Q. Where did Cain get his wife?

A. Seriously. If Eve really was the “mother of all the living” (Genesis 3:20), where in the world did Cain, the son of Eve, find a wife?

For years this question has been asked by skeptics and even some serious inquirers. In fact this question became famous when it was used by the lawyer Clarence Darrow to humiliate William Jennings Bryan in the famous Scopes “monkey” Trial.

But is it really a big enough problem to discredit the Bible?

Not at all. The Bible explains that Adam and Eve had three sons – Cain, Abel, and Seth. But it also states that they had other sons and daughters. (Genesis 5:4)

The obvious, but uncomfortable, answer is that Cain married one of Eve’s daughters, which would make her his sister. It is also possible that Cain married the daughter of one of his siblings, which would be his niece. Jewish tradition has long held that Cain married his sister, Awan.

Incest was not recognized as incest or prohibited until Moses’ time when the Hebraic law was formalized. Before then, it was seen much differently than it is now.

And the genetic problems now associated with incest and procreation would not have been experienced at such an early phase in the evolution of human life. With nearly perfect genetics, the instability that occurs today would not have been a problem.

In this case faith does not mean believing something that is impossible, but rather believing something that is frankly a little disgusting to our modern mind.