

Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:1-16

"One's attitude of heart toward this matter of approaching and knowing God actually determines his destiny in eternity. If he willingly accepts God's Word, approaching Him solely on the basis of faith in God's provision, through the shed blood of the Redeemer, God's Lamb, then he is spiritually of the heaven-born 'seed of the woman' and he is restored to God's presence and fellowship. But if he continues to distort and reject God's Word, relying on his own personal merits to earn salvation, he is then in effect interposing his own will in place of God's. He is presuming to be "as gods, knowing good and evil," and consequently becomes of the serpent's seed." Henry Morris

- I. The first three chapters of Genesis tell us where life and sin came from. All of life came from God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He is the one who created man and woman in His image, two genders and none other. He took a rib out of Adam to create for him a companion, a wife with the understanding that marriage is to be between a man and woman and none other. We learn of the fall in Chapter 3, that Satan, who had been thrown out of heaven for his rebellious pride, deceived Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam wasn't deceived but willingly ate of it. Because they chose to obey Satan over the Lord God, God passed judgment on them. The serpent was reduced to crawling on his belly to eat the dust of the ground. His judgment effected all animal life. The judgment against Satan sealed his doom through Jesus' victory on the cross over sin and death. He was also informed that there would be conflict between his ungodly offspring (unbelievers) and her godly offspring (believers). The judgment against Eve increased her pain in childbirth. The Lord informed her that she would have difficulty in being both a wife and mother because of the sin nature she and Adam brought into the world. Adam's judgment brought him a life of difficulty and frustration through living in a fallen world.

Gen. 1:1

Gen. 1:27

Gen. 2:21-25

Gen. 3:1-6

Gen. 3:14

Gen. 3:15

Gen. 3:16

Gen. 3:17-19

- II. Adam and Eve's first two sons represent the conflict that God said would occur between the offspring of Satan and the offspring of the woman. Abel represents men and women who put their faith in God. They love and believe God and they show it by offering the best they have as an act of sacrifice and worship before the Lord. Cain represents men and women who put their faith in themselves. They do not love nor believe God and are unwilling to obey him because they love and worship themselves more than the Lord and the truth of His Word. The difference between the brothers wasn't in the type of sacrifice they brought before the Lord, but in the heart attitude behind the sacrifice.

Gen 4:1-7

Hebrews 11:4

Romans 12:1-2

James 1:14-15

Matt. 10:16

"We cannot do it ourselves...if we would master sin, we must first be mastered by him who mastered it. We must be the Masters." Boice

Jeremiah 17:10 *"I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve."*

- III. The judgment God brought against Cain was alienation from God Himself. The sins of not reverencing and loving the Lord (vs. 3), anger (vs. 5), jealousy, deception, murder (vs. 8), lying, indifference (vs. 9), and self-pity (vs. 13) moved God to curse Cain's very existence. His life was forever changed because of his unwillingness to repent and ask for forgiveness. He shows us that those who choose to be mastered by sin are destined to a live life far from God as wanderers with no true destiny or home. *"Our roots are in God; and if we will not have God, we are condemned to be vagabonds."* Boice

Gen. 4:9-16

1 John 3:12

Gen. 3:15

Heb. 12;23-25

Matt. 11:12

Jude 10-11

Rom. 6:12-14

"What Cain should have done when he heard God's words of judgment is to have fled to God, rather than from him. He should have fallen on his knees and begged God, however great his sin to forgive that sin and not allow anything else to drive him from God's presence." Boice