

GENESIS Lesson 5 – 12/02/18

Cain and Abel

4:1: And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

When Eve gave birth to what was most likely her firstborn son, she immediately thought Genesis 3:15 had been fulfilled. She says, “I have gotten a man from the Lord.”

4:2: And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

She later had another son, Abel. If you read some commentaries you will come across a false doctrine that teaches that Cain was the Serpent’s seed. This is called the serpent seed, dual seed or two-seed line doctrine; I wouldn’t call it a doctrine, perhaps teaching.

And what this controversial teaching says, is that in the Garden of Eden Eve had relations with the Serpent, and the offspring of their union was Cain.

Some go as far as to teach that Cain and Abel were twins. That Cain was conceived from the Serpent and Abel from Adam, and the conception of the two happened so close together, that they were born at the same time.

Now all this doctrine is based on one verse:

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 righteous.

Now how would explain this verse, is someone were to use it to prove their belief in the serpent seed teaching?

I want to give you some verses to highlight the fact that you cannot always take the verses you read literally, you have to understand the context.

Matthew 16:21-23

²¹ From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

²² Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

²³ But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Peter was talking, but unbeknownst to him, Satan had entered him and was putting words in Peter's mouth, and this is why Jesus looked right at Peter and said, "Get thee behind me, Satan."

Luke 22:3-4: Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them.

Here, Satan enters Judas Iscariot and compels him to negotiate the betrayal of Jesus.

And one point Jesus calls Judas a devil. John 6:70: Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

Some take this literally and believe that Judas was a demon in the flesh!

John 8:44: Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Jesus was talking to the scribes and Pharisees and accuses them of having the devil as their Father. Does this mean that they were the literal offspring of the devil?

Jesus Himself said in John 8:37: I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

Were the Pharisees offspring of the devil?

Was Judas Satan incarnate? Or a demon in the flesh?

Was Peter Satan? Didn't Jesus address him as Satan?

Was Cain the literal offspring of the devil?

Or perhaps putting all these verse together, if you are doing the will of the devil, then God considers you a spiritual child of the devil?

Cain was Adam and Eve's first son, and because he disobeyed God, and because he refused to follow God's order, he allowed himself to be used by the devil.

This is why God warns Cain in Gen. 4:7: "...sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire..."

Now, with that out of the way, let's go back to our story.

The story of Cain and Abel teaches us how jealousy, bitterness and anger can destroy us. This is a story of sin in the first family. The story of Cain and Abel is one of sibling rivalry and murder.

A brother is born for adversity. Proverbs 17:17: A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

It's shocking to realize that there is only one generation between the Bible's story of creation and the first murder.

Cain and Abel were the first and second sons of Adam and Eve. Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd.

4:3: And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4:4: And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

The Bible doesn't tell us if God required the offering, if there was an altar where Adam and Even offered to God regularly, if it was a rite of passage; all we are told is "...in the process of time". And we are told what type of offering each of these men brought to the Lord.

Cain brought his vegetables, but Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. Abel chose the fattest little lamb he could find to give to God. God is pleased with Abel's sacrifice, but rejects Cain's. And we'll see why.

Some commentators say it was because Abel brought the best he had, but Cain didn't. It had nothing to do with bringing the best, but bringing what God required.

What we can deduce from the story is that the children of Adam and Eve had been definitely instructed in what was required by God. That there was a place where God could be found, that there was a time in which to come before Him. Neither Cain nor Abel would have known anything about sacrifices unless sacrifices had been definitely appointed.

Hebrews 11:4 we learn that it was "By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice...", and in Romans 10:17 we are told that "Faith cometh by hearing."

A. W. Pink says, "It was by faith and not by fancy that Abel brought his offering to God."

God showed favor upon Abel's sacrifice because he believed it was lamb that God required, and it was a lamb he brought.

But Cain didn't offer that which was required. "...his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous (1 John 3:12)." In every dispensation outside the church age, faith produces righteous works.

4:5: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

4:6: And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

4:7: If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Cain was angry because God didn't accept his sacrifice. Why didn't God accept Cain's sacrifice? Because he did not think he had to bring a lamb. Food was not what was required (Psalms 50:12–13). Having to bring a lamb meant he had to go to his brother and say, "Brother, can I buy, or can you give me a lamb, so I can offer God what is required?"

This would mean that faith would be involved. Had Cain believed what he had been taught, a lamb was required, that's what he would have done. God tells Cain, "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?" **God gave Cain a chance to make things right.**

It is obvious that Cain didn't do well. Cain didn't bring what was required. And God tells him, do well and thou shalt be accepted! Cain could have gone to Abel and asked for a lamb. What do you think Abel would have done? We all know the answer (Abel brought from the firstlings; there was more than one lamb available).

And this applies to the lost today, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be "...accepted in the beloved (Eph. 1:6)." That is you will experience God's approval. The honest man has a desire to be accepted by God. The man who is deceived wants to do it his own way, and wants God to accept him regardless.

It doesn't work that way. God sets the requirements and we have to meet them.

But Cain didn't have the right attitude, he became angry and his countenance fell; that is, it was written all over his face. Cain's offering having been refused, anger filled his heart.

Remember this saying, "Sin will cost you more than you want to pay, sin farther than you want to go, and sin will keep you longer than you want to stay."

God also warns Cain what will happen if he does not change; sin would dominate him. "Cain, if you don't change your attitude, if you do not do what I require of you, sin is waiting to take control of you; you need to take control of your life and keep sin out, you can fight this, you can rule over sin."

Cain is now fuming over the fact that God accepted Abel's sacrifice and reject his that he plots something nefarious and irrational.

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 slew him.

He lures his brother into the field and kills him. All kids' bible stories have Cain striking Abel in the head with a rock. The Bible doesn't tell us how, but simply that Cain killed Abel. The first living thing to die was a sheep (Gen. 3:21) and the first man to die was a shepherd (Gen. 4:8; Luke 11:51; Heb. 13:20).

Rather than repenting, Cain sinks deeper into sin killing his brother. He thus commits the first murder, an act made more heinous by the fact that the victim was his brother. Now, next you get upset at your brother for bothering you, think of Cain did to Abel.

But what did Abel do to him? Abel simply offered the right sacrifice to God; he did not attack Cain or try to show him up. So why did Cain kill Abel?

One commentator said, “Cain kills Abel because he can’t kill God, so he kills the one that pleased God. Unrighteous anger results from an interference with satisfaction, a hatred of vulnerability, and a love of control. Unrighteous anger seeks to gain independence from God and others. Cain resists the controls that he perceives God trying to put on him. Unrighteous anger delivers us from trusting God who does not comply with what we want.”

4:9: And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

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

Just like He did with Adam, “Where art thou?” God does with Cain, “Where is Abel thy brother?”

God confronts us with our sin, so that we can come to terms with it, confess, and seek forgiveness from the only He can forgive—God.

And how does Cain respond to the Lord’s question? He lies. I don’t know, and he adds to his lie but telling God, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Cain lies, then relinquishes responsibility.

God was not ignorant of Abel’s murder. The earth, which took in Abel’s blood testified (Heb. 12:24) to God what Cain had done.

Leviticus 18:28 says: That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you.

11: And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

12: 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.

13: And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

14: Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.

15: And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

16: And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

God had to punish Cain's sin. But because God had given a commandment: "Thou shalt not kill" Cain was spared capital punishment.

Romans 5:13: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Cain's punishment is similar to that of his dad's; living off the land will be more frustrating and difficult, and Cain was expelled to the east from Eden and Cain would be "vagabond—a restless wanderer on the earth."

And the Bible adds: “And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD.”

But in his mercy God protects Cain from retribution by placing a mark on him. People have speculated what the mark was, I won’t—there is no clues in the Bible as to what it was; just like the fruit. Why did God do that? Because of Romans 5:13; Cain committed a sin, but there was no law against it.

But those who end up in the Lake or Fire will have no such mercy. They will cry like Cain did when he was banished: “My punishment is greater than I can bear” will be the language of the lost in the Lake of Fire (calling God unjust). “From Thy face shall I be hid” cried Cain; and God will say, ““Depart from me ye cursed... (Matt. 25:41).”

Jude 1:11: Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

The Bible warns us about “the way of Cain.” What is the way of Cain? (I’ll do it my way). For one thing, it is to not worship God the right way, the way He requires—Cain did not offer the right sacrifice; his motives were impure; his sacrifice was not brought by faith. No matter how great your gift may be, if your heart is wrong, then it will mean nothing.

Secondly, the way of Cain is evidenced by an unrepentant heart; God gave a chance to make things right he didn’t.

Lastly, the way of Cain is to lie to God about what you have done. There is only one way to deal with sin, and that is to tell the truth because God knows it anyway. God knew what Cain was about to do, and He warned him. But Cain did not take heed.

Cain was no infidel or atheist. He was ready to acknowledge the existence of God; but he was determined to worship Him after his own fashion, and this is what made him unrighteous. Abel was not more excellent, but that the offering which he presented was; it was pleasing and acceptable to his Maker because it was the right one.

God always juxtaposes (places side by side) the righteous with unrighteous; Cain vs Abel; Saul vs David; the son who said yes and didn't vs the son who said no and did; the rich man and Lazarus; the thieves on cross; the sheep and goat nations, etc.

Cain and Abel stand as the representatives of two great classes of people. Cain was first, the religious man—self-righteousness. Religion will damn a man's soul.

Hebrews 11:4 tells us that “by faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.”

Now how did Cain see that Abel's sacrifice was accepted? One commentator suggests it was evidenced by fire coming down and consuming it. The account does not state that fire came down from heaven and consuming the sacrifice, but we have evidence that this is what might have happened (see Lev. 9:24; Jud. 6:21; 1 Kings 18:38; 1 Chr. 21:26; 2 Chr. 7:1). This likely, and when Cain saw the fire he knew immediately what that meant.

What pattern is your life following? Abel's or Cain's? What are you trusting to save you? Religion or a Savior?