
Looking at the Old Testament... with a New Testament perspective

Abel and Cain

Lesson Text: **Genesis 4: 1-13**

Genesis 4 : 1-2 (equality)

- **Abel was a keeper of sheep**
- **Cain was a worker of the ground**
- **Was one created with an advantage over the other?**
- **Acts 10:34-35** So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
- **Gal 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- **Rom 3:23-24** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus

Genesis 4 : 3-5 (attitude)

- Cain brought an offering of fruit
- Abel brought the firstborn (πρωτότοκος: *prototokos*) of his flock and their fat portions
- Was Cain's offering inherently inferior?

πρωτότοκος

prōtotokos

Thayer Definition:

1) the firstborn

1a) of man or beast

1b) of Christ, the first born of all creation

- **2Cor 9:6-7** Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Genesis 4 : 6-7 (chances)

- Cain is questioned and given a chance to improve himself
- Sin crouching at the door
- Must rule over sin, master it

ἀποστρέφω

apostrephō

Thayer Definition:

1) to turn away

1a) to remove anything from anyone

1b) to turn him away from allegiance to any one

1c) tempt to defect

- **1Jn 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **Mat 18:21-22** Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Genesis 4 : 8-13

(consequences)

- **Cain does not listen and murders Abel**
- **Cain lies to God about his brother's whereabouts**
- **Cain is punished**
- **Jn 3:36** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
- **James 2:10** For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

What can we learn from Cain?

What can we learn from Cain?

- **Take in and understand the words of God**
- **Realize the opportunities that we are given to act righteously**
- **Act accordingly!**
- **Rev 21:4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.
- **Mat 25:46** "eternal punishment"
- **Mat 13:42** "a fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth"
- **Acts 2:38** Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."