

# Question Series

## Session 4

### Question 1: If Adam and Eve only had two sons, where did all the people come from?

Introduction: The real question here and a question that has been debated is: Where did Cain get his wife? Skeptics have used this question time and time again to try to discredit the Book of Genesis as a true historical record. Other skeptics have claimed that for Cain to find a wife there must have been other races of people on the earth who were not descendants of Adam and Eve. But if this were true we would be in trouble. Why?

Key: Defenders of the gospel must be able to show that all human beings are descendants of one man (Adam) and one woman (Eve). Because according to the Bible only the descendants of Adam and Eve can be saved. Thus, believers need to be able to account for Cain's wife and show clearly that she was a descendant of Adam and Eve.

Before we answer the question, we will first show the meaning of the gospel and look at seven key points. These seven key points will help us answer the question.

- 1) The first man – (Romans 5:12-ff)
- 2) The last Adam – (I Cor. 15:45)
- 3) All related – (Genesis 2:7)
- 4) The first woman – (Genesis 2:20-24 & 3:20)
- 5) Cain's brothers and sisters – (Genesis 4:1-2 & 25, 5:4)
- 6) Cain's wife –
- 7) Objections – God's Laws & Biological Deformities – (Lev. 18-20; Gen. 1:31)

#### Seven Key Points:

- 1) The First Man: Read Romans 5:12, 1 Cor. 15:45 – According to the I Cor. passage, we see that the first man was Adam. God did not start by making a whole group of men. Since Adam was the head of the human race when he fell, we who are the loins of Adam also fell. Because a man brought sin and death into the world, all of the descendants of Adam need a sinless man to pay for our sin and the resulting judgment of death. The Bible teaches in Rom. 3:23 that "all have sinned." We know that the world needed a solution to the sin problem.
- 2) The Last Adam: The solution is to have someone to deliver us from our wretched state of sin. So, the Son of God took on a human nature in addition to His full divinity becoming the perfect God and man. Jesus Christ (Read: I Cor. 15:21-22) According to this passage, Adam brought sin and death into the world, but through Jesus, we find forgiveness and life. In Hebrews 2:11-18, it says that Jesus took on the nature of man to

save mankind. Because of this, we see that only the descendants of the first man Adam can be saved.

- 3) All Related: Thus, we know that there was only one man – Adam at the beginning who was made from the dust of the earth. (Gen. 2:7) This also means that Cain’s wife had to be a descendant of Adam. She could not have been from a “race” of people.
- 4) The First Woman: Read Genesis 3:20 – In this passage, we see that Adam named his wife Eve. When it says that she was “the mother of all living” it means that she was the first woman. According to Genesis 2:21-24, Eve was made from Adam’s rib or side. Paul even made reference to this unique event in Ephesians 5. Jesus also made reference to this event in Matthew 19:4-6. Due to all these verses, it makes it evident that there was only one woman. There were not any other woman around at that time that were not Eve’s descendants.
- 5) Cain’s brothers and sisters: According to scripture, Cain was the first child of Adam and Eve. (Gen. 4:1) Later Abel was born (Gen. 4:2) and then Seth (Gen. 4:25). Even though these males are mentioned by name, Adam and Eve did have other children. In Gen. 5:4, it says that “Seth had sons and daughters. The Bible does not say specifically how many children were born through Adam and Eve. However, knowing their long-life span, Adam living 930 years (Gen. 5:5) it would seem reasonable to suggest there were many. Remember they were commanded in Gen. 1:28 to be “fruitful and multiply.”
- 6) Cain’s wife: If we now work totally from scripture, without any personal prejudices or other extra biblical ideas, then back at the beginning, when there was only the first-generation brothers, these brothers would have had to marry sisters or there would be no more generations. So, to be perfectly honest, Cain’s wife had to be his sister.
- 7) God’s laws concerning intermarriage: Many people immediately rejected the idea that Adam and Eve’s sons and daughters married each other since it would go against the laws of intermarriage. Today, this would go against God’s commands, but why was it different in the days of Adam and Eve? Let’s look:
  - a) The Law forbidding marriage between close relatives was not given until the time of Moses (Lev. 18-20). These laws were not given to Moses until some 400 years later in the time of Moses. Even Moses in Gen. 20:10-12 married his half-sister and God blessed this union to produce the Hebrew people through Isaac and Jacob.
  - b) Today, brothers and sisters are not permitted to marry due to children being at high risk for physical deformities. There are very sound genetic reasons for such laws. It has been determined that the more closely related people are, the more likely they will have similar mistakes in their genes that would in turn lead to serious defects.

- c) So, knowing this why was inter-marriage allowed in the days of Adam and Eve? Adam and Eve did not have accumulated genetic mistakes. When they were created, they were physically perfect, so their genes were perfect. So, as sin entered the world, the gene pool began to degenerate. Cain was in the first generation of children ever to be born. So, he and his brothers and sisters would have virtually received no imperfect genes from Adam and Eve. In that situation a brother or sister could marry with God's approval without any potential to produce a deformed offspring.
- d) By the time Moses (a few thousand years later) degenerative mistakes began to build up and make it necessary for God to forbid brother and sister from marrying, but then there were thousands upon thousands of people on the earth.
- e) Another thought: So when the flood came and destroyed all except those on the ark, how did the human race come to be? Again, the same way it was in the days of Adam and Eve.

Conclusion: The Bible does not specifically tell us everything. There are some details that the Bible leaves out but it doesn't make the story less true. The Bible does tell us in Gen. 5:4 that Adam lived 800 years and had more sons and daughters. While this does not tell us the chronology of events, it does say that there were more than just four people on the earth. Now that we see that there were more than just Cain and Seth and considering man's life span then was long (averaging 900 years) we see that there were 8 generations living during Adam's lifetime through Seth's lineage. Using this reasoning, the population when Cain took a wife was probably large enough to have several eligible wives. So, Adam and Eve's children most definitely married among each other to start the growth of the population. As we said earlier, considering the purity of the gene pool in the first dozen generations, this was not considered a sin to God at the time.