

Lesson
22

Cain Kills Abel

God demands obedience
and trust.

Memory Verse

Genesis 6:5

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

**Why was Cain's sacrifice
rejected?**

Genesis 4:1–2

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

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

Genesis 4:3–5

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 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:

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

Genesis 4:6–7

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

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.

Genesis 4:8–9

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.

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

Genesis 4:10–11

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

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

Genesis 4:12–13

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.

Genesis 4:14–15

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.

Matthew 5:21–22

21 Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

An Acceptable Sacrifice

- ❖ What are the differences between the two offerings described in Genesis 4:1–5?
- ❖ Read Leviticus 2:1–2, 2:14 and 4:27–31. How do these offerings compare to Cain and Abel's offerings?
- ❖ What information does Hebrews 11:4 give about the two brothers and their offerings?

An Acceptable Sacrifice

- ❖ How is Cain described in 1 John 3:10–12?
- ❖ What do the following passages tell you about God's attitude toward sacrifices: 1 Samuel 15:22; Hosea 6:6; Proverbs 15:8, 21:3?
- ❖ In summary, describe why God accepted Abel and his sacrifice and not Cain's.

Genesis 4:16–17

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

17 And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.

Genesis 3:20

And Adam called his wife's name Eve;
because she was the mother of all living.

Genesis 5:4

And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters:

God's Word in the Real World

How do the things that we do to please God (our offerings) relate to the offerings Cain and Abel presented?

God's Word in the Real World

Although we do not sacrifice in the same way as in the Old Testament, several passages in the New Testament mention sacrifice. One of those is Romans 15:16, where Paul talks about offering the Gentiles (non-Jewish people) to God.

What do you think this means?

God's Word in the Real World

How does sin's pattern found in James 1:13–15 compare to what we see in the account of Cain, and how can that help us understand why we sin and how to avoid it?

God's Word in the Real World

Abel offered the firstborn of his flock, and elsewhere we see the idea of God's honoring the firstfruits offered to Him. How can we apply this idea to our offerings to God today?

God's Word in the Real World

How does the mercy shown to Cain relate to the mercy shown to you through Christ?