

# **AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.**

## **Intergenerational Women's Ministry**

St. Matthew AME Church  
Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor|Teacher  
23 September 2023

This month provides an overview of how her

**S**piritual Gifts

**P**ersonality (Presence/Perspective)

**E**xperiences (Positions/Protection)

**C**ares/Passions

**I**nterest

**A**bilities

**L**ife Talents

contributes to her special God-given purpose; equipping her to **minister to all God's children.**

*Figure out what you need to do to be the heroine of your own story."*

**-Ava DuVernay**



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**All Women of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer**

### **An Unnamed Woman of the Bible – Cain's Wife**

Genesis 4:17

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## **AWARENESS**

*Cain lay with his wife and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch.*

Genesis 4:17 (NIV)

### **Name Meaning**

- The wife of Cain is not mentioned in the Bible. It is believed she was either sister or aunt.
- She is mentioned because she was the first wife in the fallen world, our of Eden, outside the Lord presence because of her husband's murder of his brother, and into the land of Nod.
- Side bar, in *The Book of Jubilees, which is not canonized (sanctioned by the authority of the Catholic church) and therefore not one of the books of the Bible*, we learn that Cain's wife's name was **Awan** (alternatively **Avan** or **Aven**).

### **Family Connection**

- Cain was the first child conceived by Adam and Eve through sexual intercourse. Abel was the second and after his murder by Cain, Seth was born when Adam was 130 years old (Genesis 5:3) who saw him as a favor from God (Genesis 4:25).
- One writer suggest that the reason Cain killed Abel was over a woman, Awan, who was to wed Abel but Cain fell in love with her and wanted her for himself. Because there were no other humans on earth apart from the decedents of Adam and Eve, so it wasn't unlikely for one to become attracted to one of ones sisters.
- Consider that God eventually gave Cain protection from enemies and adversaries, after cursing the productivity of the soil with which he worked (Genesis 4:11-12). According to John MacArthur, "to a farmer like Cain, this curse was severe, and meant that Cain would all his life be a wanderer, a fugitive, and vagabond." Not to mention is wife.

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- In the case of Cain and his wife/sister there was incest, however, they were the children of Adam and Eve—who were perfect creations of God and could not have had such a thing as a genetic disorder. Cain and his wife's relationship was a marriage between brother and sister at the first generation level of humans, and, therefore, it was without any genetic danger.<sup>1</sup> Their intermarriage was also before the Mosaic Laws.

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### **Her Significance**

- She became the wife of the first murder in the history of man.
- She knew God placed a curse on Cain.
- She knew marrying Cain meant living a nomadic life of a fugitive hated by others.
- She married him anyway accompanying, accepting his banishment by God and chose to go with him basically in exile, to Nod which was east of Eden, living a nomadic life.
- The curse and protection God placed on Cain was also a burden she had to share.

### **Her Character**

- Character is generally defined as the “mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual... the way someone thinks, feels, and behaves; someone's personality.”
- General assumptions based on what little we know about Cain's wife, Awan, the daughter and daughter in law of Adam and Eve was loyal and dedicated to her husband,
- Josephus writes in the *Antiquities of the Jews* that, instead of accepting his punishment, repenting of his sin, or seeking to reunite with his God and family, Cain moved further away to “increase his wickedness” and “augment his household substance with much wealth, by rapine and violence.”<sup>2</sup> As God had warned Cain, if he could not master and overcome his sinful desires, they would become his master. Question: In a marriage, is God only speaking to one and not the other spouse? Has your partner/spouse ever done anything that had you just shaking your head?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/who-was-cains-wife.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/what-do-we-know-about-the-land-of-nod.html>

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- Furthermore, according to author John Dyer in his book *From the Garden to the City*, “the more he sinned, the more physically and spiritually alienated he (Cain) became.” In Nod, Cain was “literally and figuratively moving farther and farther away from God, the garden, and who was designed to be.” Which also meant his wife and family.
- Likewise, Cain's building of Enoch and development of various forms of technology served as an attempt to mitigate his curse and establish an alternative to the garden of Eden. As theologian Jacques Ellul writes in *The Meaning of the City*, “instead of a place where humans lived in relationship with God, deeply connected to Him and His creation, Cain built a place where people could live *without* God and disconnect from His creation.” (11)
- In this early time, it would be noted that Cain's wife would have had no say in his doings.

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### **Her Children**

- She bore him a son named Enoch who Cain named a city after making her someone like the wife of the mayor or governor.
- Later she became the great, great, great, great grandmother of Jared, who at 162 years old became the father of another Enoch (Genesis 5:18). It was this Enoch who walked with God for 300 years and at 365 “he was no more because God took him away.” (Genesis 5:24)

## **OCTOBER 28, 2023 - WOMAN OF THE MONTH – EUODIAS**

The Woman Who Fell Out With Her Friend

Acts 16:13-15; 17:12; Philippians 4:2

# **BLESSINGS OVERFLOW!!!**

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### **SKILL**

Step Twenty-Six: Duty Bound

## **LESSONS FROM CAIN'S WIFE (AWAN) IN THE BIBLE WHAT ARE WE EXPECTED TO DO?**

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Song "Stand by your man" comes to mind!

Consider three faith purposes for marriage are companionship, procreation and redemption (the work of Christ on our behalf, whereby he purchases us, he ransoms us, at the price of his own life, securing our deliverance from the bondage and condemnation of sin)?

Yes  No  Depends

Be a Proverbs 31:11-12 (NIV) partner/spouse/companion/wife? "Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life."  Yes  No  Maybe

Embrace for a successful union Titus 2:5 (NIV) "To be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."  Yes  No  Maybe

Is 1 Timothy 3:11 (NIV) just for one and not both? "In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything."

Yes  No  Maybe

What are additional take-aways from the brief story of Cain's wife, mentioned but unnamed in the Bible?

How do we communicate to ourselves, family, young women when to stay and when to walk away? Should it be just about love?

What does 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a have to do with this lesson?

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### **KNOWLEDGE**

Dear (insert your name) \_\_\_\_\_;

Today I engaged in a conversation about a woman where very little is known but she was still a part of God's plan. I know trusting God and being patient with God is best for my journey and testimony as an Ambassador of Christ. I must be aware of tools Satan will use – impatience, doubt, arrogance, for example - to keep me from fully serving the Lord in mind, spirit and heart. Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most,

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Blessings Overflow,

### **1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**

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