

What Hast Thou Done?

Gen 4:10 “*And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.*”

Six times the word “brother” appears in verses 8-11. A murderous heart denies any obligations of brotherhood.

This single question, *What hast thou done?* probes deeper than what may be first understood. Information is not being sought by God, but rather a confession of guilt and for him to be confronted with the immeasurable loss he has caused.

The Hebrew word for *blood* is plural. This is for a couple of reasons.

First, this could mean that Cain stabbed Abel multiple times to ensure his death. Time and again, his jealousy and anger drove the blade into his brother's body. He slew him, and though the Bible does not give us the weapon he used, obviously, it left him very bloody. It may have been a stone, a club, or an instrument used for agriculture. Regardless, he *slew* him, killed, murdered, slaughtered him.

Second, the plural use of the word for *blood* could have been in reference to future generations that would now never be. In the death of Abel, Cain also destroyed all potential descendants of his brother. *The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.* The cost of murdering one is incalculable.

Considering the power of the tongue and the many that malicious words have slain, I just wonder who all may have been destroyed in the process. It really is incalculable.

When someone's blood is on our hands, it may be much more than we could ever know.

God help us all!

-RWT