

LESSON III.

GENESIS IV.

THE MARK OF SIN.

IN the last lesson there was the first settling down of the cloud of sin upon the earth, bringing with it the separation of man from God. This next lesson shows the settling down of another cloud of sin, bringing with it the separation of man from man, as well as of man from God.

Adam and Eve sinned, and punishment fell upon them. They were dreary, desolate and disheartened, but at least they shared their punishment together. In this lesson we find that sin works further. It separates not only man from God, but also man from man.

Yet in each case there is a ray of hope. In the separation from God there is the promised bruising of the serpent's head, the final destruction of sin, and consequent re-union with God. In the case of Cain and Abel there is also a ray of hope. Abel's sacrifice is accepted, again typifying union between man and God. The eye of God is seen to be watching over man and requiring an account of the sin committed against his fellow-man, awarding punishment, and teaching men that they are responsible the one for the other. Thus, although men by sin may separate themselves from one another, yet the consciousness of the over-seeing eye of God, and the fact that they must give an account of themselves to God, will tend to check that sin and thus to check them from separation also.

In reading this story, as in reading the preceding one, it is