

# Cain And Abel Contrasted

Genesis 4:1-8;

Hebrews 11:1-6

1 John 3:4-12; Jude 11



## Pressing Forward into 2022

- Are we pursuing our goals?
- What are we doing to pursue our goals?
  - Catechism Questions and Meditation
  - Scripture Memorization and Meditation

## Where We Are Going in 2022

### What We Learnt Last Week?

- Sin is not a light issue in God's eyes; God is not like us - Psalm 50:16-21
- Man died: spiritual death and SEPARATION from God - Genesis 2:16-17

### Background/Introduction

- In Genesis 3:16-21, four things can be learned from this passage:
  1. In order for a sinner to come before a holy God, he needs a covering.
  2. Human works or coverings are worthless-not sufficient (Isaiah 64:6).
  3. God Himself must provide a suitable covering.
  4. The God-given covering was obtained by the shedding of blood of an innocent substitute.
- In Genesis 3 we see the beginning of sin in man, in Genesis 4 we read of its fruits.
- In Genesis 3 the sin was against God, in Genesis 4 it is against a fellow-man.
- Genesis 4 we see the local fulfilment of Genesis 3:15 - the enmity between the two seeds - the wicked and the righteous, Cain and Abel.
- Like leprosy, sin contaminates, spreads and results in death (Romans 6:23; Leviticus 13:8-52).
- The account of Cain and Abel in these verses seems to be very simple, but it is full of **deep** meaning.
- And every one of us should **MEDITATE** upon this passage, for it explains a great deal about sin and salvation.
- Furthermore, everyone here this evening is either like Cain (He is called "of the wicked one" in 1 John 3:12) or like Abel (Hebrews 11:4). There are **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Which one of them do you resemble? Examine yourself and Meditate!

### A closer look at Cain and Abel (Similarities)

1. **They were both children of fallen parents.** Both of them were born outside of the Garden of Eden after the Fall, after God pronounced a curse on the human race, after their parents had been driven out of the Garden (Romans 5:12).

- Thus, both Cain and Abel were born in sin, "and were by nature the children of wrath" (Ephesians 2:3; Psalms 51:5). Both of them had depraved natures that were opposed to God," (Rom 8:7; John 3:19).
  - As such, both had been shaped in iniquity and conceived by sin, and both needed salvation by God in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:21-22).
2. **They had the same heredity and environment**, in the same home, with the same parents.

## A closer look at Cain and Abel (Differences)

- Cain's way is the way of **UNBELIEF**, while Abel's way is the way of **FAITH**.
- What is **FAITH**? **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen** (Heb 11:1; Romans 10:17; Heb 12:2).
- Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).
- Faith is a **GIFT** of **GRACE** from God (Ephesians 2:8-9) and man contributes nothing to his salvation. God does it all!
- Faith is **NOT** only believing in facts. Even the demons believes there is God! (James 2:19, Genesis 15:6).
- Faith **motivates** me to live in accordance with God's ways (Hebrews 11).
- The **SAME** grace that saves me causes me to say, "NO" to ungodliness. (Titus 2:11-12).  
Grace causes me to **REPENT!** - Always and continually.
- True faith **WORKS!** **Faith without works is dead** (James 2:20,24).
- Faith justifies! (Romans 5:1). Faith tells me that God justifies.
- Faith purifies the heart. (Acts 15:9)
- Faith works by love (Galatians 5:6) and avails everything in God.
- Faith overcomes the world (1 John 5:4) by God given faith.
- Cain denied his ruined and fallen condition and did not come to God in **HIS WAY** - by a blood sacrifice. But Abel acknowledged his sinfulness, believed God's word, expressed his faith in a bloody sacrificial substitute for his sin, and was thus seen as a righteous man in the sight of God by faith alone, in Christ alone.
- Abel had faith while Cain did not have faith. It was through Abel's faith that he brought a blood sacrifice to God. "Without faith-impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).
- To Adam and Eve, God demonstrated the basic truth of substitution - the innocent dying for the guilty. Adam and Eve were guilty...but an animal died in their place and by its death a covering was provided to hide their sin and shame (Genesis 3:21).
- So, it is with Christ and the elect. In Christ, a robe of righteousness is provided for the elect. These requirements were made known to their children (Genesis 4:3).
- Cain represents the natural man, the man who is not in Christ, and is not washed clean in His Blood, and thus does not have his sins covered (1 Corinthians 2:14).
- Abel represents the man who acknowledges his sin, sees himself as a depraved sinner, and so comes to Jesus for cleansing in His precious Blood. Those who refuse to come to Christ for cleansing have a **woe** pronounced against them by God - **"Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain"** (Jude 11). **MEDITATE!**
- Cain's way is the way of one's own **WORKS** in trying to please God, while Abel's way is **TRUSTING** in the works of Christ.
- Our salvation **MUST** be of faith - a gift from God. (Hebrews 11:6; Eph 2:8-9).
- Cain's way is **WITHOUT BLOOD** while Abel's way is **WITH BLOOD**.
- Cain's way is the way of **RELIGION**, while Abel's way is an **INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP**

with God through Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:21-23).

## **Cain's Offering** (Genesis 4:1-6)

- Cain was a **religious** man
  - Cain was **conscious** of his duty toward God.
  - Cain was the **first** to bring his offering.
  - Cain offered his offering as an act of **worship**.
  - Cain was a **hard-working** man.
  - Cain brought the fruit of **his** labour.
- Cain committed the same offense as his parents: **UNBELIEF**.
- Cain substituted his **opinion** for the TRUTH.
- Though his offering was sincere, God found Cain's offering **unacceptable**. It did not please God.
- Cain was cursed by God and went out from the presence of God (Gen 4:11).

## **Abel's Offering**

- Abel brought the "**firstling**" (the firstborn) of his flock.
- Abel brought an **innocent substitute** - a picture of Jesus Christ.
- Abel knew that **blood** had to be shed (Hebrews 9:22).
- Abel brought his offering unto the Lord in **faith**. Faith comes from hearing and doing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).
- Abel put BLOOD between himself and God. God found Abel's offering **acceptable**.
- With ABEL's offering, we can learn two things:
  1. God revealed His will.
  2. Abel acted on that will.

## **Abel's Excellent Offering** (Hebrews 11:4)

1. Abel's offering was offered in **obedience** to God's revealed will. God accepts NOTHING that He has not stipulated or commanded (Colossians 2:23).
2. Abel's offering was by faith. This means that it was much more than just a performance. It was NOT by imagination, feelings, traditions or customs.
  - **Faith and obedience always go together**. It wasn't Abel's "obedience" that saved him - it was his "faith" - which was itself a gift, "not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:9).
  - Obedience is a fruit of salvation, not the cause of it. Obedience comes after one is saved by faith in Christ. (Romans 1:5; 16:26; Acts 6:7; 2 Corinthians 10:4-6; Hebrews 3:18-19; 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; James 2:14.)
  - Faith looks at the promise and obedience looks at the command.
  - Anything not done in faith is sin (Romans 14:23).

## **God assured Abel** (Hebrews 11:4)

- God gave witness; God testified; God gave the report that Abel was righteous.
- Those who HEAR God and ACT faithfully according to His precepts can have the assurance that they are righteous in the sight of God (John 14:15-24; Matthew 7:21)
- God honours those who honour Him! (1 Samuel 2:30)
- There is a **GREAT REWARD** in keeping God's commandments (Psalm 19:11 Heb 11:6).

## Abel as a Type (Picture) of Christ

1	Abel was a <b>shepherd</b> who looked after his sheep.	Jesus was/is the <b>true Shepherd</b> who looks after His sheep (John 10:11)
2	Abel offered an <b>acceptable</b> offering to God.	Christ, as our High Priest, offered an <b>acceptable</b> offering (Hebrews 10:12)
3	Abel was <b>hated</b> by his own brother, Cain, without proper cause.	Jesus was <b>hated</b> by His brothers and brethren in Israel without cause. (John 15:25)
4	Abel was <b>martyred</b> by his brother and died because of his brother's sin.	Jesus was <b>rejected</b> by His own brothers and delivered up to die by His own people. (John 1:11; 7:5)
5	The blood of Abel <b>cries out</b> to God. Abel's blood cried out to God for <b>justice</b> .	Jesus' blood is said to <b>cry out</b> but it speaks a <b>better word</b> than the blood of Abel (Heb 12:24). Jesus' blood cries out for <b>mercy</b> .

- ✓ Cain is a type of the **religious Jews**. Cain hated Abel and killed him because he was **jealous of Abel's righteous act** and acceptance with God.
- ✓ In like manner, the religious Jews of Christ's time **hated** Jesus because He exposed their self-righteous acts before God. And so, they killed Jesus as Cain killed Abel.

## What is the Only Proper Response?

- Serve and worship God the way He has revealed in His word (Deuteronomy 29:29).
- Repent today and continuously repent - Acts 17:30-31; Acts 20:21; Luke 13:1-5; Luke 24:47
- Believe God with all your heart (mind, will, and emotions) and grow your relationship with Him - Acts 8:37; John 3:18, 36; 1 Chronicles 28:9; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Daniel 11:32
- Submit to Christ as Lord (Owner, Master, Ruler, Creator) - Romans 10:9-10; Psalm 2:10-12; Matthew 7:21-23
- Glorify God for all He has done, is doing, and has promised to do - Psalm 115:1-3; Revelations 4:9-11
- Remain humble and seek the LORD - 1 Peter 5:5, Matthew 11:28-29, James 4:6, Proverbs 3:5-7.
- Give God our BEST/ALL because GOD gave His BEST. Remember God's first commandment - Matthew 22:37.