The *Bible* is a book that people will read to get answers and learn something new. It is full of teachings and valuable lessons for anyone and any situation. In some cases, some people take the teachings very literal. One case that people take the teachings very literal is the *Mark of Cain*. The *Mark of Cain* is in *Genesis 4: 11-16*, which is right after Cain killed his brother Abel. Upon killing his brother, God placed a mark on Cain. " And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth. And Cain said unto the Lord, My punishment is greater than I can bear." (Genesis 4:11-13) God then responded to Cain but placing a mark upon him. "And the Lord said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the Lordset a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him." (Genesis 4:15)

The "mark" that was placed upon Cain has been heavily speculated. The purpose of the mark was for Cain to not be killed or for anyone to seek vengeance on him. It isn't clear on if the mark was a simple scar or some other type of marking. Some people believe that the mark was for Cain to have black skin, so God could identify him. (GotQuestions.org "What was the mark that God put on Cain (Genesis 4:15)?") This belief lead people to think that being black was a curse but nowhere in the Bible states that Cain's mark was being black. In fact, the Bible didn't go into details if that mark was visible.

This interpretation of Cain's mark has led to discrimination of black people for years. "Baptists, Mormons, and Protestants all interpreted the “mark of Cain” as black skin and used that interpretation to justify discrimination against black people." (Corbin "The Mark of Cain") One way it was used to discriminate black people were at lunch counters at the time of the civil rights movement. The workers justified their reason refusing service to African Americans was because of the Mark of Cain. It is amazing how people can justify discrimination based off a book that’s supposed to teach a good way of living. If human beings were created by God in his own image, then why can't people be more accepting that having dark skin isn't a bad thing. Like stated before, nowhere in the Bible does it say that The Mark of Cain was him having scar, tattoo, or even having dark skin. The Bible explains that the mark is simply a warning not something that is visible.

Over the years, people have used skin color to determine superiority. Some people don’t want to accept the fact that everyone is a different shade of brown. Caucasian people are in fact a shade of brown just a lighter shade. It has been proven that all humans have the same common ancestor (Soares, et al. 2009), so if this was the case and people thought that Cain's mark was passed on to other generations, that would mean we all have his mark.

Our skin is used to protect us from climate conditions. People who have ancestors closer to the equator have darker skin and those ancestors who live away from the equator have lighter skin. The skin has adapted to protect the body from the severe heat; and vice versa for those in colder regions. It gets darker in areas of extreme heat as a protection and gets lighter in areas of lesser heat to allow the body to absorb vitamin D from the sun’s rays vital to our survival. ("Skin Color and Curses") So, if Cain's mark was to have dark skin, then it wouldn't have been a bad thing. God was just protecting him from that climate.

Add Conclusion