

Topical Study: *Always Be Ready to Give a Defense*

Life application of the truths of God's Word as it applies to us and our families today

Part 1 – *Where did Cain get His wife?*

Sunday, January 30, 2011

Genesis 4 (S-900-KL)

(All Scriptures are from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.)

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. (1 Peter 3:15-17)

Today, the reliability of the Bible and the truths of biblical Christianity are under attack as never before. Many children who grow up in Christian homes leave the faith as they reach adulthood because they are not equipped to answer the attacks with which they are bombarded in the world. We are in a war, a spiritual war for the souls of men and women! As Christians, we must be willing to fight the lies of Satan, even if it means suffering for doing good.

In this topical series, *Always be Ready to Give a Defense*, we will address several of the common questions about the reliability and authenticity of Scripture. In Part 1, we will look at:

Question 1 – Where did Cain get his wife?

Question 2 – How do we know that the Bible is from God?

(or: “How do we know that Christianity is any better than other religions?”)

Question 1 – Where did Cain get his wife?

It is becoming increasingly obvious to secular scientists that the theory of evolution cannot possibly explain the origin of life.

Discovery Institute's (www.discovery.org Center for Science and Culture. The statement, located online at www.dissentfromdarwin.org, reads: “*We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged.*” There are now (January 2011) more than 800 signers who hold Ph.D.'s.

Genesis 4:1 – *Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the Lord.”* God created Adam and Eve the first man and woman.

Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.” (Genesis 4:2)

At this point, it is not clear from Scripture if there are any other people on the planet besides Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel.

Back to Genesis 4: *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. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"*

And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 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."

*And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! 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."* (Genesis 4:8 – 14)

Where do these "anyone's" come from?

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. (Genesis 4:15)

Who are these "whoever's" and "anyone's?"

Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son — Enoch. (Genesis 4:16-17)

So where did Cain get his wife?

Genesis 4:25 – *And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed."*

Genesis 5:1 – *This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created. And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.*

Note that Scripture does not say that he did not have other children *besides* Cain, Abel, and Seth during this 130 years.

*After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; **and he had sons and daughters.*** (Genesis 5:4)

We know nothing about Adam's other children except that they and their offspring populated the world until the flood.

So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died. (Genesis 5:5)

Answer: Cain's wife was a daughter of Adam and Eve or a daughter of one of their children – therefore she was a sister or cousin of Cain. (i.e., from one of Adam and Eve's other children or grandchildren.)

How could this be? At the beginning of human history, the gene pool was uncorrupted, so marriages between near relatives did not pose a problem for their offspring.

See Dr. Walt Brown's work (at [creation-science.com](http://www.creation-science.com)) on the origin of earth's radioactivity (<http://www.creation-science.com/onlinebook/Radioactivity.html>) and FAQ, *Why did people live for about 900 years before the flood?* (<http://www.creation-science.com/onlinebook/FAQ222.html#wp4426802>).

In summary, increased radioactivity in our environment since the global flood has resulted in genetic damage and decreased life span.

Question 2 – How do we know that the Bible is from God?

Or, alternately, “How do we know that Christianity is any better than other religion?”

Compare the Bible to three other major religions' holy books:

- Buddhism – teachings of Buddha (enlightened one) written in the Tripitaka. He left his wife and son to go find the meaning of life. 563-483 BC – time of Daniel. See attached article on Buddha.
- Islam – Koran and Hadith– Mohammed AD 570-632
- Book of Mormon – written by Joseph Smith and published in 1830. Has been changed many times since then and is being changed again – its entire history is a fabrication. See attached article on the Book of Mormon.

Conversely, the Bible is unique in its claims to be a revelation of the one true God. But how do we know that it is?

Use 2 Timothy 3:16 as a guide (not a proof-text) *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*

See attached answer to the question, “*Who were the authors of the books of the Bible?*” from: www.GotQuestions.org.

If we are in a war between God and Satan (which we are!), then Satan certainly wants to plant doubts about the authenticity of God's Word. How would God prove to us which holy book is from him?

Answer: The Bible is validated by how it came together in a way that is not humanly possible!

Continued in Part 2....

Who were the authors of the books of the Bible?

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-authors.html>

Answer: Ultimately, above the human authors, the Bible was written by God. [Second Timothy 3:16](#) tells us that the Bible was “breathed out” by God. God superintended the human authors of the Bible so that, while using their own writing styles and personalities, they still recorded exactly what God intended. The Bible was not dictated by God [not entirely true – the Ten Commandments, other parts of the law and some of Revelation were clearly dictated], but it was perfectly guided and entirely inspired by Him.

Humanly speaking, the Bible was written by approximately 40 men of diverse backgrounds over the course of 1500 years. Isaiah was a prophet, Ezra was a priest, Matthew was a tax-collector, John was a fisherman, Paul was a tentmaker, Moses was a shepherd, Luke was a physician. Despite being penned by different authors over 15 centuries, the Bible does not contradict itself and does not contain any errors. The authors all present different perspectives, but they all proclaim the same one true God, and the same one way of salvation—Jesus Christ ([John 14:6](#); [Acts 4:12](#)). Few of the books of the Bible specifically name their author. Here are the books of the Bible along with the name of who is most assumed by biblical scholars to be the author, along with the approximate date of authorship:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers,
Deuteronomy = Moses - 1400 B.C.
Joshua = Joshua - 1350 B.C.
Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel =
Samuel/Nathan/Gad - 1000 - 900 B.C.
1 Kings, 2 Kings = Jeremiah - 600 B.C.
1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah =
Ezra - 450 B.C.
Esther = Mordecai - 400 B.C.
Job = Moses - 1400 B.C.
Psalms = several different authors, mostly David
- 1000 - 400 B.C.
Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon =
Solomon - 900 B.C.
Isaiah = Isaiah - 700 B.C.
Jeremiah, Lamentations = Jeremiah – 600 B.C.
Ezekiel = Ezekiel - 550 B.C.
Daniel = Daniel - 550 B.C.
Hosea = Hosea - 750 B.C.
Joel = Joel - 850 B.C.
Amos = Amos - 750 B.C.
Obadiah = Obadiah - 600 B.C.
Jonah = Jonah - 700 B.C.
Micah = Micah - 700 B.C.
Nahum = Nahum - 650 B.C.
Habakkuk = Habakkuk - 600 B.C.
Zephaniah = Zephaniah - 650 B.C.
Haggai = Haggai - 520 B.C.
Zechariah = Zechariah - 500 B.C.
Malachi = Malachi - 430 B.C.

Matthew = Matthew - A.D. 55
Mark = John Mark - A.D. 50
Luke = Luke - A.D. 60
John = John - A.D. 90
Acts = Luke - A.D. 65
Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians,
Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1
Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2
Timothy, Titus, Philemon = Paul - A.D. 50-70
Hebrews = unknown, mostly likely Paul, Luke,
Barnabas, or Apollos - A.D. 65
James = James - A.D. 45
1 Peter, 2 Peter = Peter - A.D. 60
1 John, 2 John, 3 John = John - A.D. 90
Jude = Jude - A.D. 60
Revelation = John - A.D. 90

(Note that the Bible was written over 1500 years! The earliest books - Job, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy – were written around 1400 B.C. Revelation was written in AD 94.)

The Life of Buddha

<http://www.souledout.org/wesak/storybuddha.html>

Gautama Buddha, the historical Buddha, lived between 563 and 483 BC in the area known now as the Indo-Nepalese region. As a **bodhisattva**, he had passed through thousands of existences before coming to Earth for his ultimate transmigration.

This last lifetime he began as a son of the King of the realm **Sakya, Sudhodana**, who ruled at **Kapilavastu**, in **Ancient India** on the border of present-day Nepal, and was born in a village called **Lumbini** into the warrior tribe called the Sakyas (from where he derived the title **Sakyamuni**, meaning “Sage of the Sakyas”).

According to ancient tradition, **Queen Maya**, his mother, first had a dream of a beautiful white elephant coming down into her womb, and this was interpreted as a sign that the Buddha, or a universal emperor, was about to be born. When her time came, Queen Maya went into the garden and gave painless birth to the bodhisattva. He immediately walked, spoke, and was received by **Brahma**.

Five days after his birth, the young prince received the name of **Siddhartha**. When his parents took him to the temple, the statues of the gods prostrated themselves before him, great were the rejoicings of the people over the birth of this illustrious prince. Also at this time a devout old man named **Asita** came down from the Himalayas to meet the newborn prince. An ascetic of high spiritual attainments, Asita was particularly pleased to hear this happy news. Having been a tutor to the King, he visited the palace to see the royal baby. The king, who felt honoured by his unexpected visit, carried the child up to him in order to make the child pay him due reverence. To the surprise of all, the child’s legs turned and rested on the matted locks of the ascetic.

Instantly, the ascetic rose from his seat and recognizing in the young child the 80 signs that are pledges to a highly religious vocation, and foreseeing with his supernormal vision the child’s future greatness, saluted him with clasped hands. The Royal father did likewise. The great ascetic smiled at first and then was sad. Questioned regarding his mingled feelings, he answered that he smiled because the prince would eventually become a Buddha, an Enlightened One, and he was sad because he would not be able to benefit from the superior wisdom of the Enlightened One owing to his prior death and rebirth in a Formless Plane.

After seven days Queen Maya died, and her place as mother was taken by her sister, whose devotion and love became legendary.

When the young prince was in his twelfth year, the king called the wise **Brahmans** in council. They revealed that Siddhartha would devote himself to asceticism if he cast his eyes on age, sickness, or death ~ and, if he were to meet a hermit.

Wanting his son to be a universal monarch instead, the king surrounded the palace with a triple enclosure and guard and proclaimed that the use of the words death and grief were forbidden. The most beautiful princess in the land, **Yasodhara**, was found for his bride, and after Siddhartha proved himself in many tournaments calling for strength and prowess, when he was 16, the two were wed.

Siddhartha was kept amused and entertained for some time by this privileged life behind the palace walls until one day his divine vocation awoke in him, and he decided to visit the nearby town. The king called for everything to be swept and decorated, and any ugly or sad sight to be removed. But these precautions were in vain for while Siddhartha was travelling through the streets, an old wrinkled man appeared before him. In astonishment the young prince learned that decrepitude is the fate of those who live life through. Still later he met an incurable invalid and then a funeral procession. Finally heaven placed in his path an ascetic, a beggar, who told Siddhartha that he had left the world to pass beyond suffering and joy, to attain peace at heart.

Confirmed in his meditation, all these experiences awakened in Siddhartha the idea of abandoning his present life and embracing asceticism. He opened his heart to his father and said, “Everything in the world is changing and transitory. Let me go off alone like the religious beggar.”

Grief-stricken at the idea of losing his son, the king doubled the guard around the walls and increased the pleasures and distractions within. And at this point, Yasodhara bore him a son whom he called **Rahula** (meaning “chain” or “fetter”), a name that indicated Gautama’s sense of dissatisfaction with his life of luxury, while the birth of his son evoked in him much tenderness. His apparent sense of dissatisfaction turned to disillusion when he saw three things from the window of his palace, each of which represented different forms human suffering: a decrepit old man, a diseased man, and a corpse. Yet even this could not stop the troubling thoughts in his heart or close his eyes to the realizations of the impermanence of all life, and of the vanity and instability of all objects of desire.

His mind made up, he awoke one night and, casting one last look at his wife and child, mounted his horse **Kataka** and rode off accompanied by his equerry **Chandaka**. At the city gates Siddhartha turned over his horse to Chandaka, then he cut off his hair, gave up his sumptuous robes, and entered a hermitage where the Brahmins accepted him as a disciple. Siddhartha had now and forever disappeared. He became the monk **Gautama**, or as he is still called, **Sakyamuni**, the ascetic of the Sakyas.

For many years Gautama studied the doctrines until, having felt the need to learn more elsewhere, he traveled and fasted. His two teachers had showed him how to reach very deep states of meditation ([samadhi](#)). This did not, however, lead to a sense of true knowledge or peace, and the practice of deep meditation was abandoned in favour of a life of extreme asceticism which he shared with five companions. But again, after five or six years of self-mortification, Siddhartha felt he had failed to achieve true insight and rejected such practices as dangerous and useless.

Resolved to continue his quest, Siddhartha made his way to a deer park at **Isipatana**, near present day Benares. Here he sat beneath a tree meditating on death and rebirth. Discovering that excessive fasts destroy strength, he learned that as he had transcended earthly life, so must he next transcend asceticism. Alone and weak, he sat beneath the sacred **Bodhi tree** of wisdom, and swore to die before arising without the wisdom he sought.

Mara, the demon, fearful of Gautama’s power, sent his three beautiful daughters to distract him. When that failed, Mara sent an army of devils to destroy him. Finally Mara attacked Gautama with a terrible weapon capable of cleaving a mountain. But all this was useless, and the motionless monk sat in meditation.

It was here that Siddhartha attained a knowledge of the way things really are; it was through this knowledge that he acquired the title **Buddha** (meaning “awakened one”). This awakening was achieved during a night of meditation, which passed through various stages as the illumination that Gautama had sought slowly welled up in his heart. He knew the exact condition of all beings and the causes of their rebirths. He saw beings live, die and transmigrate. In meditating on human pain, he was enlightened about both its genesis and the means of destroying it.

In this first stage he saw each of his previous existences, and then understood the chain of cause and effect. In the second he surveyed the death and rebirth of all living beings and understood the law that governs the cycle of birth and death. In the third he identified the [Four Noble Truths](#): the universality of suffering, the cause of suffering through selfish desire, the solution to suffering and the way to overcome suffering. This final point is called the Noble Eightfold Path, this being eight steps consisting of wisdom (right views, right intention) ethics (right speech, right action, right livelihood), mental discipline (right effort, right mindfulness, right concentration), which ultimately lead to liberation from the source of suffering.

When day came, Gautama had attained perfect illumination, and had become a Buddha. The rays emanating from his body shone to the boundaries of space. He stayed in meditation for seven more days, and then for four more weeks he stayed by the tree. Through his process of enlightenment he discovered that all sentient beings in this universal life possess buddhahood, and all are future potential buddhas.



From that time he had two alternate paths: he could enter [Nirvana](#) immediately, or else he could stay and spread enlightenment. After Brahma came in person to beg him to preach the law, Buddha yielded and stayed on the earth. For many years he traveled and taught his wisdom about the force of love and the destruction of all desire.

Although initially hesitant to share his insight on the grounds that humanity might not be ready for such a teaching, the Buddha decided to communicate his discovery to those willing to listen. His first converts were the five ascetics with whom he had lived when he himself followed the lifestyle of the ascetic. To these he preached his first sermon in the Deer Park at Benares, outlining to them the Four Noble Truths. Out of this small group the community of monks (or **Sangha**) grew to about 60 in size and came to include Buddha's cousin, **Ananda**, and his son, Rahula. Later the Buddha was persuaded by his stepmother and cousin to accept women into the sangha.

The remaining 45 years of the Buddha's life were spent journeying around the plain of the **Ganges**, teaching and receiving visitors.

“There are two extremes which are to be avoided: a life of pleasure ~ this is low and ignoble, unworthy and useless, and runs counter to the affairs of the spirit; and a life of fasting ~ this is sad, unworthy and useless. Perfection has kept its distance from these two extremes, and has found the middle way which leads to repose, knowledge, illumination, and Nirvana. So here is the sacred truth about pain: birth, old age, sickness, death, and separation from that which one loves, are pain. And this is the origin of pain: it is thirst for pleasure, thirst for existence, thirst for impermanence. And here is the truth about the suppression of pain: it is the extinction of that thirst by the destruction of desire.

“Charity, knowledge and virtue are possessions that cannot be lost. To do a little good is worth more than accomplishing works of a difficult nature. The perfect man is nothing unless he pours out kindness on his fellow creatures, unless he consoles the abandoned. My doctrine is a doctrine of mercy. The way of salvation is open to all. Destroy your passions as the elephant would trample down a reed hut. But I would have you know that it is a mistaken idea to believe that one can escape from one's passions by taking shelter in hermitages. The only remedy against evil is healthy reality.”

And so Buddha travelled and preached. He performed many miracles, and converted his family and many followers. During his life the Buddha had taught that no one was to succeed him as leader of the Sangha. Instead, his followers were to take his teaching and rule as their sole guides. By the time he reached the age of 80, Sakyamuni began to feel old. He visited all of the monasteries he had founded and prepared to meet his end.

Before the Buddha's death, he became severely sick. He journeyed northwest to the banks of the river **Hiranyavati**, walking with his disciples, and [ate the food](#) offered by a blacksmith. His illness had progressed, and at the end, he came to the river and took a bath. Then he made a rope bed among eight sal trees, with each direction having two. He lay down on his side, right hand supporting his head, the other resting on his body. All later reclining Buddhas (called Buddha's Nirvana) are in the same posture.

The Buddha's disciples kept watch on him after they were told the Buddha was going to nirvana. At night, a scholar of Brahman went to see the Buddha, but was stopped by the Buddha's disciple Ananda. Hearing this, the Buddha called the scholar [Subhadda](#) to his bed and spoke him. Thus the scholar became the Buddha's last disciple. The final exhortation of the Buddha to his disciples was that they should not be sorry for losing their tutor. (See the [last sermon of the Buddha](#) for further elaboration.)

Growing weaker, he spoke one last time: “Do not say we have no master now. The doctrine I have preached will be your master when I have disappeared. Listen, I beg you: **ALL CREATIONS ARE IMPERMANENT**; work diligently for your liberation.”

Having pronounced these final words, Buddha went into the jhana stages, or meditative absorptions. Going from level to level, one after the other, ever deeper and deeper, he reached ecstasy. Then he came out of the meditative absorption for the last time and passed into nirvana, leaving nothing whatever behind that can cause rebirth again in this or any other world, and finally passed into Nirvana.

After his death, Buddha's remains were cremated, as became the Buddhist tradition. The passing away, or the final nirvana, of the Buddha occurred in 483 BC on a full moon day in the month of May, known in the Indian calendar as [Wesak](#).

Removing Racial References in the Book of Mormon

[Excerpts]

Jan 24, 2011-01-28

Note from Pastor Kevin Lea – The Mormons have made many changes to the book of Mormon in order to remove blatant racism and statements by Joseph Smith that have been proven to be false. The Bible on the other hand was penned by over forty authors over a span of 1,500 years and it is as accurate and trustworthy today as it was the day each book of the Bible was completed. This one fact alone should cause Mormons to take pause in following the teachings of Joseph Smith and instead turn to the gospel of the Bible, which brings everlasting life to all who believe.

The LDS Church has made subtle - but significant - changes to chapter headings in its online version of the faith's signature scripture, The Book of Mormon, toning down some earlier racial allusions.

The words "skin of blackness" were removed from the introductory italicized summary in 2 Nephi, Chapter 5, in describing the "curse" God put on disbelieving Lamanites.

Deeper into the volume, in Mormon, Chapter 5, the heading changes from calling Lamanites "a dark, filthy, and loathsome people" to "because of their unbelief, the Lamanites will be scattered, and the Spirit will cease to strive with them."

In both cases, the text itself remains unchanged.

Chapter summaries were added in the 1920s, then rewritten by the late LDS apostle Bruce R. McConkie in 1981. That same year, a verse that used "white and delightsome" to describe what will happen to dark-skinned peoples when they repent was changed to "pure and delightsome."

Critics argued the change was made to address allegations of racism, since the Utah-based faith had a racial policy that, until 1978, barred blacks from being ordained to the church's all-male priesthood.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/50882900-76/mormon-book-church-lamanites.html.csp>

(Peggy Fletcher Stack, "Church removes racial references in Book of Mormon headings," The Salt Lake Tribune, Dec 20, 2010)