



Lesson 5 – Cain and Abel Tested

Based on Genesis 4:1-15

1) What was the beginning of the first family?

Genesis 4:1-2 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have _____ a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother _____. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam, differed widely in character. Abel had a spirit of loyalty to God; he saw justice and mercy in the Creator's dealings with the fallen race and gratefully accepted the hope of redemption. But Cain cherished feelings of rebellion and murmured against God because of the curse pronounced upon the earth and upon the human race for Adam's sin. He permitted his mind to run in the same channel that led to Satan's fall, indulging the desire for self-exaltation and questioning the divine justice and authority.

2) What is recorded about them as they grew into men?

Genesis 4:3-4 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the _____ of the _____ an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the _____ of his _____ and of the fat thereof...

These brothers were tested, as Adam had been tested before them, to prove whether they would believe and obey the word of God. They were acquainted with the provision made for the salvation of man and understood the system of offerings which God had ordained. They knew that in these offerings they were to express faith in the Saviour whom the offerings typified, and at the same time to acknowledge their total dependence on Him for pardon; and they knew that by thus conforming to the divine plan for their redemption, they were giving proof of their obedience to the will of God.

Without the shedding of blood there could be no remission of sin; and they were to show their faith in the blood of Christ as the promised atonement by offering the firstlings of the flock in sacrifice. Besides this, the first fruits of the earth were to be presented before the Lord as a thank offering.

3) Was God pleased with their offerings?

Genesis 4:4-5 And the LORD had respect unto _____ and to his offering: But unto _____ and to his offering he had not respect.

The two brothers erected their altars alike, and each brought an offering. Abel presented a sacrifice from the flock, in accordance with the Lord's directions. Fire flashed from heaven and consumed the sacrifice. But Cain, disregarding the Lord's direct and explicit command, presented only an offering of fruit. There was no token from heaven to show that it was accepted.

4) What does the Bible record about the event?

Genesis 4:5 ...And Cain was very _____, and his countenance fell.

Abel pleaded with his brother to approach God in the divinely prescribed way, but his entreaties only made Cain the more determined to follow his own will. As the eldest, he felt above being admonished by his brother, and despised his counsel.



Cain came before God with murmuring and infidelity in his heart in regard to the promised sacrifice and the necessity of the sacrificial offerings. His gift expressed no penitence for sin. He felt, as many now feel, that it would be an acknowledgment of weakness to follow the exact plan marked out by God, of trusting his salvation wholly to the atonement of the promised Saviour.

He chose the course of self-dependence. He would come in his own merits. He would not bring the lamb, and mingle its blood with his offering, but would present his fruits, the products of his labor.

5) How is Abel remembered in History?

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a _____ sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet _____.

He saw himself a sinner, and he saw sin and its penalty, death, standing between his soul and communion with God. He brought the slain victim, the sacrificed life, thus acknowledging the claims of the law that had been transgressed. Through the shed blood he looked to the future sacrifice, Christ dying on the cross of Calvary; and trusting in the atonement that was there to be made, he had the witness that he was righteous, and his offering accepted.

Cain had the same opportunity of learning and accepting these truths as had Abel. He was not the victim of an arbitrary purpose. One brother was not elected to be accepted of God, and the other to be rejected. ***Abel chose faith and obedience; Cain, unbelief and rebellion. Here the whole matter rested.***

6) What same message did the early church in Jerusalem proclaim?

Acts 4:12 Neither is there _____ in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Cain and Abel represent two classes that will exist in the world till the close of time. One class avail themselves of the appointed sacrifice for sin; the other venture to depend upon their own merits; theirs is a sacrifice without the virtue of divine mediation, and thus it is not able to bring man into favor with God. It is only through the merits of Jesus that our transgressions can be pardoned. Those who feel no need of the blood of Christ, who feel that without divine grace they can by their own works secure the approval of God, are making the same mistake as did Cain.

7) What did James the brother of Jesus tell us?

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not _____, is dead, being alone.

James 2:22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made _____?

From Adam's day to the present time the great controversy has been concerning obedience to God's law. In all ages there have been those who claimed a right to the favor of God even while they were disregarding some of His commands.

8) Did God abandon Cain?

Genesis 4:6-7 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance _____? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be _____? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.



God did not leave him to himself; but He condescended to reason with the man who had shown himself so unreasonable. The choice lay with Cain himself. If he would trust to the merits of the promised Saviour, and would obey God's requirements, he would enjoy His favor.

9) Did Cain come around to a better way of thinking?

Genesis 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and _____ him.

Abel defended the justice and goodness of God. He pointed out Cain's error and tried to convince him that the wrong was in himself. He pointed to the compassion of God in sparing the life of their parents when He might have punished them with instant death, and urged that God loved them, or He would not have given His Son, innocent and holy, to suffer the penalty which they had incurred. All this caused Cain's anger to burn the hotter. Reason and conscience told him that Abel was in the right; but he was enraged that one who had been wont to heed his counsel should now presume to disagree with him, and that he could gain no sympathy in his rebellion. In the fury of his passion, he slew his brother.

10) Why did Cain hate his brother?

1 John 3:12 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 _____.

11) What do righteous people reveal to others?

John 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the _____, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

The brighter the heavenly light that is reflected from the character of God's faithful servants, the more clearly the sins of the ungodly are revealed, and the more determined will be their efforts to destroy those who disturb their peace.

12) What was this event an example of?

Genesis 3:15 And I will put _____ between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The murder of Abel was the first example of the enmity that God had declared would exist between the serpent and the seed of the woman, between Satan and his subjects and Christ and His followers. Through man's sin, Satan had gained control of the human race, but Christ would enable them to cast off his yoke. Whenever, through faith in the Lamb of God, a soul renounces the service of sin, Satan's wrath is kindled.

13) What is the message for today's church?

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which _____ the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the _____, and by the word of their _____; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

The cruelties heaped upon the follower of Jesus are instigated by Satan and his hosts because they cannot force him to submit to their control. It is the rage of a vanquished foe. Every martyr of Jesus has died a conqueror.



14) How did God handle the murder of Abel?

Genesis 4:9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I _____: Am I my brother's keeper?

Cain had gone so far in sin that he had lost a sense of the continual presence of God and of His greatness and omniscience. So, he resorted to falsehood to conceal his guilt.

15) What did God tell him?

Genesis 4:10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's _____ crieth unto me from the ground.

God had given Cain an opportunity to confess his sin. He had had time to reflect. He knew the enormity of the deed he had done, and of the falsehood he had uttered to conceal it; but he was rebellious still.

16) What did God tell him next?

Genesis 4:11-12 And now art thou _____ 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 _____ and a _____ shalt thou be in the earth.

Cain had by his crimes merited the sentence of death, a merciful Creator still spared his life and granted him opportunity for repentance. But Cain lived only to harden his heart, to encourage rebellion against the Divine authority, and to become the head of a line of bold, abandoned sinners. This one apostate, led on by Satan, became a tempter to others; and his example and influence exerted their demoralizing power, until the earth became so corrupt and filled with violence as to call for its destruction.

17) What was the fruit of Cain's open rebellion?

Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only _____.

In sparing the life of the first murderer, God presented before the whole universe a lesson bearing upon the great controversy. The dark history of Cain and his descendants was an illustration of what would have been the result of permitting the sinner to live on forever, to carry out his rebellion against God. The forbearance of God only rendered the wicked more bold and defiant in their iniquity.

God carries with Him the sympathy and approval of the whole universe as step by step His great plan advances to its complete fulfillment. He will carry it with Him in the final eradication of rebellion. It will be seen that all who have forsaken the divine precepts have placed themselves on the side of Satan, in warfare against Christ. The prince of this world shall be judged, and all who have united with him shall share his fate.

18) What will the redeemed declare on that day?

Revelation 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the _____, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; _____ and _____ are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Can you begin to see the magnitude of sin?

Would you like to have a clean conscience?

When is the time to trust God at His Word?