

Cain & Abel – *the consequences of sin*

Purpose: to show how the consequences of sin spread throughout mankind and encourage us to learn from Cain's mistakes.

So far, we have seen in the early chapters of Genesis:

- God intended for man to have fellowship and communion with Him and created him unashamed, without sin.
- Man's sin broke his relationship with God, making causing him to be exposed, ashamed and afraid.
- God immediately began to do encourage man to return to Himself.

Now we are going to see how man developed after sin came into the world. Let's start by reading through Genesis chapter 3.

Cain is the firstborn and able came later. Both were different:

- Cain was a farmer
- Abel was a shepherd
- Cain brought "...an offering of the fruit of the ground..."
- Abel brought "...of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat."

The LORD respected Abel but not Cain. Why?

Hebrews 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.

1 John 3:11-13

For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 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. Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

Cain hated his brother simply because his own works were evil and his brother's were righteous. It was not the type of offering that was wrong, but the way in which he brought it. Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.

We see God's heart in the matter:

- Before Cain sins – He offers him a way back and warns him of the consequences (v. 7)
- After Cain sins – He tries to get Cain to confess, the same way that He did with Adam and Eve (vs. 9-12)
- Cain is judged and goes out from the presence of the LORD.

Why tell us about Cain's descendants?

- To show us how the sins of the fathers affect the family

- To show us how ungodliness spread in the world

Here are a few notable things about the descendants of Cain:

1. Their names
 - a. Enoch – instruction, initiation
 - b. Irad – fugitive, fleet
 - c. Mehujael – smitten of God
 - d. Methushael – man asked of God
 - e. Lamech - uncertain
 - f. Adah – ornament
 - g. Zillah – shadow
 - h. Jabal - Stream
2. Cain builds a city and names it after his son, making a name for himself – the first recorded city.
3. No record of the ages of Cain’s sons – not important.
4. Lamech is the first man with two wives in recorded history.
5. Jabal, son of Lamech and Adah, was first to have tents with livestock.
6. Jubal, his brother, was the father of stringed and wind instruments.
7. Tubal-Cain, son of Lamech and Zilla, crafted bronze and iron (possibly for weapons and other items).
8. Lamech is the second murderer in the family.

Why is this story placed here? Because we see how the consequences of sin spread throughout mankind. What can we learn from Cain and his descendants?

- We must bring to God that which He requires, not just anything that we want to bring to Him.
- God deserves our best, which comes from a sincere heart.
- Sin will destroy both our families, and us unless we receive forgiveness from God.
- God always offers us a way back.
- That the progression of sin is not new.

Next time we will consider the line of Seth