

What Happened to Cain in the Bible?

Did Lamech kill Cain?

[Megan Sauter](#) July 19, 2022



DID LAMECH KILL CAIN? How did Cain die? This 12th-century column capital from the Cathedral of Saint-Lazare in France depicts Lamech hunting with his son Tubal-Cain. They accidentally shoot and kill Cain, mistaking him for a wild animal. *Photo: Cathedral Museum of St. Lazare, Autun, Burgundy, France/The Bridgeman Art Library.*

What happened to Cain in the Bible? In the Book of Genesis, we are told about Cain's birth, his violent act of fratricide and his subsequent exile. We learn [that he married](#) and had descendants, but the Bible is strangely mute about his death.

How did Cain die? If he did not die naturally, who killed Cain? In the Bible, do we have any clues? John Byron, professor of New Testament at Ashland Theological Seminary, tackles these questions in his Biblical Views column [“Did Cain Get Away with Murder?”](#) which appears in the May/June 2014 issue of **BAR**.

Byron explains that ancient interpreters were not afraid to change the story of Cain in the Bible to fit with their sense of justice, ensuring that he was

adequately punished [for killing his brother Abel](#). One of the most popular interpretations credits Lamech—Cain’s great, great grandson—with killing Cain.

Lamech admits to having killed a man in Genesis 4:23–24. Ancient interpreters believed that this passage sheds light on who killed Cain in the Bible, and they identified the man Lamech killed in verse 23 with Cain.

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