

Genesis 4:1-8 - Lesson 12

Cain and Abel

1. 3:20-24

- a. The mercy and grace of God provided Adam and Eve coats of skins
- b. *"as one of us"* - which is not good, there is none good but God - Rom 1:21-25
- c. God cut off access, man goes his own way- Pro 12:15, 14:12, Rom 3:12, Rev 22:14
- d. The only way to righteousness/life is God's way - Psa 86:11, Acts 16:17

2. 4:1-5

- a. Adam and Eve had faith in God's promised seed with Cain - 3:15, 3:20, 4:1
- b. Every man since Cain has come from a woman (with a man) - 1 Cor 11:11 - 12
- c. Cain and Abel worked as was God's order and command - 1:28, 2:15, 3:24, 4:2
- d. They both made an offering out of respect to God, to be accepted by him.
- e. There was a witness to Abel's righteousness: 4:25, Lev 9:24, 1Ki 18:38, 1 Ch 21:26
- f. *Why did God respect Abel and his offering but not to Cain?*
- g. It was not because God is capricious, because... Rom 2:11, Eph 6:9, James 2:9

3. A Closer Look at the Offerings

- a. We don't know what God instructed apart from Gen 3:21-24
- b. **Cain's**: fruit of the ground was the result of his hard work against the curse
- c. No blood, but Lev 2, Lev 27:30, De 26:1-11 all describe offerings from the ground
- d. **Abel's**: A sheep, with blood, like in Gen 3:21, Lev 17:11, and Heb 9:22 for sin
- e. *"firstling...of the fat thereof"* - a lawful sacrifice - Num 18:17, Lev 1:2,5,12
- f. By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice - Heb 11:4, Rom 10:17
- g. It was not the person of Cain, or what he offered, it was how he offered it.

4. The Way of Cain

- a. They were taught to worship God, God's way - Rom 10:17, Deu 8:10-17
- b. God rejected Cain's offering because of his heart - Hos 6:6, Mic 6:6-8, Isa 1:11-18
- c. Abel was a prophet, killed by the fathers of religious men - Luk 11:50, Act 7:52
- d. Some men are pure in their own eyes working vanity- Prov 30:11-14, Matt 23:27
- e. Cain was father to these Pharisees, puffed up hypocrites - Matt 23:32-36
- f. The father of the Pharisees was the devil - John 8:33-44
- g. Cain was of that wicked one, a liar, and murderer-1Joh 3:12, Gen 4:7, Rom 6:16-17

5. Cain's Self-Righteousness

- a. Cain's offering was not the problem, Cain did not walk humbly - Luke 18:10-14
- b. Cain thought he should be accepted for his work, *"my offering is acceptable!"*
- c. What was unbelieving Israel's problem? The same as Cain's - Rom 10:3, Jude 11
- d. The way of the Lord = the righteousness of God by faith - Rom 1:17
- e. The way of Cain = you are good enough to merit life, joy, acceptance, peace with God by your offerings, sacrifice, religion, prayers, title, or simply by your will.