

The Journey
Series 02: Corruption
Week 12: Cain and Abel - Son of the Promise
We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis for these lessons

Big Idea

It is impossible to please God without faith

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV) And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Information (What They Need to Know)

Genesis 4:1-2 (ESV) Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.” **2** And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.

- Cain and Abel were both born outside the garden.
- Cain and Abel were born sinners
- Cain and Abel were not born in God’s perfect image
- Cain and Abel shared the same fate as their parents
- Cain and Abel were born into Satan’s family

Genesis 4:3-4a (ESV) In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, **4** and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions.

- Cain and Abel both came to present offerings to God
- Both brothers believed in the existence of God
- God Accepted Abel’s offering

Genesis 4:4 (ESV) and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering

- Abel brought a sheep to offer to God
- Abel believed God

Hebrews 11:4a (ESV) By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts.

Faith that is acceptable to God is based on what God says

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV) And without faith it is impossible to please him,

...the blood of animals could never pay for sin. God did not accept Abel's lamb as the payment for his sin. Sin must be paid for by the sinner being separated from God forever. But God forgave Abel's sin and accepted him because Abel trusted, not in himself, but in God who had promised to send the Deliverer. - **Firm Foundations**

Ezekiel 18:20 (ESV) The soul who sins shall die.

Romans 6:23 (ESV) The wages of sin is death

- God rejected Cain's offering
- Cain brought to God what he himself had grown
- Cain's belief in God could not make him acceptable to God
- In His mercy, God offers a way for people to come to Him

Leviticus 17:11 (ESV) For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.

Hebrews 9:22 (ESV) ...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

- Cain relied on his own reasoning when he brought his sacrifice
- Only God can provide the way for people to be acceptable to Him
- Cain refused to listen to God
- God reasoned with Cain and he would not listen

Genesis 4:5-7 (ESV) but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. **6** The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? **7** If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

Cain killed his brother

Genesis 4:8 (ESV) Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

I John 3:12 (ESV) We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

God judged Cain for killing Abel

Genesis 4:9 (ESV) Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

God avenges Abel's death

Genesis 4:10-15 (ESV) And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. **11** And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. **12** When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." **13** Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. **14** Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." **15** Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

Cain refuses to repent

Genesis 4:16 (ESV) Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

- Cain's descendants follow Cain's example
- God gave Seth to replace Abel
- When Seth's son was born, people once again began to believe in God and worship Him

Genesis 4:26 (ESV) To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord.

Anyone who comes to God the way He says will be accepted by God