

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 11

Genesis 4

INTRODUCTION: Here is the great chapter about Cain killing Abel. It is one of the great chapters in all the Bible concerning the way of salvation. Let us notice its truths.

I. CAIN'S BIRTH. Read Genesis 4:1.

1. The word "Cain" means "acquisition." He is a type of selfishness. Obviously, Cain was a selfish man.
2. Eve thought that he was the Messiah. Notice the words, "I have gotten a man from the LORD." The words, "a man," could be worded, "the God-man." Other words for "from the LORD" could be "even the Lord" or "even Jehovah." Bear in mind, God had promised that the seed of Eve would bruise the head of the serpent. See Genesis 3:15. This was a prediction of the coming Messiah. The "seed of woman" was to be the Messiah and was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The "bruising of the head of the serpent" was Calvary, but it goes on to say in Genesis 3:15 that the serpent would bruise the heel of the seed of woman. This is Jesus being crucified and bruised on the cross.

Now Eve had been promised that her seed would bring forth the Messiah. She felt like the first son she had would be this Messiah. No doubt God had talked to them about this matter, so she thought that Cain was the promised Messiah.

II. ABEL'S BIRTH. In Genesis 4:2, the word "Abel" means "exaltation" or "that which ascends." Abel was a spiritual man who walked with God, talked with God, and met God's conditions.

III. CAIN'S OFFERING. Notice Genesis 4:3.

1. The words, "process of time," mean "end of days," which would mean Saturday, or the Sabbath. No doubt God had instructed Adam, Eve, Cain, and Abel concerning the Sabbath and also concerning the blood sacrifice. So it is the Sabbath and that time to bring the offering. Cain refuses to bring a blood sacrifice and brings a bloodless offering to the Lord. Notice the words, "fruit of the ground."
2. Cain is a type of the man of the earth. He worships in self-will. He becomes angry with God, he refuses to bring a blood offering, he murders his brother, he lies to God, and he is banished from God.

IV. ABEL'S OFFERING. Read Genesis 4:4. Abel brings an offering of his flock. This was according to God's plan. There are several things Abel realized here in this offering. First, he realized that he was a sinner. Then, he realized that he was under the condemnation of God. Thirdly, he realized that he must have a blood sacrifice to pay the penalty for his sins. He brought the sacrifice, and God accepted it.

Hence, the lamb, or offering, that Abel brought was a type of Jesus Christ, "...the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world," John 1:29. A lamb symbolizes the innocency of Christ, the fact that He did not resist, and the fact that He was the harmless Lord Jesus. Read also Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 26:53, 54; Luke 23:9. This is in contrast with Cain's bloodless sacrifice, for he offered fruit of his own work.

V. GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SACRIFICE. Read Genesis 4:4, 5. Notice in verse 4b, "And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering." Notice in verse 5a, "But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect." Perhaps God in those days showed His pleasure in an offering by consuming it with fire. Perhaps He consumed Abel's offering and did not consume Cain's. At any rate, God accepts only a blood sacrifice. This is why a person cannot be saved by joining the church, doing good deeds, being baptized, taking communion, or observing the sacraments. The only way a person can be saved is by faith in the Lamb of God Who shed His blood for our sins on the cross.

VI. GOD'S PATIENCE. Read Genesis 4:6, 7. Notice in verse 6, Cain was angry. The Lord's mercy was still available, however, as God gave him another chance. In verse 7b, notice the words, "And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." In other words, a sin offering was at the door. The word "lieth"

means “croucheth.” There was crouching at the door, no doubt, a lamb or some offering that God would accept. God was still giving Cain another chance. Ah, praise the Lord for His longsuffering and patience to us and with us!

Notice also the words, “And unto thee shall be his desire.” In other words, God had placed in this animal a desire to yield and be sacrificed for Cain’s sins. This is a beautiful picture of the Lord Jesus Christ Whose glory was the cross and Whose desire was to pay the penalty for our sins.

VII. CAIN’S MURDERING OF ABEL. Read Genesis 4:8, 9. You will notice that the first murder in history was by a religious man. A liberal, non-believing, religious person killed a fundamental believer who believed in the blood. Those who believe in the blood of Christ can expect persecution. The fundamentalist can expect religious liberals to persecute him, even unto death, if possible. The martyrs of history have died at the hand of religionists.

VIII. CAIN’S CIVILIZATION. Notice Genesis 4:16, 17. Cain was banished from the Lord. He built a city which he named after his son, Enoch. This was a most unusual city. It was educated and cultured, as the world counts culture. It abounded in pleasure, power, and so-called human refinement. This, however, was the civilization which was destroyed by the flood in Genesis 6, 7.

CONCLUSION: We can conclude several things: First, salvation is by the blood. Second, blood-bought, redeemed people make better societies than do the religionists who scoff at the blood of Christ. Not only are blood-bought, blood-washed people acceptable to God, but they make a better world. In a real sense, they are the “salt of the earth.”