

Genesis Issues

“Where Did Cain Get His Wife From?”

This question arises from the fact that Adam and Eve were the first people, created by God, and that their sons were Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-2). Yet later on in the same chapter it says, “*And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch...*” (Genesis 4:17). So, where did his wife come from? Well, further on in Genesis we read that Adam had another son called Seth, and even more children after that! It says, “*After he begot Seth...he had sons AND DAUGHTERS.*” (5:4). So that’s where Cain’s wife came from – one of his sisters. The Jewish historian *Josephus* reckoned that Adam had many more children, although the Bible itself doesn’t say an exact number.



“But that would be incest!” you say. Yes, *today* that would certainly be wrong. But back then there were no other humans, and God had not yet commanded against it, as He did when the human-race had grown sufficiently (Leviticus 18:6,9). So, it wasn’t wrong for Cain to marry his sister *back then*. As **Romans 4:15** says, “*for where there is no law there is no transgression.*” Now, someone might say, “What about defects arising from such marriages?” Remember that Cain was the first son ever born and there were no mutant genes that early on, as there are now. So, these early marriages were safe before the effects of Adam’s sin (Gen.3) became more fully developed. So, that’s where Cain got his wife from: he married his