

Cain and Abel

Introduction:

1. Adam and Eve are driven from the Garden of Eden because of their sinful conduct.
2. They were commanded by God to "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28 NKJV).
3. Adam and Eve's relationship was blessed with two sons, Cain and Abel.
4. Our purpose in this lesson is to see what we can learn from the lives of Cain and Abel.

I. Brothers, But Different

- A. Different occupations: Cain was a tiller of the ground and Abel a shepherd (Genesis 4:2)
- B. Difference in character (Jude 11; Hebrews 11:4).
- C. Difference in worship to God: God respected Abel's offering, but did not respect Cain's offering (Genesis 4:4,5; Hebrews 11:4).

II. The Way of Cain (Jude 11)

- A. The Way of Vain Worship (Genesis 4:3-5)
 1. It is possible to worship God in vain (Matthew 15:8-9).
 2. Acceptable worship must be in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).
- B. The Way of Opinion
 1. By faith Abel offered an excellent sacrifice to God (Genesis 4:4; Hebrews 11:4).
 2. Cain offered what he believed would be acceptable to God (Genesis 4:3, 5-6).
 3. The offering of Cain represents human opinion, substitution, and disobedience (Genesis 4:6-7).
- C. The Way of Wrath (Genesis 4:5).
 1. Cain's anger should have been directed against himself rather than against Abel.
 2. Abel was not the reason God was not well-pleased with Cain's offering.
- D. The Way of Envy (1 John 3:12).
- E. The Way of Murder (Genesis 4:8).
- F. The Way of Selfishness (Genesis 4:9-10).
- G. The Way of Punishment (Genesis 4:11-15).

III. Abel, "he being dead still speaks" (Hebrews 11:4 NKJV)

- A. Abel offered his worship to God by faith.
- B. We cannot do anything by faith unless that thing has been ordered by God.
- C. Excellence in the sight of God is to do exactly what God commands in exactly the manner he commands it to be done.
- D. Abel was "righteous" in the sight of God because his faith led him to obey God completely.

Questions

1. List the areas of difference between Cain and his brother Abel.

2. What did Cain offer to God in his worship? Why?

3. What did Abel offer to God in his worship? Why?

4. What makes worship to God vain?

5. What does God consider acceptable worship?

6. Why was Abel's offering "excellent" in the sight of God (Hebrews 11:4)?

7. Why was God displeased with Cain's offering?

8. Describe Cain's reaction to God's displeasure with Cain's offering.

9. Why did Cain murder his brother Abel?

10. How do the actions of Cain demonstrate a spirit of selfishness?

11. What punishment is administered to Cain by God?

12. Why does Abel speak from the dead?

13. Define true faith.

14. Why is Abel considered "righteous" in the sight of God.