

## Cain and Abel

Eve conceived and gave birth to Cain, saying, **“I have produced a male child with the help of the LORD.”** Next she gave birth to his brother Abel. Abel became a herder of flocks, and Cain a tiller of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the ground, while Abel, for his part, brought the best fatty portion of the first born of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry and dejected.

Then the LORD said to Cain: **Why are you angry? Why are you dejected? If you act rightly, you will be accepted; but if not, sin lies in wait at the door: its urge is for you, yet you can rule over it.**

Cain said to his brother Abel, **“Let us go out in the field.”** When they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LORD asked Cain, **Where is your brother Abel?** He answered, **“I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”** God then said: **What have you done? Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground! Now you are banned from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. If you till the ground, it shall no longer give you its produce. You shall become a constant wanderer on the earth.**

Cain said to the LORD: **“My punishment is too great to bear. Look, you have now banished me from the ground. I must avoid you and be a constant wanderer on the earth. Anyone may kill me at sight.”** Not so! the LORD said to him. **If anyone kills Cain, Cain shall be avenged seven times.** So the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one would kill him at sight. Cain then left the LORD’s presence and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.