

Cain and Abel

After Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden by the angel and the flaming fiery sword, a child was born to them - his name was Cain. Eve's hopes were high for Cain for she thought that he would be the Messiah that was recently promised to them. She said of Cain "I have gotten a man from the Lord (Jehovah)." Perhaps a year later she bore a second son, Abel. Certainly by now she had begun to understand that her children were sinners just as their parents were. When the boys were older, they began to recognize their need of God. At first it would seem that they approached God according to their occupations. Cain was a farmer and he brought of the fruit of the ground an offering to the Lord. Abel was a shepherd and he sacrificed a lamb to the Lord as his offering to God. God accepted Abel's offering and rejected Cain's, causing Cain's countenance to fall.

Why Did God Reject Cain's offering?

God had shown Adam and Eve the way to receive forgiveness by sacrificing two lambs that they might be clothed and their sins covered. They would have passed such important information to their sons. Cain was, by his offering, rejecting God's way to be saved: the only adequate payment for sin was death which was to be accomplished by the sacrificial death of an innocent animal until God's perfect offering (Christ) would come to this earth and pay the full and final payment for all of our sins.

Did God Give Cain a Fair Chance?

In Genesis 4:6 we read of God's coming to Cain to plead with him about his fallen countenance, and in verse 7 we find God offering Cain a second chance to be forgiven in the right way. "If thou doest not well, sin (a

sin-offering) lieth at the door." If Cain had brought the correct offering at this time, he would have been forgiven just as Able was, but he refused God's gracious offer.

Was Abel Really Saved?

In I John 3:12 we read "Not as Cain who was of that wicked one and slew his brother and wherefore slew he him? because his own works were evil and his brother's righteous." Abel's life had changed after offering the correct sacrifice and receiving forgiveness from God. Perhaps he sang about his God in the fields as he cared for his sheep. Perhaps he encouraged his brother to make things right with the Lord.

Cain did what his wicked heart told him to do.

From the time of his rejection of God and God's rejection of his offering, Cain could not stand to be around Abel. Abel's clear testimony of God made Cain extremely angry and likely brought out many arguments from Cain. Verse 8 says "And Cain talked with Abel his brother." The Bible tells us that Cain rose up and slew his brother after which he hid his body in the ground.

God's Response to The First Murder

Almost immediately the Lord came to Cain and confronted him."Where is Abel thy brother?" Cain was very sarcastic with God: "Am I my brother's keeper?" God brought him to attention when He asked him, "What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground."

Cain's Punishment

God told Cain that the ground (where he had buried his brother) would no longer "yield unto

thee her strength." This meant that Cain could no longer be a farmer since he would have no success in his former occupation. God also told him that he would be "a fugitive and a vagabond." Cain correctly understood that his life would be in constant danger from wicked people just like himself and appealed to God for some mercy. God told Cain that He would "set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should slay him."

What lessons can we learn from Cain and Abel?

1. All children, born of a man and a woman, are born in sin and have the deepest sin down in their heart.
2. Without Christ and His Power, all are liable to commit any sin even murder.
3. Abel proved the Bible verse II Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things are passed away, all things are become new."
4. Since there were few people on the earth at the time of the first murder, it would seem that Cain would escape punishment, but the Scriptures tell us "Be sure your sin will find you out." Number 32:23

If you have any questions for us, you may contact us at bmason6@bellsouth.net or you may call one of our counselors at 864-498-1943