

CAIN AND ABEL

August 2, 2020

Read Genesis 4:1-16 (on next page if you don't have a bible)

Cain and Abel were the first brothers in the world. They were the sons of Adam and Eve AFTER they had sinned and God threw them out of the Garden of Eden. They now had to work for food, clothing and shelter. So Cain and Abel could not just sit around all day and play games; they were given a job to do. Cain's job was a farmer. Abel's job was to raise sheep. Both of these had to do with providing food for them and their family. They were both hard work.

Before Jesus died and rose again for our sins, God required a sacrifice from His people. This sacrifice was to remind us we are sinners and we need to ask God to forgive our sins. Everyone was to bring the first fruits, or best product they raised, and offer it to God. God created everything and He owns it all. He allows us to use things in the world to survive. And when we bring these things to God as the sacrifice, we are to be humble and worship God for how great He is.

God will accept or reject our sacrifice. Abel brought some young perfect lambs and the fat he had taken from them. He came with a joyful heart. He might have needed that lamb to feed his family but he knew what God had told him to do - and he obeyed.

Cain brought some of the food he had grown but he was not joyful in sacrificing it to God. So God rejected Cain's sacrifice.

Then Cain became jealous of his brother Abel. He probably wanted to be God's favorite (do you want to be your parent's favorite?). But he had not done what God asked him to do but he did not see it that way. He was so mad. So mad he killed his brother Abel. God asked Cain to repent but he just talked back to God. Oh boy, not a good thing to do!

Cain was then punished by God. Cain had to leave his home and family FOREVER. He was to be a vagabond and beg for food. God made sure Cain could no longer grow any of his own food. It was only then that Cain realized he had sinned but it was too late.

God did not punish Cain for no good reason but because he had sinned and was not repentant. He had to leave his family so he would not influence them to sin.

QUESTIONS:

1. Do your parents give you a job to do? Do you do it with a frown on your face or with a smile?
2. Are you ever mad enough at a brother or sister to hit them? What should you do when that happens?
3. When you know what the right thing is to do, and you don't do it, what is that called?
4. When you mis-behave, and your parents punish you, is it because they love you or are just being mean?

GENESIS 4:1-16

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. 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: but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? 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. 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. And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; 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. And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, this hast driven me out this day for 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. 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. And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.