

Cain and Abel  
Genesis 4  
October 10, 2018

**Genesis 4:1-16**

Adam and Eve have two sons-Cain is born, then Abel is born. Verse 1-2

Abel kept flocks and Cain worked the soil.

Each of the sons bring an offering to God. Cain brings some of the fruit of the soil while Abel brings portions of some of the firstborn of his flock. Verse 4

The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. Verse 5

1. What details about Adam and Eve and their family do we have of this first story of “family life” recorded in the Bible?

Adam and Eve after being expelled from the Garden. Two sons. Same mom and dad. One son is a shepherd and one is a farmer. Cain is born first; Abel is born second.

2. What offering did each bring to God? Why did they bring an offering to God?
3. Whose offering was accepted? Whose rejected? Why?

Several thoughts on this:

- Older commentaries-blood offering vs. grain offering; believe that God must have given instructions at some point. So it is a question of obedience. Preview of coming sacrificial system which pointed to the eventual sacrifice of Jesus.
- Abel offered the best of the best while Cain just offered what he had. Has to do with putting God first vs going through the motions.
- Hebrews 11:4 makes the central issue very clear when it declares, “By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.” Whatever we may say about the two offerings, the real difference was in the heart. Abel had faith; Cain did not. Abel believed God and offered the best that he had; Cain lacked faith and apparently just went through the motions. Note that Genesis 4:4 says that God looked with favor on Abel and his offering. The order is crucial: first the man, then the offering. Ditto for Cain. Man looks on the outward and makes his judgments that way. God always looks to the heart first and foremost. When he looked at Abel’s heart, he found faith there, and it was faith that he rewarded. Cain’s absence of faith guaranteed that his offering would be rejected. Sacrifice is acceptable to God only if it is offered in an acceptable spirit. Where there is no faith, even the finest offering cannot make up the difference.

4. What was God’s response to the offerings of each man?

5. How did Cain react to God's response?
6. How did God specifically respond to Cain?
7. After the Fall, what is the progression of sin that takes place in this story?  
Offering given to God not accepted; Cain is angry; Cain sulks/face was downcast; God offers guidance and warning; Cain blames his brother; Cain kills his brother; Cain lies to God. Cain denies responsibility and then questions that it should matter!  
Cain turns from what it means to be human and look out for family.
8. Why would Cain react and attack Abel? Notice how quickly the heart turns from worship to murder!!!
9. What is Cain's punishment?
  - God sentences him to restless wandering v. 10-12,
  - ground will no longer yield crops for him,
  - fear and uncertainty v. 13-14; notice the selfish focus; hurting people are selfish/sinners are selfish
  - God promises protection in the midst of being punished (v. 15)
  - Cain lives separated from God. v. 16

### **Genesis 4:17-26**

"Without God, the more power we have the sooner we destroy ourselves; without God, the richer we are the sooner we rot." W. L. Watkinson

#### A. Construction 17-18

"Cain lay with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch. To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael was the father of Methushael, and Methushael was the father of Lamech" (Genesis 4:17-18).

#### B. Corruption 19

"Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah" (Genesis 4:19).

#### C. Culture 20-22

"Adah gave birth to Jubal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play the harp and flute. Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain's sister was Naamah" (Genesis 4:20-22).

#### D. Crime 23-24

"Lamech said to his wives, 'Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times'" (Genesis 4:23-24).

#### E. Faithful family line Verse 25-26