

## *Cain Discussion*

*Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.*

*Can we learn from the “bad guys” of Scripture?*

*Are there reasons why we often do not?*

*What is added to our spiritual development when we empathize with a character like Cain (or Judas)?*

*Is it reasonable that Cain may have been spoiled as a child?*

*Does Eve’s excitement at the birth of Cain indicate that she may have thought he was the promised one?*

*Does the text imply that Cain did not really understand the importance of blood sacrifice?*

*Might Adam and Eve have been negligent in teaching him?*

*Did God give Cain a fair chance?*

*How is Cain’s temptation similar to temptations we experience?*

*Could he have been forgiven?*

*What prevented confession and atonement?*

*How do excuses deprive us of God’s mercy?*

*Do we know what the “Mark of Cain” actually is?*

*Is “Where did Cain get his wife” a legitimate objection to the truth of Genesis?*

*What do the accomplishments of Cain’s descendants tell us about the nature of God?*

*How did Adam and Eve probably feel about the murder and then about the long term sequelae?*

*Do you think they hoped and prayed for reconciliation?*

*Would they have found comfort in the prophecy regarding future crushing of the serpent’s head?*

*What is the lesson we should take from these events about the long-term effects of sin?*

*Do we tend to think that our response to the temptations we face only affects us?*