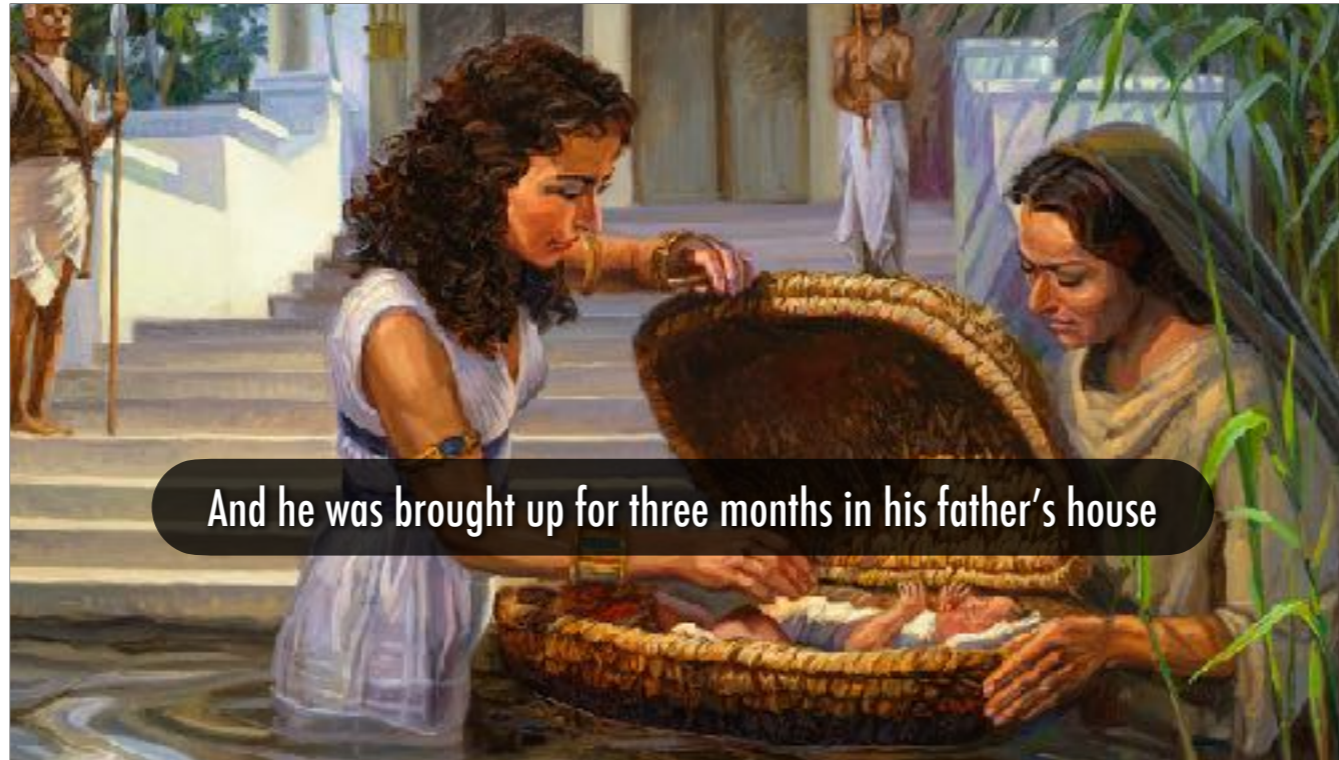
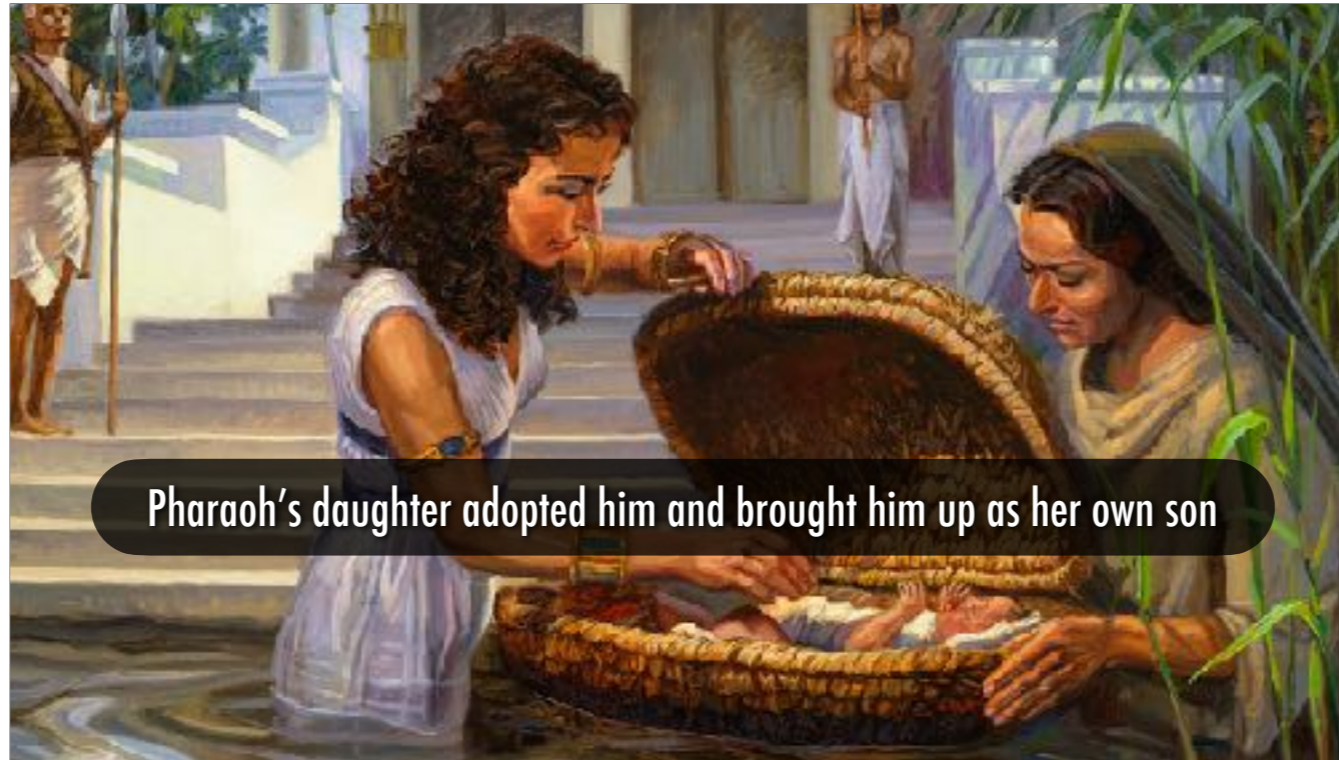




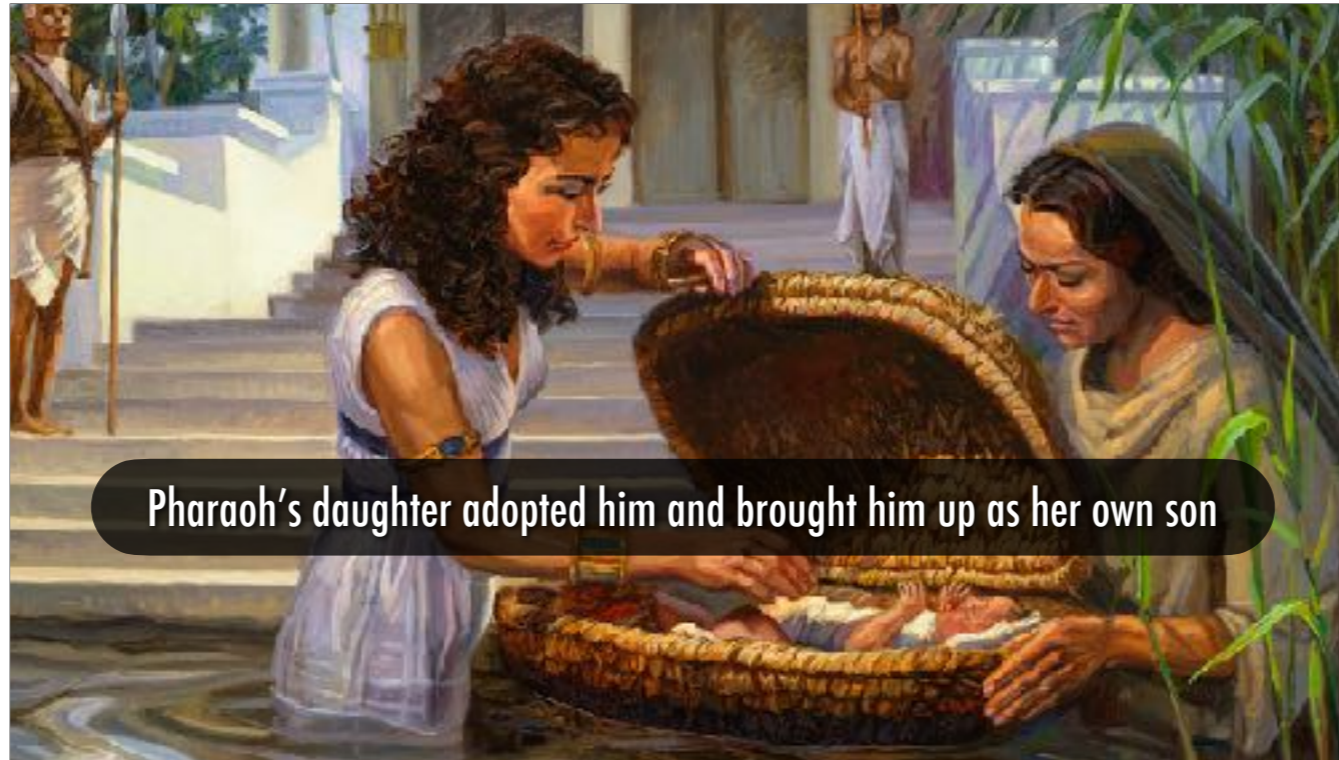
- Hebrews 13: Let brotherly love continue.
- Weirdly for the title, not going to start with Cain and Abel.
- Starting with Moses: Acts 7



- 20 At this time Moses was born; and he was beautiful in God's sight.
- And he was brought up for three months in his father's house,
- 21 and when he was exposed,
- Pharaoh's daughter adopted him
- and brought him up as her own son.
- 22 And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians,
- and he was mighty in his words and deeds.
-



- Exodus 2:8-10 (ESV) So the girl went and called the child's mother. 9 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son.



Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son

- Pharaoh's daughter adopted him
- and brought him up as her own son.
- 22 And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians,
- and he was mighty in his words and deeds.



It came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel

- 23 “When he was forty years old,
- it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel.
  - (CWSB Dictionary) (III) To look after, with the acc., take care of, tend. Frequently used in the Class. Gr. for taking care of or nursing the sick
  - (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (Abridged - Little Kittel)) Even when the meaning is 'to seek out,' as in Acts 7:23, the idea of concern is present.



- Hebrews 11:24-25 (ESV) 24 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.
- Does Moses see himself as being an Israelite?
  - As his brother's keeper?



It came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel

- 24 And seeing one of them being wronged,
- he defended the oppressed man
- and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian.



It came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel

- 25 He supposed that his brothers would understand that God was giving them salvation by his hand, but they did not understand.
- Moses ... great intentions!
  - Why didn't they understand?
  - His upbringing? His role?
  - He didn't communicate clearly?
- Brother's keeper?





It came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel

- 26 And on the following day he appeared to them as they were quarreling
- and tried to reconcile them,
- saying, 'Men, you are brothers. Why do you wrong each other?'



- It's really a family tradition ...
  - How did Esau and Jacob treat each other? Birthright, Blessings, and kill
  - How did Joseph's brother's treat him? hatred, violence, selling into slavery
- We can talk about all the reasons it happened...
  - favoritism of parents
  - rivalries
  - Arrogance and bragging
- But for all those reasons ... was Moses still right?



It came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel

- 27 But the man who was wronging his neighbor thrust him aside, saying,
  - ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?
  - 28 Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’
- How do Moses’ Israelite brothers see him?
  - Not as an Israelite ... but an Egyptian.
  - Not as a brother ... but as a ruler and judge who is over them
  - They didn’t see him as someone who was there to help him
    - but someone who wanted power over them.
  - They didn’t want Moses to be their keeper!

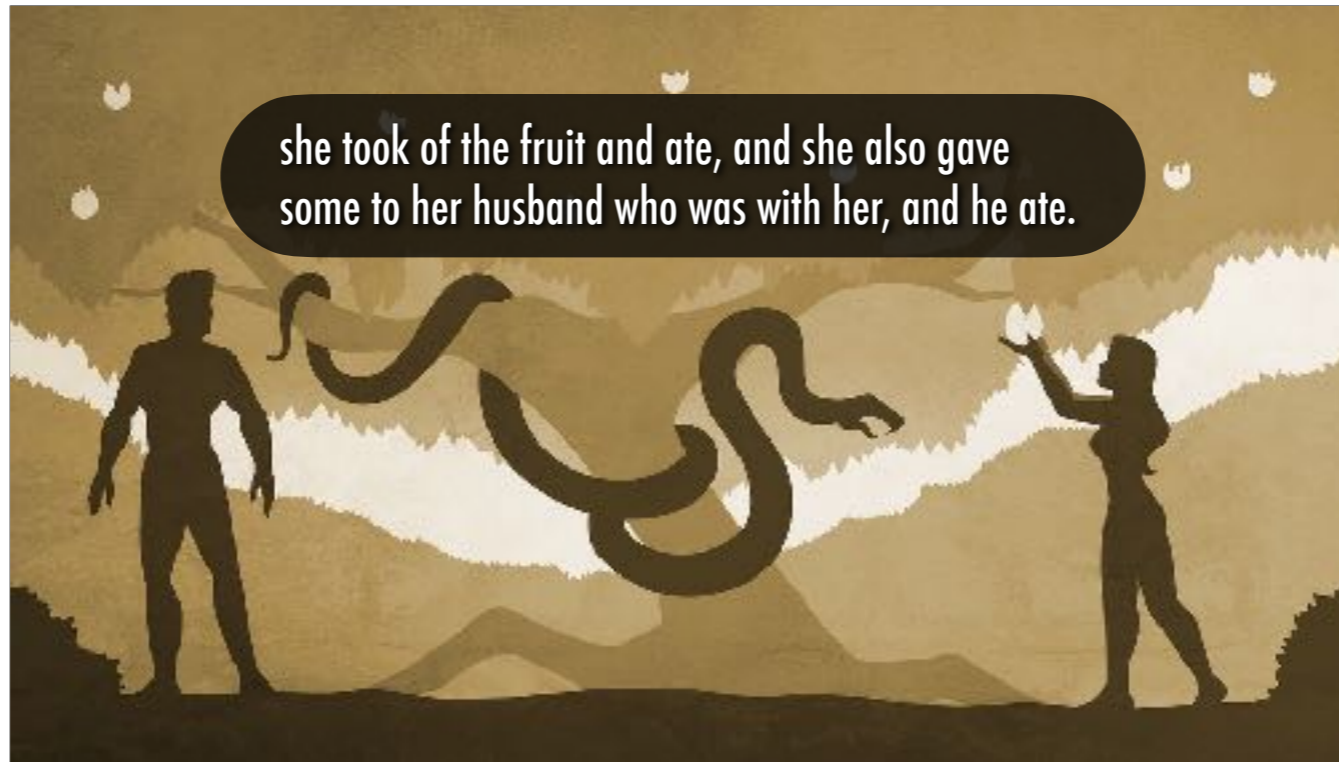


- 29 At this retort Moses fled and became an exile in the land of Midian,
  - where he became the father of two sons.
- Exiled:
  - Hebrews 11:24-25 (ESV) 24 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.
  - He's not an Egyptian: he rejected that.
  - He's not an Israelite: they rejected him.
- He's alone.
  - How can Moses be his brother's keeper?
- Alone is not what we are meant to be.



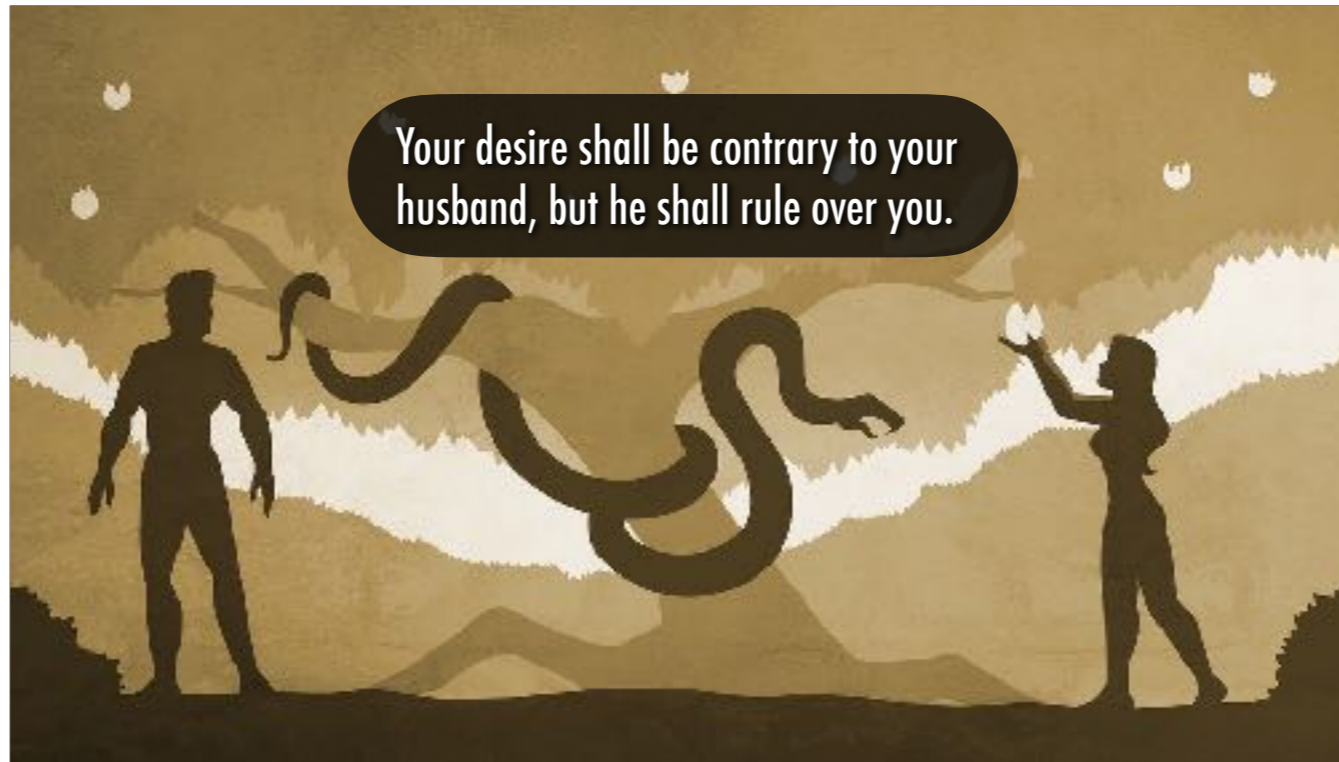
It is not good that the man should be alone

- Genesis 2:18 (ESV) 18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”
- Even being in the garden was not sufficient.
  - No other living being was what man needed.
  - And isolation was a problem.
    - Isolation is a problem ... then and now ... we need others
    - Not just marriage.
- God made Eve for Adam,
  - They have children, sons and daughters (Genesis 5:4), siblings

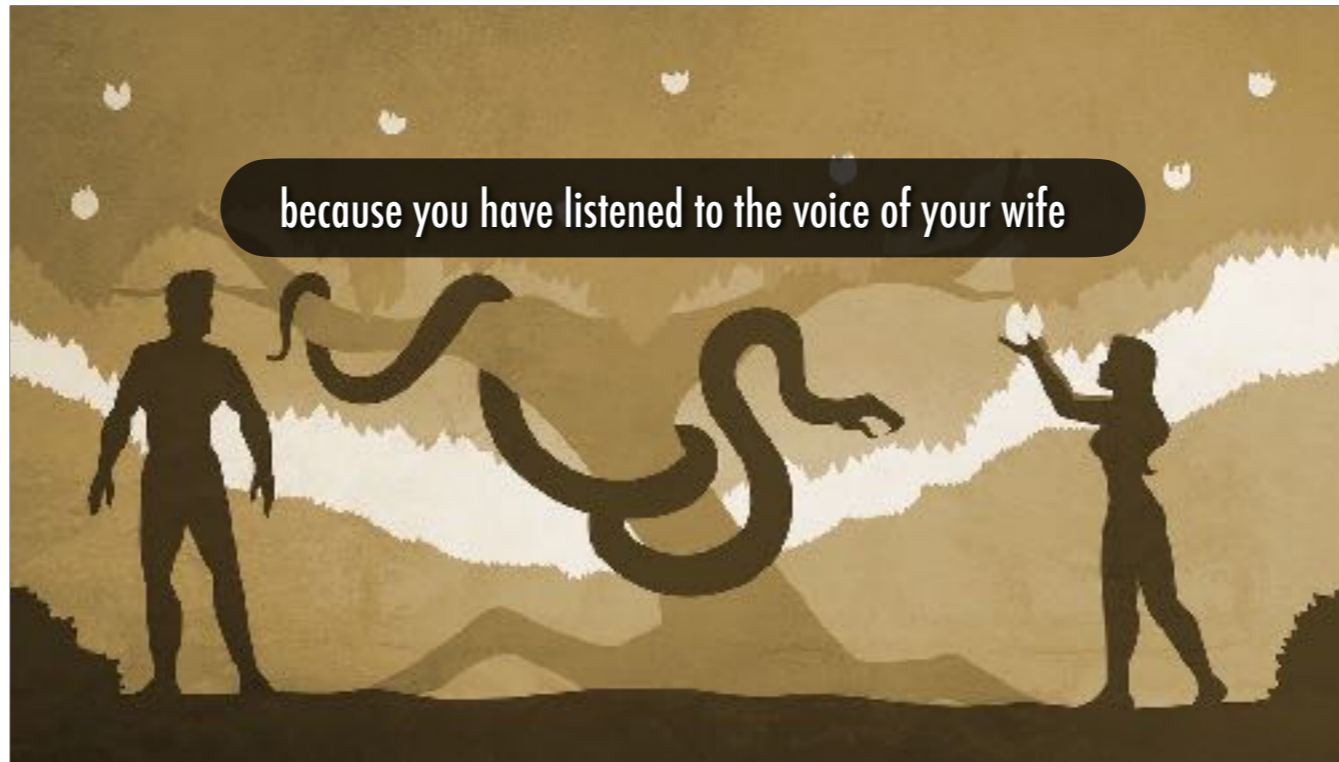


she took of the fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

- But relationships and other people are not easy.
- Genesis 3:6-7 (ESV) 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.



- Genesis 3:16 (ESV) 16 To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”



- 17 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife





- Genesis 4:4-16 (ESV) And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard.
- So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.
  - Who was Cain angry with?
    - God?
    - himself?
    - parents?
    - brother?



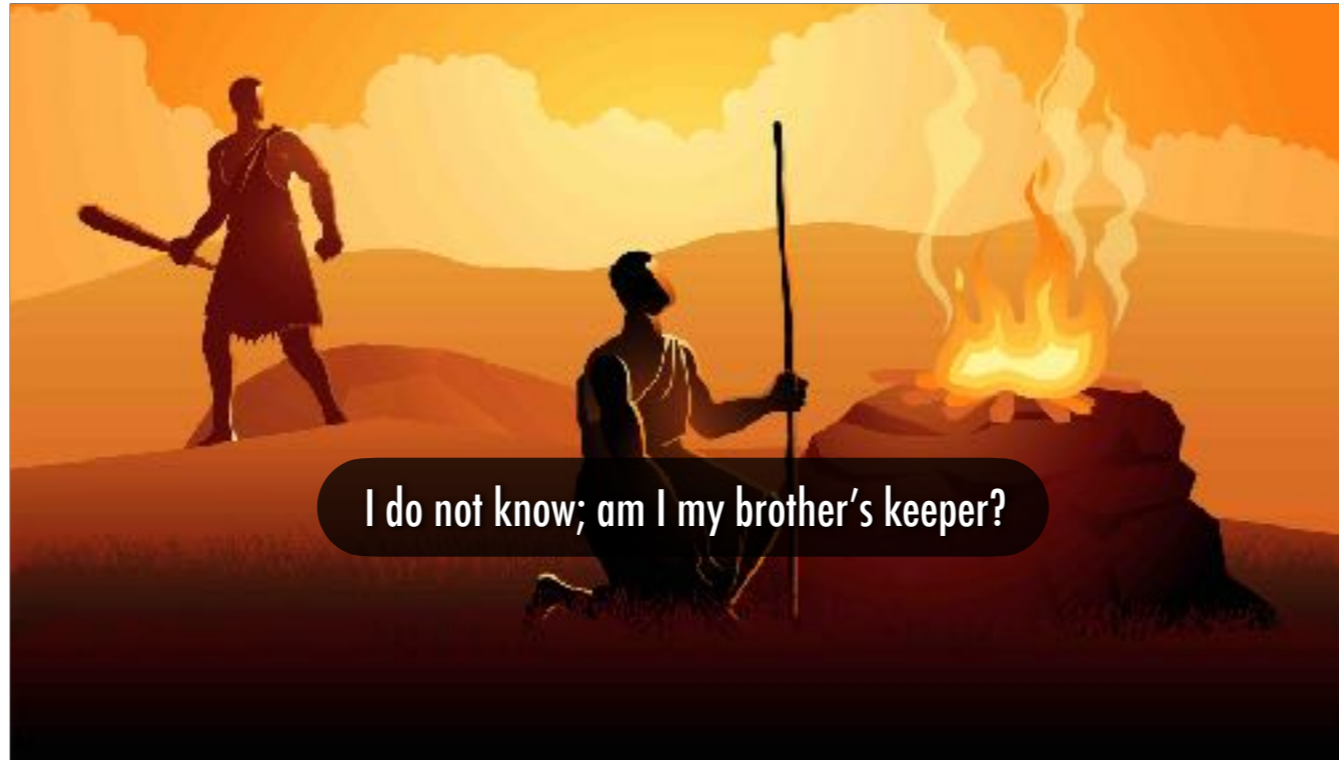
- 6 The LORD said to Cain,
  - “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?
  - 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted?
  - And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door.
  - Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”



- 8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother.
- And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.
- 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"



- He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"
  - (NET Bible Notes - Full Notes) sn Am I my brother's guardian? Cain lies and then responds with a defiant rhetorical question of his own in which he repudiates any responsibility for his brother. But his question is ironic, for he is responsible for his brother's fate, especially if he wanted to kill him. See P. A. Riemann, "Am I My Brother's Keeper?" Int 24 (1970): 482-91.
  - (TWOT) The basic idea of the root is "to exercise great care over."

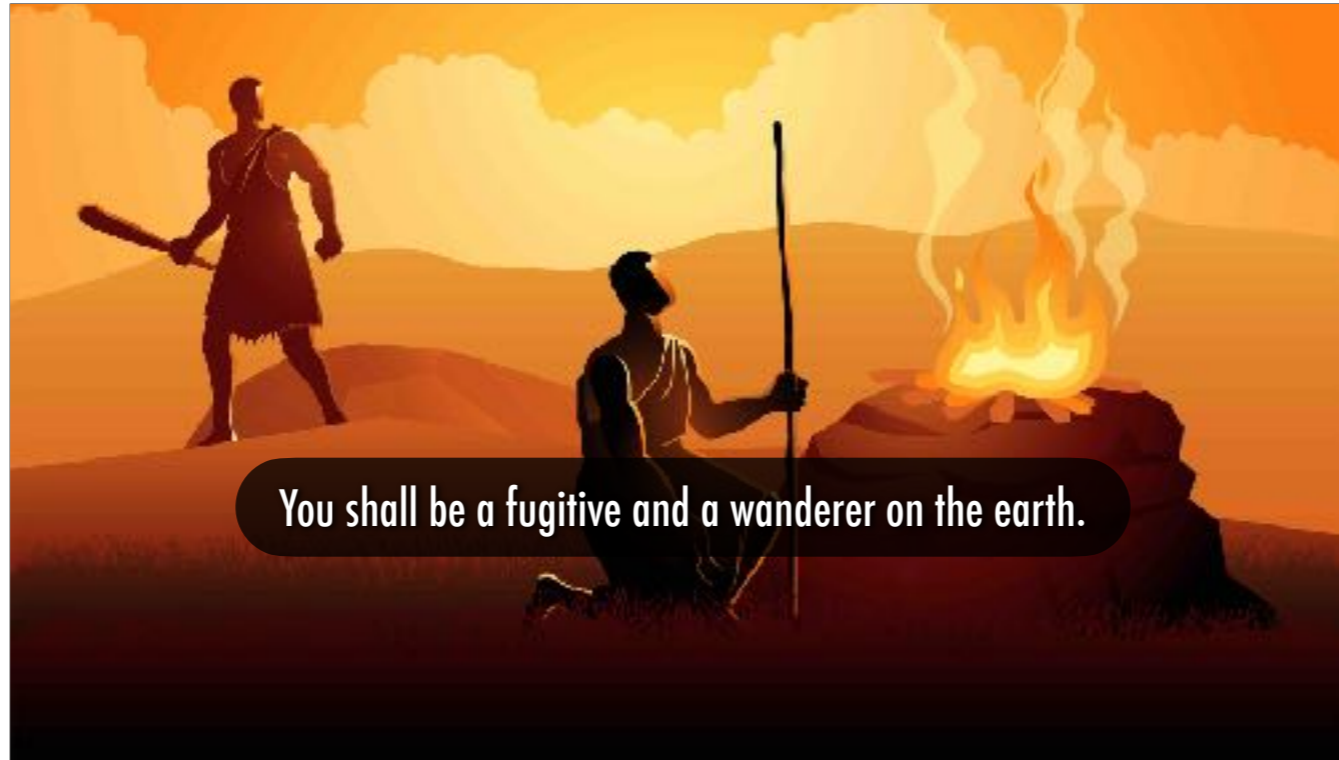


- Am I my brother's keeper?
  - We all know the right answer.
  - But we also know what Cain meant.
    - And maybe we don't talk about it enough. Nor think of it enough.



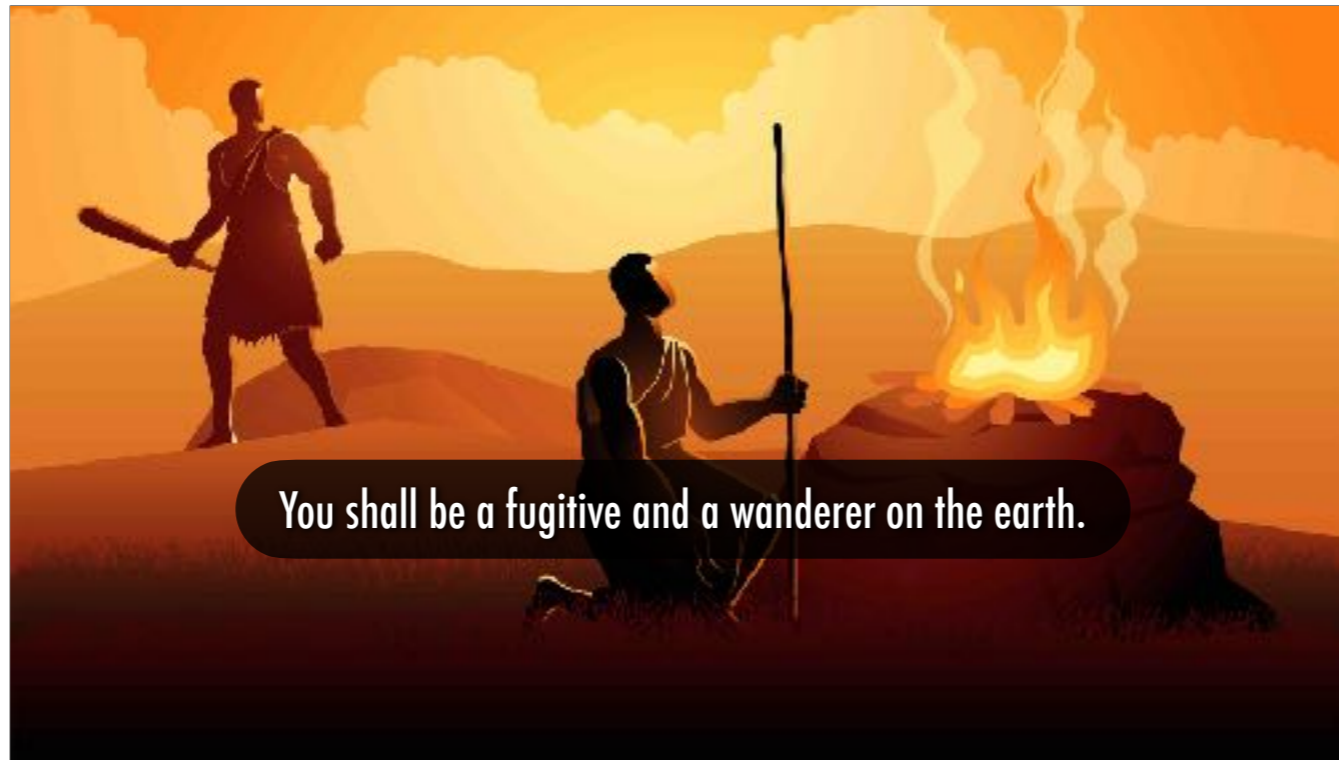
I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?

- Am I my brother's keeper?
  - All too often our answer is no.
  - I don't have responsibility for my brother.
  - We love our independence
    - So we keep our distance from each other.
    - Worship is focused on God.
    - It's easier to assemble but make sure we don't interact with each other.
    - It's easier to not open our hearts to each other. to not share our lives.
    - It's easier if I'm alone?



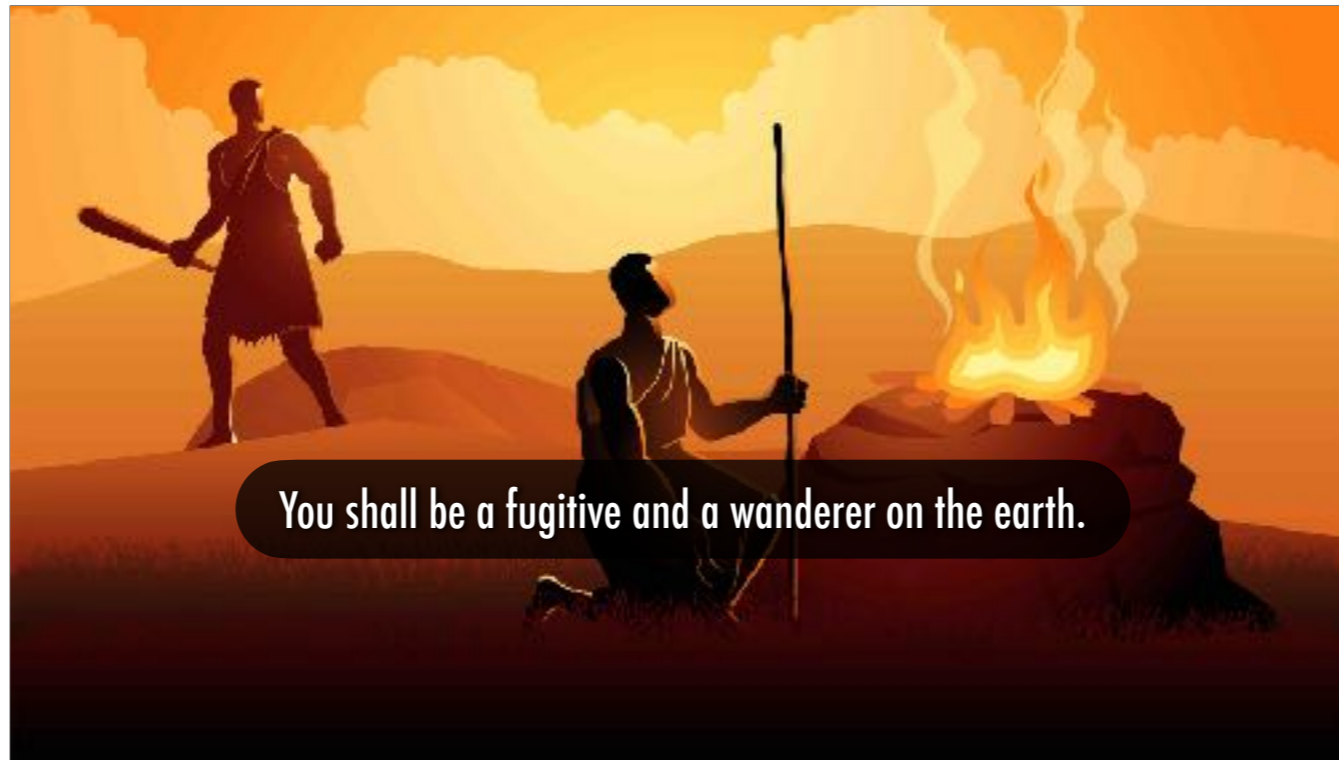
You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.

- 10 And the LORD said, “What have you done?
- The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground.
  - He couldn’t hear his brother’s voice.
  - Tale-tale Heart by Poe?
- 11 And now you are cursed from the ground,
- which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.
- 12 When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength.
- You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”
-

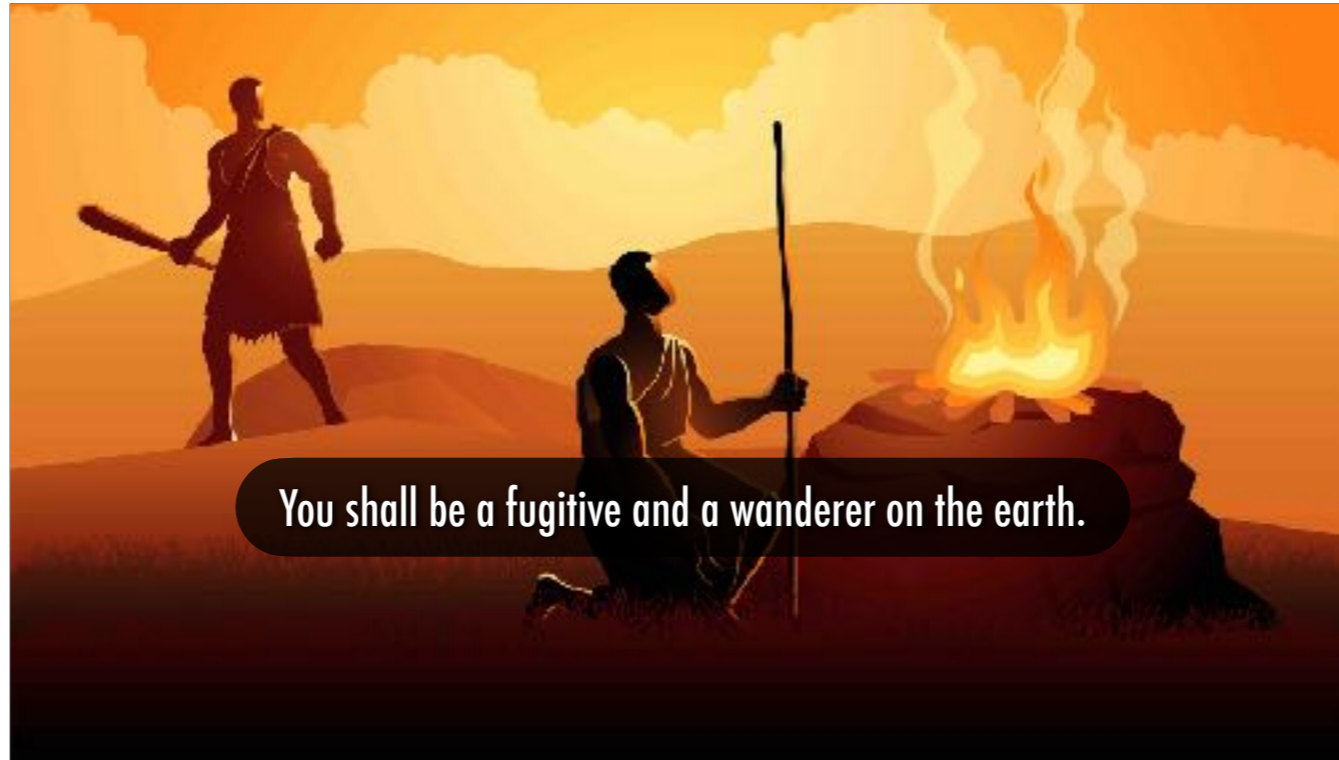


- Fugitive
  - It refers to a displaced person, a wanderer, a vagrant (CWSB)
  - To wander about: homeless vagabond as a person moving about aimlessly without a home (TWOT)
- Wanderer
  - It has the sense of aimless motion or actions: a person moving about aimlessly without a home (CWSB)
  - He is not only driven away from his parents, but was condemned to be an unstable person and a homeless wanderer.
- It's not good for a man to be alone!

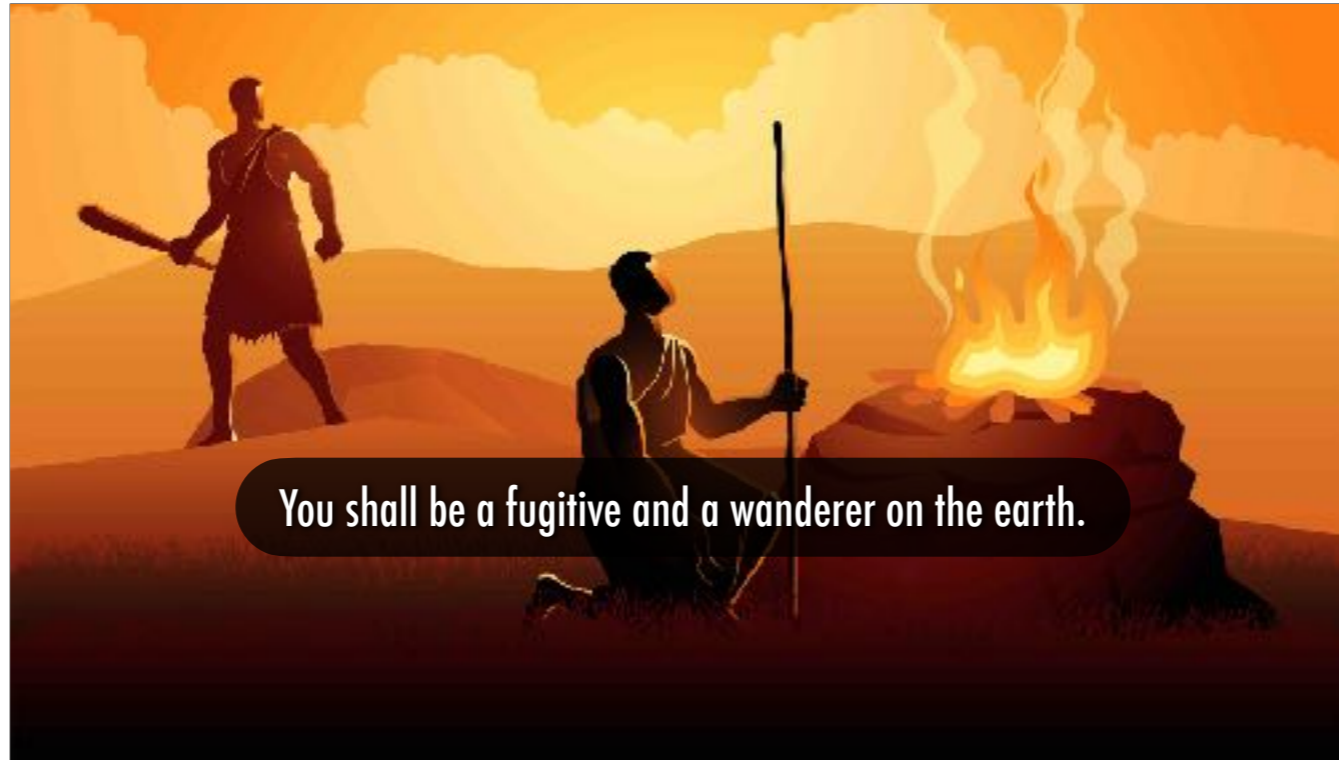




- Cain said to the LORD,
  - “My punishment is greater than I can bear.
    - Why? Alone. Isolation. Separation.
- 14 Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground,
- and from your face I shall be hidden.
- I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth,
- and whoever finds me will kill me.”
- 15 Then the LORD said to him,
- “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.”
- And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.
- 16 Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD
- and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.
-



- 14 Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground,
- and from your face I shall be hidden.
- I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth,
- and whoever finds me will kill me.”



- 15 Then the LORD said to him,
- “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.”
- And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.
- 16 Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD
  - And we can’t get more alone than this.
  - The further we move from one another, the further we move from God, and the more alone we are.
  - And even in a congregation, can we become fugitives and wanderers?
- and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.



- Being brothers is really hard.
  - Sometimes we are selfish. Or not nice. Or angry. Or jealous.
  - Sometimes my brother does wrong things (and those need to be dealt with)
  - Sometimes we don't understand each other.
- It's not good for man to be alone.
  - Put a little love in your heart.
- So Jesus became one of us, so that we could become brothers.
  - And since we are brothers ...
    - let's not give up on each other
    - let's care
    - let's help each other get to heaven
- Hebrews 13: Let brotherly love continue.

We implore you  
on behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

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**Gospel images - Moses**

Exodus 2-34, Numbers 21:4-9, Deuteronomy 34:1-7



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## Am I My Brother's Keeper?

Acts 7:20-29

Synopsis: Moses sought to be with his brothers but they rejected him. And he was exiled. Cain refused to care for his brother, and he was alone. But it's not good for man to be alone. Why do we slip into the thinking of Cain so easily and find ourselves alone? Being brothers is not easy, but let brotherly love continue.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**