖ “Am I my brothers keeper” - 9

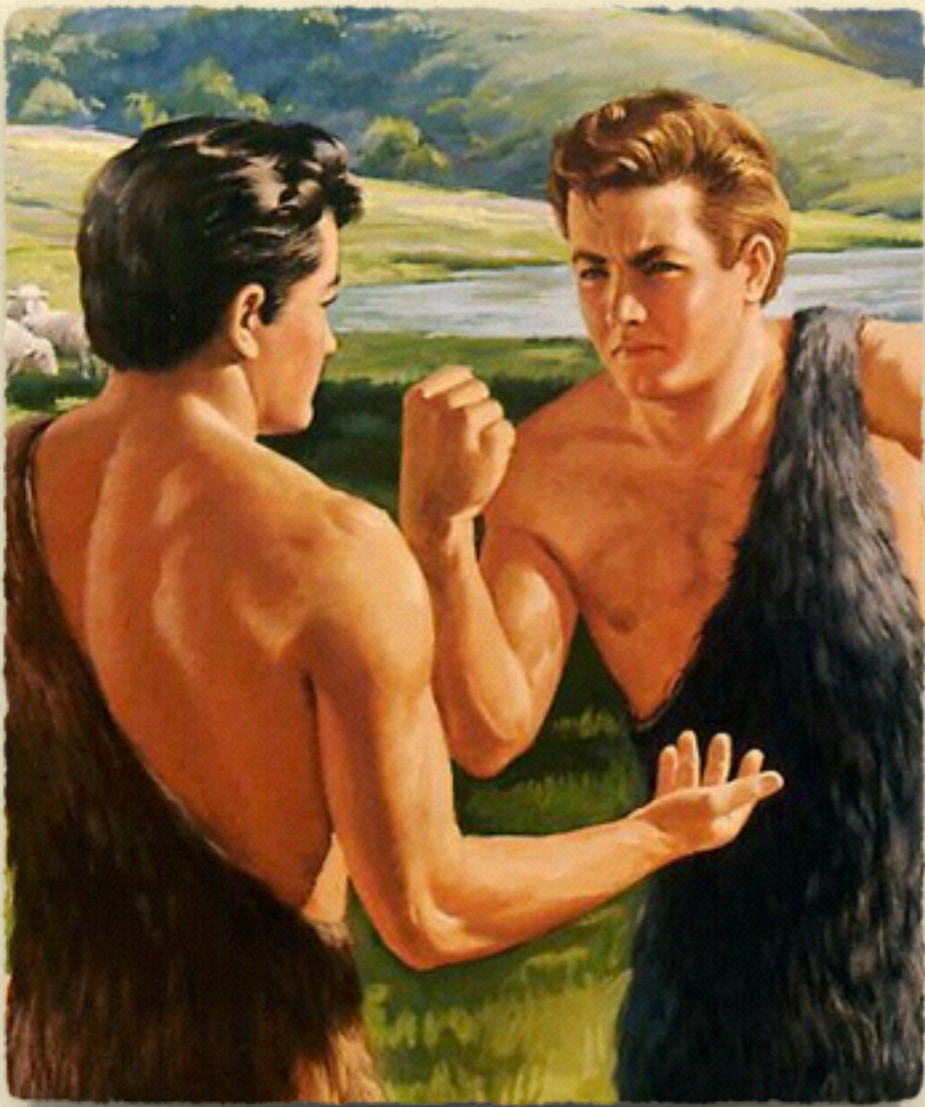
- * Denied responsibility for his brother - instead of watching out for his best interest, he envied him and killed him. - 1 Jn 3:15; Rom 14; 15:1
- * Lied - tried to deny accountability as though he could hide it from God - Job 22:13,14; Ps. 10:13,14; Pr. 28:13; Heb 4:13; Act 5:4-9
- * We are our brothers keeper - we are to love one another - 1 Jn 4:20-5:5

The Way of Condemnation - Gen 4:11-15



- ❖ “So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.” - 11
- ✳ Given opportunity to repent. Gen. 4:7
- ✳ claimed that God’s punishment (cropless soil and wandering, vv. 10–12) was too severe (v. 13).
- ✳ Cain lived in the bitterness of Romans 6:23, instead of the blessings of forgiveness – (Ezek 18:30-32)

The Way of Condemnation - Gen 4:11-15



- ✳ We too will receive a reward according to our works. (Heb. 2:1-3; Rom. 2:8-11; Jude 14-15)
- ✳ Unforgiven sin is a load too heavy for ANY man to bear ... Many will realize this too late - (Rom 7:23-25; Matthew 11:28-30)
- ✳ The Way of sin is the way of Eternal Regret. - (Gen. 4:13-14; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Pet 2:20-22)

THE WAY OF CAIN

Genesis 4:1-16; Jude 11

- ◆ Disobedience.
- ◆ Envy and Hatred.
- ◆ Persecution.
- ◆ Contempt
- ◆ Condemnation.
- ◆ Eternal Regret.

The Nature & Consequences of Apostasy



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GENESIS 4:1-16 (NKJV)

¹ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." ² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord.

GENESIS 4:1-16 (NKJV)

⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. ⁶ So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire *is* for you, but you should rule over it.”

GENESIS 4:1-16 (NKJV)

⁸ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. ⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where *is* Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know. *Am* I my brother’s keeper?” ¹⁰ And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.”

GENESIS 4:1-16 (NKJV)

¹¹ So now you *are* cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth." ¹³

And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment *is* greater than I can bear!

GENESIS 4:1-16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen *that* anyone who finds me will kill me.” ¹⁵ And the Lord said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.