

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

"Cain, ignoring sin and the Fall, is all for a religion of self-culture...Abel, the man of spiritual aspiration, offers a sacrifice which is at once a confession of sin, and the expression of a strong desire for fellowship with God on the ground of forgiveness through sacrifice in faith." —J.S. Baxter, *Explore the Book*

"God, Cain, and Abel"

The Children of Adam & Eve: Gen. 4:1-2

"Cain" –

"I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord."

- ⇒ Her words potentially indicate that she expected Cain to be the _____ of God's promise made in Gen. 3:15.
- ⇒ He was "a worker of the ground."

"Abel" –

- ⇒ He was "a keeper of sheep..."

Their Sacrifices: Gen. 4:3-5

"In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard."

Why did the Lord regard Abel's sacrifice but not Cain's?

- Both of these kinds of offerings are seen in other portions of Scripture to be _____ in the Lord's sight.

Lev. 2:14 – "If you offer a grain offering of firstfruits to the Lord, you shall offer for the grain offering of your firstfruits fresh ears, roasted with fire..."

Lev. 3:3 – "And from the sacrifice of the peace offering, as a food offering to the Lord, he shall offer the fat covering the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails..."

- The description of their sacrifices offers to us the answer.

Heb. 11:4a – By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous.

- ⇒ Abel's sacrifice was from the _____ of what he had and was accompanied by _____ in the Lord.

Cain Consoled and Warned: Gen. 4:6-7

- Cain's response revealed the condition of his heart.

"very angry" ➡

"his face fell" ➡

"The Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?' If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

- God's words to Cain are the words of a loving father seeking to console and _____ his child.

1 Pet. 5:8-9 – Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

The Murder of Abel & the Judgment of God: Gen. 4:8-17

- In time, Cain determined to murder his brother Abel. Just as He had with Adam & Eve after their sin, God sought out Cain.

God's Question: "Where is Abel your brother?"

⇒ Cain's response was to _____ and to speak to God _____ in the form of a rhetorical question.

"What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground."

The Judgment of Cain:

And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

⇒ It both echoes and accentuates the judgment that God pronounced on Adam and Eve.

Cain's Response:

"My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

- His sorrow is related entirely to the _____ of his sin, not his sin itself.
- Contrast with David's words in Ps. 51:4a—Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight

"Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch."

- Instead of accepting his judgment, Cain once again defied God by ignoring His _____.

The Significance of Cain & Abel in the Rest of Scripture

1. Cain & Abel are symbolic of the two possible ways that humanity can _____ to God.

⇒ Cain is a type of all _____ who were to come.

⇒ Abel is a type of all who will place their _____ in God and worship Him according to His Word.

Heb. 11:4—"By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks."

2. Cain's murder of Abel is symbolic of how the people of God will be treated by the _____ throughout much of history.

Matt. 23:34-35—"Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar."

1 John 3:11-13—"For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you."

3. The blood of Abel is symbolic of the blood of the _____.

Rev. 6:9-10—"9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, 'O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'"

4. The sacrifice that Abel offered and his subsequent martyrdom anticipated the future _____ of Christ.

Heb. 12:22-24—"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."