

Jason DeMars  
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## Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8

Several years ago, on a quarterly basis, I had written a teaching letter that was translated into Farsi and Urdu. We received many testimonies regarding these articles that were written. Since there are questions to so many subjects and topics as well as a great desire to learn and grow, I have felt the burden and the inspiration to start it up again. Our purpose and desire is to stay with the teachings of brother Branham and show them forth clearly from the Bible. This is my burden and my calling.

The June issue will cover three subjects:

1. Power Through Prayer
2. The Importance of the Vindicated Ministry of Malachi 4 In the Last Days
3. The Original Sin

## Power Through Prayer

Prayer is often something we take for granted. Sadly in our day and age we spend much time on Facebook, our iPhone or android phone and very little time in prayer. We live shabbily, see so little of the power of God in our lives because we pray so little. Notice what King David's approach to God was.

***Psalms 63:1-6 A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee***

with joyful lips: When I remember thee upon my bed, *and* meditate on thee in the *night* watches.

He approached God in prayer early and he did it in such a way because both his soul and his flesh desired God! He explained his longing like that of a man in a desert seeking water. This is not a secondary desire. When you are in the desert and in thirst it is all consuming. You have one purpose in life and that is to get to water so you can survive. So, is the prayer life seeking after God, it should be done with singular purpose, as a dehydrated man in the desert. He desired to see God in his personal life in the same way that he saw God moving in the sanctuary in public. He wanted the shekinah glory to be shown forth in reality in his own personal life. He was going to find his satisfaction in God apart from the church service. He was going to find satisfaction and healing upon his bed and in the middle of the night. Amen! Bone marrow and fat were something that the people of David's day understood brought healing to someone that was under starvation or in the middle of a terrible sickness. It still is today. Bone broth heals your stomach and strengthens your tendons and makes your skin clearer and cleaner. He was seeking healing and strength and health for his countenance from Almighty God and this was coming through his prayer life.

There come a time where the Hebrew children had to make a stand, whether they were going to bow down to a heathen image or whether they were going to keep their faith in the true and living God. The time came when the decision must be made. And they made the right decision and God was with them.

The time came when the prophet Daniel had to make a decision of whether he would fail to pray, he would keep the tradition of the religion of that country, or whether he would go his regular custom, where he had fellowship with God, raise up the windows and pray towards the temple daily. And Daniel had to make his--his decision. And the time finally forced him to a place to where he had to make it.

The Time Is At Hand, April 8, 1956, Brother William Branham

We need to understand that Daniel could have secretly prayed in his room and it would have been hidden from everyone, but he chose to continue his normal practice without fear. Imagine this, you are told, you must not pray any more. They didn't say you must deny your faith, they didn't say you have to worship a false god, they said you cannot pray. Daniel preferred to die before he stopped his daily prayers. How many of us treat our daily prayer so lightly that it doesn't even take a death threat to stop us from praying? We are a little tired so we stop praying. It's a shame!

I want to bring you a quote from EM Bounds, a Methodist minister from the Civil War Era in the United States.

The men who have most fully illustrated Christ in their character, and have most powerfully affected the world for him, have been men who spent so much time with God as to make it a notable feature of their lives. Charles Simeon devoted the hours from four till eight in the morning to God. Mr. Wesley spent two hours daily in prayer. He began at four in the morning. Of him, one who knew him well wrote: "He thought prayer

to be more his business than anything else, and I have seen him come out of his closet with a serenity of face next to shining." John Fletcher stained the walls of his room by the breath of his prayers. Sometimes he would pray all night; always, frequently, and with great earnestness. His whole life was a life of prayer. "I would not rise from my seat," he said, "without lifting my heart to God." His greeting to a friend was always: "Do I meet you praying?" Luther said: "If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning, the devil gets the victory through the day. I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer." He had a motto: "He that has prayed well has studied well."

-E.M. Bounds "Power Through Prayer"

"I ought to pray before seeing any one. Often when I sleep long, or meet with others early, it is eleven or twelve o'clock before I begin secret prayer. This is a wretched system. It is unscriptural. Christ arose before day and went into a solitary place. David says: 'Early will I seek thee'; 'Thou shalt early hear my voice.' Family prayer loses much of its power and sweetness, and I can do no good to those who come to seek from me. The conscience feels guilty, the soul unfed, the lamp not trimmed. Then when in secret prayer the soul is often out of tune, I feel it is far better to begin with God -- to see his face first, to get my soul near him before it is near another." - *Robert Murray McCheyne*

Now, come in. And you Christians, don't stay in that lukewarm condition any more. Lay aside everything. Just get as close to God as you can. Walk with Him, talk with Him. Let everything else be secondary but your prayer life. Stay right with Him all the time.

50-0814 - "Testimony"

Rev. William Marrion Branham

I challenge each of you to rededicate your hearts to God...become men and women of prayer. Don't allow life to steal away this opportunity to draw near to God and to make an eternal impact on the world through prayer.

To pray is the greatest thing we can do: and to do it well there must be calmness, time and deliberation; otherwise it is degraded into the littlest and meanest of things. True praying has the largest results for good; and poor praying the least. We cannot do too much of real praying; we cannot do too little of the sham. We must learn anew the wondrous art, we must not give a fragment here and there--"A little talk with Jesus," as the tiny saintlets sing--but we must demand and hold with iron grasp the best hours of the day for God and prayer, or there will be no praying worth the name.

Power through Prayer, EM Bounds

The greatest weapon we have in our arsenal is prayer. We can either use it for the glory of God or we can dishonor God and show our lack of desire for Him by dismissing it. God help us and deliver us from the wickedness of our hearts which turn and run from prayer. The devil will put everything in our way to keep us from praying.

More time and early hours for prayer would act like magic to revive and invigorate many a decayed spiritual life. More time and early hours for prayer would be manifest in holy living. A holy life would not be so rare or so difficult a thing if our devotions were not so short and hurried. A Christly temper in its sweet and passionless fragrance would not be so alien and hopeless a heritage if our closet stay were lengthened and intensified. We live shabbily because we pray meanly.  
Power through Prayer, EM Bounds

## The Importance of the Vindicated Ministry of Malachi 4 In the Last Days

**Malachi 4:5-6** Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: **6** And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

There are many end-time promises to the people of God. This is one of them. The Jews of Jesus' time emphasized this and even used it as a proof against the Messianic ministry of the Lord Jesus.

**Matthew 17:10-12** And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? **11** And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. **12** But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.

Jesus tells his disciples Elijah WILL come, future tense and then says, he has come. So, Elijah already came in the form of John the Baptist and yet, since there are two comings of Christ, there are two comings of Elijah.

Malachi 4:6 tells us that Elijah will do two things;  
1. turn the hearts of the fathers to the children  
2. turn the hearts of the children to their fathers

As we established there are two comings of Christ, therefore, there are two comings of Elijah. So, we see the two-fold work of the spirit of Elijah. Notice, what the angel of the Lord says to Zacharias,

**Luke 1:17** And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to ***turn the hearts of the fathers to the children***, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Malachi 4:5-6 shows that Elijah will do two things, but here the angel of the Lord quotes just one of them. John the Baptist turned the hearts of the fathers to the children. Thus, we understand at the end time there will come a man in the spirit of Elijah to turn the hearts of the children to their fathers.

So, what did John the Baptist do to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children? He simply turned the people from following the Law of Moses to following the grace and truth that came through Jesus Christ. He introduced the people to the coming Messiah.

**Malachi 4:5** Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Here we see that Elijah is in fact sent BEFORE the great and dreadful day of the Lord. But, what is the great and dreadful day of the Lord. Brother Branham and the Scriptures answer this clearly for us.

The Lord's Day is when the days of man are over. The kingdoms of this world will then become the kingdoms of our God. The day of the Lord is when the judgments fall, and after that comes the millennium.<sup>1</sup>

**2 Peter 3:12** Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? So, we see the day of God is when the fire will fall from heaven, as it did in Sodom and burn up the earth and the works thereof. In fact, in Malachi 4:1 it speaks of this burning.

**Malachi 4:1** For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. Just at the end of the tribulation period and just before the millennium there is a time called the day of the Lord and in it the fire burns up the wicked. Remember, God always gives a warning and mercy before judgment. Therefore he sends Elijah to bring grace to the world.

Many state that this is right, but you are bringing out this Scripture that is only applicable to Jews, not to Gentiles. I want to show according to the Scriptures that Malachi 4:5-6 is for Gentiles also.

Let's compare the coming of the two witnesses in Revelation 11, one of whom is Elijah, to this Elijah of Malachi 4.

I want to emphasize what it says in verse 6 "LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE." Lest in Hebrew means a removal and in this sense, in order to prevent. Therefore, the Elijah of Malachi 4 is coming to prevent God's judgement.

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<sup>1</sup> An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - Chapter Two - The Patmos Vision, Rev. William Marrion Branham

Notice the Elijah in Revelation 11.

“These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to SMITE THE EARTH with all plagues, as often as they will.” (Revelation 11:6)

So the Elijah of Malachi 4 is coming to prevent the earth from being SMITTEN WITH A CURSE. The Elijah of Revelation 11 is SMITING THE EARTH.

1. Malachi 4 “LEST I SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE.” – Grace Age
2. Revelation 11 “THESE HAVE POWER TO...SMITE THE EARTH.” -Tribulation Period

Therefore, the Elijah of Malachi 4 must come during the age of grace. The reason for that is that he is sent to prevent judgment, or give a way of escape from the judgement spoken of in Malachi 4:1 wherein the earth will be burnt. Elijah comes with a message to repent and return to God. This is God’s grace and compassion.

**2 Chronicles 36:15-16** And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: **16** But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till *there was no remedy.*

Throughout the ages God sends his messengers in order to bring the people to repentance, this is his compassion for us, but if this mercy is rejected then only judgment can come.

Malachi 4 is to bring the compassion of God to the world, calling it to repent and it is fulfilled before the two witnesses appear on the scene in Revelation 11 during the tribulation period. The tribulation period is when God turns from dealing with the Gentiles to dealing with the Jews only.

So he knew that it would take more than just a ordinary theology, it would take more than—than any ordinary message, it would take more than just preaching the Word, to crack their stony hearts. He knowed it took THUS SAITH THE LORD to send that judgment down upon that people, so he knowed that when he went out with THUS SAITH THE LORD. And it was THUS SAITH THE LORD. To spurn That, was judgment. We see that in our day, too. We see that in any day. There's nothing left but judgment when you step over the line of mercy.<sup>2</sup>

Let’s break it all down then. Brother Branham’s ministry was so thoroughly vindicated by signs and wonders, fulfilled prophecy that one would have to be willfully blind to walk away from it. But, this is the normal condition of the mainstream, orthodox group, that is in power in the Christian or Jewish world. They have always rejected those that were

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<sup>2</sup> 65-0718E - Spiritual Food In Due Season, Rev. William Marrion Branham

sent to it. Did the religious group in Jerusalem accept Jeremiah, Isaiah, John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul, Peter, or James? They were always rejected throughout the ages. These men of God were a rebuke to those organizations and they were also considered false teachers who took the people away from the truth. So, when God sends the spirit of Elijah in the last days, it will have to be the exact same way. He will have to be a rebuke to the mainstream Christian world and it will have to be rejected and considered a fanaticism by the mainstream Christian world. It was about 120 people that followed Jesus and his disciples to the upper room out of hundreds of thousands of Jews. It is always the minority of people.

The incredible omniscience that was seen in brother Branham's life was such a vindication of his ministry. He would know your very thoughts from days, weeks or years ago. He could even tell you what you were praying about in your room and give you the answer. This was not him, it was and is not about the man William Branham. He always pointed to Christ and told us to life for and follow Jesus Christ. He foretold seven things in 1933 and six of them have come to pass already. He foretold happenings in people's lives and there are thousands of witnesses to his ministry. In many cases like Joseph Smith of the Mormons and Mohammed of Islam, they claim to have met an angel, but no signs follow or vindicate this is true. But in the case of the ministry of a prophet, the public should witness the power of his ministry and the public should be able to testify to it. This was the case for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, he was seen as killed by the public and the public witnessed his resurrection and the public testified of his ministry. The same is the case for brother Branham. But the purpose is not to start some new religion or to follow brother Branham. It is to follow Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever and to come back to the original truth of the Bible.

We find out, in Malachi 4, that He promised us a Message in the last days, that would "restore the Faith of the people back to the fathers again."<sup>3</sup>

Now, it won't be nothing outside the Word, because you can't add to the Word or take from the Word. It's got to remain always the Word. But the revelation is to reveal the Truth of It, what It is, to make It fit with the rest the Scripture.<sup>4</sup>

It is not a revelation outside of the Scripture, but it is the revealing of the Scriptures in such a way to bring us back to the true understanding of what it has been all along. This is the message of God's mercy to the end time in order to make us ready for the coming of the Lord.

Now, when we embrace this vindicated ministry, we cannot merely use it to establish our own interpretation. Rather, we submit to its revelation. As a man, brother Branham made mistakes. He talks about them all the time. He was a sinner just like you and I. But God used him to bring a revelation to the church. He may have used poor grammar and he may have made errors in his relating of various stories, but even these things

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<sup>3</sup> 64-0206E - God's Provided Way For This Day, Rev. William Marrion Branham

<sup>4</sup> 65-1204 - The Rapture, Rev. William Marrion Branham

were ordained of God in order to sift the wheat from the tares. The elect can see the revelation contained in the words of the prophet, take it back to the Bible and watch the TRUTH live out through them. When brother Branham teaches a certain doctrine then as believers we submit to that. Just as Paul taught the Corinthians.

**1 Corinthians 14:37** If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. How would God let me tell something wrong, and stand up with my very message. These things are only to indicate a Divine vindication that my theology is right. That's exactly right. The Word of the Lord came to the prophets.<sup>5</sup>

## The Original Sin

Was the original sin literally eating fruit from a tree? Did you ever wonder why the woman's punishment for eating a literal fruit was to have increased pain in childbirth? Why does the Bible say there will be enmity between the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman? Is it possible that the record of the Original Sin is a word picture? This booklet will examine the biblical evidence to reveal the truth.

The Bible holds many truths hidden to the eyes of the wise and prudent and revealed to babes. For those who are walking in the Spirit, as little children, the Scripture says, "It is given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom..." Matthew 13:11. The truth on the Original Sin is a very simple teaching, but the truth of the Original Sin will cause the Bible to open up to you in a whole new way as it did for me.

Though the majority of Scripture, especially the book of Genesis, is to be taken literally and believed just as it is written; there are certain phrases in scripture that require other passages of scripture to reveal their hidden meanings. Finding these key phrases can help us understand the doctrine of original sin more clearly.

The commonly believed interpretation of the original sin is that Eve and Adam were eating actual fruit from a fruit tree called the tree of knowledge. But based upon the context of Genesis and what is written throughout the Bible, the original sin was a sexual relationship between Eve and the Serpent resulting in the birth of Cain. Reading this may be a surprise to you, but let's look at some of the key phrases in scriptures, the historical teaching of Judaism and the Church, and the judgments the Lord placed on Man to demonstrate that they point to this interpretation of Original Sin. Please read to the end of this booklet to understand the full context of what is being taught.

### The Scriptural Keys to the Truth

Think about these hidden keys that provide context for the Fall.

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<sup>5</sup> 60-0609 - Be Not Afraid, Rev. William Marrion Branham



1. Genesis 3:15 The serpent is said to have a seed. Who was that seed?
2. Genesis 3:7 Instead of covering their mouth they covered their nakedness. Why cover their nakedness if they ate actual fruit? They covered the part of the body that they sinned with.
3. Proverbs 30:20 and Song of Solomon 4:16 speak of the sexual relationship as “eating.”
4. Genesis 4:8 There was enmity between Cain, the serpent’s seed, and Abel, the woman’s seed.
5. Genesis 3:20 Why is Eve called the mother of all living and Adam is not called the father of all living?
6. Genesis 5:1-3 Why is Cain never mentioned in Adam’s genealogy? Yet Genesis keeps the line of Cain distinct from that of Adam.
7. Genesis 5:3 Why does Adam state that Seth and Abel are in his own image, but never Cain?
8. Genesis 3:16 Why is part of the curse having to do with conception and labor if the sin was eating food? Could it be that pain in childbearing indicates a punishment commensurate with its crime?
9. 1 John 3:12 states that Cain was “of” the wicked one in the same way that a genealogy would be listed. [in Luke 3:23–38 in the original Greek there is no “son” listed. It simply says of Heli of Matthe of Levi, etc..]
10. Paul speaks of the original sin in 2 Corinthians 11:1-3 and compares it to an engaged woman betraying her fiance by having a relationship with another man.
11. Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43 states that the tares that were sown in the field, which is the world, are the children of the wicked one.
12. John 8:31-47 When Jesus says that the Pharisees’ “father” was the devil; why was their response we are not been born of fornication?
13. Genesis 3:1-5. When the Serpent spoke to Eve she was not surprised because it was normal for her. The Serpent was not a snake or a reptile. The name Serpent signifies he is wise and deceptive. He spoke and walked upright.
14. A woman can conceive from two different men on the same day. It is called heteropaternal superfecundation.
15. In Genesis 3:15 the woman’s conceptions were multiplied. If she had not conceived yet (by the Serpent and Adam) then there would be nothing to multiply.
16. Disclaimer: this doctrine is not a basis for racial discrimination. All the human race came from Noah and his wife. There is no separate genetic race directly tied to the Serpent.

### **Historical Doctrine?**

So, the question that usually comes up is this: Is this view of the original sin new or has it been believed in the past?

Amazingly, many Pre-Christian Jewish scholars have espoused the view point of the Serpent having a Seed via adultery with the woman. In Wikipedia we read this:

In Jewish tradition, Philo, Pirke De-Rabbi Eliezer and the Targum Pseudo-Jonathan asserted that Adam was not the father of Cain. Rather, Eve was subject to adultery

having been seduced by either Sammael,[35][36] the Serpent[37] (nahash, Hebrew: ???) in the Garden of Eden,[38] or the Devil himself.[3] Christian exegesis of the “evil one” in 1 John 3:10-12 have also led some commentators, like Tertullian, to agree that Cain was the son of the Devil[39]..

This is the translation of the Targum of Jerusalem which is essentially an ancient Hebrew “Living Translation” or similar to “The Message” translation. The Targum looks to the meaning behind the Scripture instead of just looking to the literal words. While we do not endorse this method of translation, the Targum is useful in understanding Jewish interpretation of Scripture. Regarding Original Sin they say,

“And Adam knew Hava his wife, who had desired the Angel; and she conceived, and bare Kain; and she said, I have acquired a man, the Angel of the Lord. And she added to bear from her husband Adam his twin, even Habel.”

The Angel they speak of is not THE Angel of the Lord as in the personal presence of God himself, rather the fallen Angel of the Lord, Lucifer or Satan. Satan entered the form of the Serpent which was an upright animal that could speak and communicate with Adam and Eve in order to deceive and inject himself into the human race.

And now what about the early church, outside of the inspired epistles of Paul and John that are mentioned?

The early church father, Tertullian, stated in the 3rd Century, “Having been made pregnant by the devil...she brought forth a son.” – From Patience 5:15.

### **What About Genesis 4:1?**

So let’s examine one of the main objections to this teaching. In Genesis 4:1 it reads, “And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.”

In order to explain how this verse relates to serpent’s seed we need to understand Hebrew verb tenses. To do that I will reference Learn Hebrew Verbs ~ Lesson 3 Verb Tenses by Jeff A. Benner, “Each Hebrew verb also identifies the tense of the verb. In English a verb can have three tenses – past, present or future. Examples of these would be “You cut a tree” (past), “You are cutting a tree” (present) and “You will cut a tree” (future). Biblical Hebrew only has two tenses – perfect and imperfect. While the three verb tenses in English are related to time, Biblical Hebrew verb tenses are related to action. The perfect tense is a completed action while the imperfect tense is an incomplete action.”

With this understanding I want to examine Genesis 4:1 more closely. To do that I want to observe what biblical commentator John Gill states, “And Adam knew Eve his wife, ....Jarchi interprets it, “had known”, even before he sinned, and was drove out of the garden; and so other Jewish writers...” The act of knowing his wife had taken place in

the past tense. We will examine that more closely. Let's look at a mechanical translation of the Hebrew, that does not take into consideration readability in English.

-and~ the~ Human he~ had~ Know At "Hhawah [Living]" Woman~ him and~she~ will~ Conceive and~ she~ will~Bring.forth At "Qayin [Acquired]" and~ she~ will~ Say i~ did~ Purchase Man At "YHWH [He exists]" -Genesis 4:1 [emphasis mine]

The perfect tense in Genesis 4:1 does not directly connect Cain to the serpent, but as a result of the perfect verb tense for "knew" (had known) it distances the act of Adam from the conception of Cain.

Since the Hebrew does not have punctuation, two thoughts are often separated by verb tenses. So this could be understood as saying "Adam had known his wife Eve. She conceived and bore a son..." So the action of knowing his wife is distinct from her action of conceiving Cain. Since they sinned in the garden they indeed had "known" each other in the garden after the act between Eve and the Serpent. To further bolster this understanding let's review Genesis 4:17 and 25.

And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch. (Genesis 4:17)

And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. (Genesis 4:25)

These are two verses that have the same pattern as Genesis 4:1, but let's examine them in the Hebrew mechanical translation.

and~ he~ will~ Know "Qayin [Acquired]" At Woman~ him and~ she~ will~Conceive and~she~ will~ Bring.forth At "Hhanokh [Dedicated]" and~ he~ will~Exist Build~ ing(ms) City and~ he~will~ Call.out Title the~ City like~ Title Son~ him "Hhanokh [Dedicated]" Genesis 4:17

and~ he~ will~ Know Human Yet.again At Woman~ him and~ she~ will~Bring.forth Son and~ she~ will~ Call.out At Title~ him "Shet [Buttocks]" Given.that he~ did~ Set.down to~me "Elohiym [Powers]" Seed Other Under "Hevel [Empty]" Given.that he~ did~ Kill~ him "Qayin [Acquired]" Genesis 4:25

Both words are in the imperfect tense and are therefore connecting the two actions together. Cain knowing his wife is connected directly to the conception of his son. Adam knowing his wife again is directly connected to the conception of his son as well.

To repeat, in Hebrew there are no punctuation marks, so two different actions are separated by two different verb tenses. Genesis 4:1 has two different verb tenses and therefore the action of Adam knowing Eve is separated from the action of Eve conceiving Cain. Though it does not directly connect that act of conceiving Cain to the

Serpent, the verb tenses distance the act of Adam and the conception of Cain. Adam is not connected to the conception of Cain. This bears record with the remaining context of the Bible that we have previously examined.

Therefore, the objection that Genesis 4:1 is an open and shut case disproving that Cain is the serpent's seed has been disproven. The comparison of Genesis 4:1 with Genesis 4:17 and 25 reveals that something distinct took place in Genesis 4:1. There is not a direct connection in the verb tenses to the two acts. They are two distinct actions, separated by two distinct verb tenses.

### **The Woman's Punishment**

If you examine the punishment that Eve received in Genesis 3:16 you see within it the conception and birth process.

To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." - Genesis 3:16

If the original sin was literally eating fruit from a forbidden tree why did God punish the woman with increased pain in childbirth? Secondly, why is the desire for her husband included as a punishment unless she sinned by desiring another? A concept in the Old Testament is that the punishment should be commensurate with its crime (Exodus 21:22-25). Since Eve sinned by allowing her body to be used by the Serpent to produce an offspring, God punished her with increased pain in conception and childbearing. Again, if conception had not yet taken place why was her pain in childbearing to be increased?

### **The Serpent's Punishment**

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Genesis 3:14-15

I will allow renowned Bible scholar Adam Clarke to explain the first part of the curse:

"The nachash [Serpent], whom I suppose to have been at the head of all the inferior animals, and in a sort of society and intimacy with man, is to be greatly degraded, entirely banished from human society, and deprived of the gift of speech. 'Cursed art thou above all cattle, and above every beast of the field – thou shalt be considered the most contemptible of animals; upon thy belly shalt thou go – thou shalt no longer walk erect...'"

This curse is two-fold, one upon the literal physical serpent, and two upon Satan who used the serpent as his instrument. There was enmity placed between the woman and the serpent and then between their offspring. This, of course, has an immediate impact

but also a prophetic impact. Immediately we find the offspring of the woman (through Adam her rightful husband) and the serpent manifesting enmity with the murder of Abel by Cain, and ultimately the enmity finds its fulfillment in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The hidden keys in the biblical context, the historical Jewish interpretation, the tenses of the verbs in Genesis 4:1, and the judgments leveled on the first family, all point to the same conclusion, that eating from the tree of knowledge was a metaphor. This is not a coincidence, but it is a revelation of what eating from the tree of knowledge actually was. The Serpent, under the influence of Satan, deceived Eve into a sexual act resulting in the conception of Cain and later that day she had a relationship with Adam resulting in the conception of Abel.

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Present Truth Ministries  
PO Box 34  
Hopkins, MN 55343