

## Lesson IV.

## CAIN AND ABEL

January 26, 1913

Genesis 4 : 1-15—Memory Verses, 9, 10.

**Golden Text**—Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer.—I John 3 : 15.

1 And Ad'am knew Eve his wife ; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord.

2 And she again bare his brother A'bel. And A'bel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord.

4 And A'bel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto A'bel and to his offering :

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6 And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth ? and why is thy countenance fallen ?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted ? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall* be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

8 And Cain talked with A'bel his brother : and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against A'bel his brother, and slew him.

9 And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is A'bel thy brother ? And he said, I know not : Am I my brother's keeper ?

10 And he said, What hast thou done ? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand :

12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength ; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

13 And Cain said unto the Lord, My punishment is

greater than I can bear.

14 Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth ; and from thy face shall I be hid ; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth ; and it shall come to pass, *that every one that findeth me shall slay me.*

15 And the Lord said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the Lord set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

**THE LESSON RETOLD**

When God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden He told them that they must now toil early and late to till the ground so that they would have food to eat, but the saddest thing He told them was that all men after them must die because they had thus sinned against Him.

Outside the garden of Eden the ground was rough and stony and, as God had said, Adam and Eve had to work very hard to make anything grow, and they were sometimes sick and sad. But although they had been so wicked God still loved them, and gave them two sons to comfort them ; and they called one of the sons Cain and the other Abel.

When the boys grew up, Abel became a keeper of sheep, while Cain was a farmer and cultivated the ground. One day each of them brought a present to God of what they had. Cain brought some of the grain and fruit he had grown, and Abel an offering of sheep from his flock. Abel brought his gift

gladly ; so God was pleased with it, but He was not pleased with Cain's because he had brought it unwillingly. That made Cain very angry, and he went about with a dark, sullen face.

Then God spoke to him. "Why are you angry ?" He said. "If you do right and try to please Me, your offering will be accepted. You should not allow jealous and angry thoughts to remain in your heart, lest they become too strong for you to conquer."

But Cain nursed his wicked feelings till one day, when they were alone in the fields, he struck his brother to the ground and killed him. Then God called to Cain again—not lovingly and sorrowfully—but sternly. "Where is thy brother, Abel ?" He asked. And Cain sinned again ; he told a lie. "I do not know," he said. "Why should I take care of my brother ?"

And God was angry with Cain and told him He would punish him by making him a