This question, "Where did Cain get his wife?" has, probably, been asked more than any other single question, when it comes to questions concerning subjects in the Bible. Those of us who believe in the infallibility of God's Word are expected to be staggered into utter silence when asked this apparently unanswerable question. However, if this question, (supposedly the hardest nut to crack), has a satisfactory answer, isn't it reasonable to suppose that all other questions concerning difficulties in the Bible, which we are not yet able to understand, have an acceptable answer as well?

The story of Cain begins at the beginning of time, back in the Garden of Eden; back before the curtain of sin had rung down on the fairest scene this world has ever known. Senator Taylor of Tennessee once painted a beautiful word-picture of the Garden of Eden. We are apt to forget the glories and the grandeur of this home where God placed our first parents. Senator Taylor wrote, describing the Garden of Eden, "It glowed with ineffable beauty, rimmed about with blue mountains, from whose moss-covered peaks, a thousand glassy streams spread out thousand bridal veils, catching a thousand rainbows from the sun, gorgeous in their coloring. Grapevines staggered from tree to tree, drunk with the nectar of their own clusters. Where peach, plum and blood-red cherries, bending bough and bush, hung like drops of rubies and pearls. A wilderness of flowers . . . spring pulsing with bird song . . . dappled fawns played upon banks of violets, leopards, peaceful and tame, lounged in the copes of magnolia and lions panted in jungles of roses. A billowy landscape, festooned with tangled creepers and curtained about with sweet-scented groves of oranges and pomegranates. The air softened by a dreamy haze of perpetual springtime. Through the midst there flowed a truculent river, alternating, gleaming in the sunshine and darkening in the shadows."

Into this garden, God placed our first parents. However, God did not want just another "animal," He had plenty of those, but, rather, God wanted a being, fashioned into His own image, with the ability to love, fellowship and commune with Him in an intimate relationship, so, God created man. But, because love demands a choice, God gave man a fair test of obedience. Man failed! He did exactly what God had commanded him not to do.

This story is found in the 3rd chapter of Genesis. In the 4th chapter we find the story of Cain. Hebrews 11:4 tells the story in a single sentence, it states, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous." The story of Cain certainly emphasizes the truth that man is not the author of his own salvation and that he will be held responsible for the way he approaches God. He must come God's way, not his own!

Instead of approaching God through blood sacrifice, picturing the atonement of Calvary, Cain "brought the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord." This act represented man's own works and a rejection of the way God had commanded man to approach Him for forgiveness.

Because God rejected Cain's offering and accepted Abel's, Cain was angry and killed his brother (Genesis 4:3-8). He thought no one would see him, however, God was watching all the time. God always sees what we do.

Genesis 4:16-17 states, "And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in
the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife and she conceived and bare Enoch."

The problem which many see is, "With only two boys in the, world, where did a woman come from? With just Adam and Eve, Cain’s parents – and Cain his brother, Abel, where id a ‘woman’ come from? Was there another race of people on earth in a place called ‘Nod’ and Cain went there to get his wife?"

This, of course, is not what the Bible says. The problem is, (what it often is), people misquoting the Bible and saying it says what it does not say. The Bible does not say that Cain got his wife in the land of Nod. What it does say is that, in the land of Nod, "Cain knew his wife." Any scholar knows this word "knew" in Scripture has to do with family life, it does not mean "to get acquainted with," but, rather, refers to the begetting of children. As the New International Version renders it, "Cain lay with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch."

And, the Bible does not say that the land of Nod was a far-off country, it merely states that Nod was "east of Eden." All Scripture states in these verses, Genesis 4:16-17, is that Cain took his wife and went to live on the east side of Eden, in a place called "the land of Nod" and, while there, his first child was born.

But, preacher, you said that you were going to tell us where Cain got his wife, so where did he get his wife?

It is not my intention to be evasive, but permit me to say that it is not essential to know where Cain got his wife in order to be saved. Some people seem to be like the man who would not take his medication until he was able to comprehend all about its ingredients. There will be things that we will not be able to fully understand concerning what is taught in God's Word. There are times that we must exercise faith, accepting the fact that God is infinite and that there are some things beyond our ability to grasp.

For instance, one man, kept saying to the preacher, "Tell me where Cain got his wife and then I'll accept Jesus Christ as my Savior," however, the preacher found out that it was not Cain's wife, but, some other man's wife, that was keeping this man from accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior. It is often true, the reason some do not accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, is not because of any unanswered questions in the Bible, but, rather, these questions are only excuses they conger up as excuses to continue to live in their sins.

But, preacher, "Where did Cain get his wife?"

The answer, first of all, is as we begin to understand what Scripture really teaches. Genesis 5:4 states, "After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters."

Those who have made a study of population growth, tell us "Under the favorable condition which must have existed on earth 4000 years ago, the population would have, with all probability, doubled every twenty-five years." I, really, don't know about that, but I do know that during those early years of man, "daughters," as well as "sons," were being born . . . because
God's Word says so!

There's more! Genesis 3:20 states, "Adam named his wife, Eve, because she was the mother of all living." And, Genesis 6:1 states, "When men began to increase in number on the earth, daughters were born to them."

Before Genesis 4:16-17, about Cain going to the land of Nod, verses 14-15 states, (Cain is speaking to God), "Today, You are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from Your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me. [that certainly implies a lot of people] But the Lord said to him, 'Not so; if anyone [it seems as if there were many people] kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over.'"

One cannot help but notice by these verses that there were many others in the world by the time Cain went unto the land of Nod.

With all probably, Cain married his sister, if he didn't, whoever married first would have had to marry their sister. How else could a race of people spring from a single pair unless there would have been intermarriage of sons and daughters? In this day and age, of course, we know that the marrying of those who are closely related can result in their off-spring being fraught with disaster. In the marrying of cousins, the children can suffer from any hidden defects, brought about by any imperfection in heredity. However, the time of Cain was the morning of human history, when God had first created man in perfect health. Even today we are told, "Those with one-hundred percent good heredity will produce fine children." Even as late as 1,500 B.C., Scripture tells us that Abraham married his half sister. In fact, history will show that, even as late as 1388 A.D., it was not that uncommon for brothers and sisters to sometimes marry.

A book, written by a Pharisee in 109 B.C., is entitled, "The Book of Jubilees." It retells the early history of the Jews by arranging the years into years of Jubilees [A "Jubilee" is 50 years]. This book, of course, is not divinely inspired, as the Bible is, however, it does fill in some of the gaps of Jewish history, which are not included in the Bible. This Book of Jubilees states, "And in the third week of the second Jubilee Eve gave birth to Cain, and in the fourth she gave birth to Abel, and in the fifth she gave birth to her daughter, Awan... In the sixth week Adam begat his daughter, Azura, And Cain took Awan, his sister, to be his wife, and she bare his Enoch at the close of the fourth Jubilee." - Book of Jubilee 4:1, 8-11

While it is true that "daughters" are not mentioned as much as "sons" in the Bible's story of early man, however, we must not assume that there were not any. The reason Scripture does not mention "daughters" more than it does, is [and you ladies will have to forgive me], women did not count as much in the early history of man, simply because generations were recorded through fathers and their sons. In fact, there are places in the world, I am told, where, even today, you can get a wife by trading in a few cows, [Again, ladies, please, don't take it personal!]

Since Adam lived 930 years and, the population, probably, would have doubled every 25 years, how many children would that make? There could, easily, have been scores of girls for Cain to choose from.

The facts are, the Bible does not say that Cain got his wife in the land of Nod, nor does it say that the land of Nod was a far-away country. And, when we take into account that "daughters" were being born as well as sons, and we allow for the necessity of intermarriage of
brothers and sisters in that early morning of human history, there really isn't any problem at all. The problem arises from what men "think" the Bible says, and not from what it really does say.

While speaking on the subject of Cain's wife, there is a truth that we can learn. It is this, "the shame and disgrace of Cain's sin fell on the innocent head of the woman who had married him." Others suffer as a result our sinning.

Mrs. Cain was compelled to bear the stigma of his crime, and share in her husband's disgrace. Can you not see her as she avoids company, knowing that they will only talk about the murder her husband committed? Were there times that, as a result of being married to Cain, she would say, "Is life worth living?"

If God could hear murdered Abel's cry from the ground, could she hear his voice as well? Did the neighbors whisper as she passed by, "Look, there goes Cain wife, her husband murdered his own brother?"

**Who is Cain's wife today?**

My point is this - Any sorrow-laden, broken-hearted woman in the world she suffers shame and bears the reproach of her husband's sin, is a modern, sorrowful-faced, “Cain's wife,” carrying a heavy load on their hearts, trying to escape the publicity of their husband's sins.

A young girl had a Christian mother, but her father was an infidel. She lay dying, and she said to her father, "Dad, Mother tried to get me to be a Christian, but your influence kept me from it, now that I am dying can you help me?" The father cried out, "There is no hope for you in this dark hour. In God's name turn to your mother's God!"

Hear me tonight! You may be good and love your wife dearly and, may even, occasionally, go to church with her. Nevertheless, she has only to look forward to eternally separation from one whom she loves. She realizes that every tick of the clock, every step in her life, is taking her nearer and nearer to the time when she will be eternal separated from the one she loves. She will be in heaven, but the one whom she loved on earth will not be. God's call to you is to become one with your wife in Christ Jesus and live for Him, and even, even, death will not break that tie.

One man, who had never turned to Christ, tells how that one time, while his wife and little girl were away and he was home alone, he said, "I got to thinking what an awful thing it would be for my wife and little girl go to heaven and I would never be able to see them again. I don't want that to happen. I want to be saved and get on their side. I want to accept Jesus Christ as my Savior."

**Why don't you do that, now?**

As an evangelist greeting people after service, met a sweet-faced woman, holding a ten-year-old girl by the hand. He asked the little girl, "What about your father?" His question brought a sob to the little girl. She put her hands over her face and sobbed, "My daddy is in hell!" When you die and your Christian loved ones look into your face, what will they say of you?
Scripture also gives another characteristic concerning Cain, when God told Cain, "You will be a restless wanderer on the earth." As a part of Cain's punishment, he was to be a fugitive and a vagabond on the face of the earth.

This reminds of something I read years ago that goes like this:

"I grieved my Lord from day to day.
I scorned His love so full and free
And tho’ I wondered far away,
My mother’s prayers have followed me
O’re desert wild, o’re mountain high
A wanderer I chose to be
A wretch soul, condemned to die;
Still mother’s prayers have followed me.
He turned my darkness into light
This blessed Christ of Calvary.
I’ll praise His Name both day and night,
That mother’s prayers have followed me.

Let’s sing together: I’ve wondered far away from God,
Now I’m coming home;
The paths of sin too long I’ve trod,
Lord, I’m coming home.

**CHORUS:** Coming home, coming home
Never more to roam
Open wide Thine arms of love,
Lord, I’m coming home

I’ve wasted many precious years,
Now I’m coming home;
I now repent with bitter tears,
Lord, I’m coming home

**I’ve tired of sin and straying, Lord**
Now I’m coming home
I’ll trust Thy love, believe Thy word,
Lord, I’m coming home

**My soul is sick, my heart is sore,**
**Now I’m coming home**
**My strength renew, my hope restore,**
**Lord, I’m coming home.**