

Cain & Able A Microcosm of the World Today

1 John 3:12 (NKJV)

12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

Genesis not only has the first recorded birth but the first recorded murder.

Isn't it amazing how we have come from everything was very good to the murder of Abel by his brother?

Sin is a destroyer of all that is good and wholesome. Life on earth could have been so good for mankind but they chose to rebel against God.

Here we have the first two men born of a woman and one kills the other. I am sure that some wonder why they could not just get along. God was not going to change His mind. And the only way Abel could have been reconciled with his brother Abel was to side with him against God.

That is the point were we are today. Those that are represented by Cain have run straight into God's disapproval. And they cannot change God so they want us to change and to violate God's laws. So they make it unlawful to be a follower of God.

So let us understand Cain and Abel and the difference between them.

1. The back ground.
 - a. God's provision for man's sin.
 - i. Genesis 3:21 (NKJV) 21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.
 - (1) Because we cannot cover up our shame with our own works.
 - (2) Genesis 3:7 (NKJV) 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.
 - b. The pattern of animal sacrifice was established and continued until the law.
 - i. Noah: Genesis 8:20 (NKJV) 20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.
 - (1) That is why Noah took seven pairs of the sacrificial animals on the ark with him.
 - (2) Genesis 7:2 (NKJV) 2 You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female;
 - (3) Only one pair of each animal that was considered unclean.

- c. Under the law animal sacrifice was required with specific regularity.
 - i. An animal sacrifice delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt. (Passover)
 - ii. The book of Leviticus describes dozens of different animal sacrifices required by the priests on behalf of the people.
2. The story. Genesis 4:1-8
- a. Cain was the first born, then Abel his younger brother.
 - b. Abel was a keeper of flocks and Cain was a tiller of the ground.
 - i. What one does for a living is not normally regulated as long as it does not affect one's worship.
 - ii. Both could have offered a proper sacrifice but only one did.
 - c. Abel offered some of the animals that he had raised as a sacrifice.
 - i. It seems that this was the accepted method of worship since the beginning.
 - ii. Man was made to understand early on that "without shedding of blood there is no remission." Heb 9:22
 - d. Cain instead offered some of the crops that he had raised as the sacrifice.
 - i. Genesis 4:3-4 (NKJV) 3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,
 - ii. But God did not accept Cain's offering.
 - iii. Genesis 4:5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.
 - e. It was not that Cain did not understand but that he had that rebel spirit.
 - i. Genesis 4:6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."
 - ii. Like many today Cain thought that he was the master of his worship and he could worship God the way he wanted to.
 - iii. But you see Satan is behind the theme of a bloodless sacrifice.
 - (1) It costs little and cannot reflect the sacrifice of God's Son for our sins.
 - (2) Anything that is a deviation from God's ordained plan is of Satan.

- f. Cain cannot change God or affect His judgment so he goes to Abel.
 - i. We do not know what was said but we know the result was that Cain murdered Abel.
 - ii. And he does not in the least feel guilty about it.
 - iii. When God asks him where is Abel? Cain says it is not his job to know and keep track of his brother.
 - iv. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”
 - g. For his sin God has a special curse for Cain.
 - i. Genesis 4:10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground. 11 "So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. 12 "When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."
3. So What? What does all this have to do with us today?
- a. There are two different groups represented by Cain and Abel.
 - i. Cain is “of Satan” and “his works were evil.”
 - (1) This includes the majority of people in this world.
 - (2) Often Christians are naive and do not realize their surroundings.
 - (3) 1John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.
 - ii. Abel is righteous and his works are righteous.
 - (1) Mt 23:35 "that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.
 - (2) Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.
 - (3) Abel’s righteousness was on the basis of faith.
 - (4) Faith in God.

Either you are like Cain and of the wicked one trusting in your own works in your worship or you are like righteous Abel who by faith in God has a better resurrection to look forward to.