

# Genesis 4:11-15

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/gen/gen-4/genesis-411-15/>

*God judges Cain for the murder of Abel and curses him. Cain complains that the punishment is too harsh and says that whoever finds him will kill him. So God places a mark of protection on Cain.*

God didn't curse Adam and Eve directly for their sin in the garden, but He cursed the serpent and the ground. God did, however, curse Cain. He was the first human to be *cursed* in the Bible. Because of Abel's *blood* defiling the ground, God pronounced that the *ground* would not produce anything for Cain. Cain would never get fruit from a harvest or be a farmer ever again.

Cain complained that the *punishment* God gave him was more than he could take. He was also worried that he would be in danger from those wanting to avenge Abel's death. So, through grace, God put a mark or *sign* on Cain to protect him from being murdered. The sign was not a sign of God's curse on Cain, but in order to provide Cain safety and protection. It's unclear what exactly the sign was. One thing is sure, it was a seal from God with a promise that if someone killed Cain their vengeance would be *seven-times* worse.

He became a fugitive and a vagabond, literally having to keep moving and wandering in the land. All the while, Cain still did not repent of his sin. He was concerned only with his punishment, not his relationship with God. If Cain had remorse for killing his brother, it is not recorded. It is noteworthy that Cain's punishment is a form of exile, similar to Adam and Eve's consequence for their sin when they were exiled from Eden. Cain was exiled from farming the land. Capital punishment is not introduced to humanity until the Noahic Covenant in [Genesis 9](#).

## Biblical Text

<sup>11</sup> **“Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.” <sup>13</sup> Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is too great to bear! <sup>14</sup>“Behold, you have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on**

the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”<sup>15</sup> So the Lord said to him, “Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold.” And the Lord appointed a sign for Cain, so that no one finding him would slay him.