

# The Story of Cain and Abel

## Part II

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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Earlier this month we presented an overview of the story of Cain and Abel.

Today we're going to take a closer look at the content of this story and see what we can learn.

### Genesis 4:1-13

1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bore Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

2 And she again bore his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 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:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7 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.

8 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.

9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where *is* Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: *Am I* my brother's keeper?

10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

11 And now *art* thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

12 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.

13 And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment *is* greater than I can bear.

Here in the beginning, we find two blood brothers who literally represent mankind itself. Abel was accepted of the Lord and Cain was not.

Before we get into why it was that way, I want us to notice some other interesting things revealed in this text.

In verse one Adam knew Eve his wife, meaning of course, they had sex; as was God's plan for husbands and wives.

When the baby was born, Eve said, **I have gotten a man from the LORD.**

This word she used was not generic; she said I have born a male child; leading many to believe that she had already borne perhaps several girls and now this is their firstborn son.

I cannot prove that is the case, but it would explain other questions like where Cain got his wife, especially given what we see in

**Genesis 3:20** And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

There is a lot of information given us about Cain and Abel in this 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis including, as we saw in Part I:

**I. Like us, both of them were equally aware of the divine presence of Almighty God.**

**II. Both of these men were taught about sin and redemption.**

**III. Both of these men brought an offering that reflected what was inside.**

Based on what we know, Abel spent about 40 centuries in a place called by Jesus "paradise" and was then taken to heaven itself after Jesus shed his blood for our sins.

Also based on what we know, unless something happened later that God did not include in His Word, Cain has been in hell for the better part of 6,000 years with nothing to look forward to but more of the same and getting even worse later.

What is hell like? Here's what we know:

In **Luke 16:22-24**

**22** And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

**23** And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

**24** And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

How could anything be worse than going to hell?

What sane-thinking individual wouldn't do anything they could to avoid such a fate as going to hell?

The only thing I can think of worse than being in hell, is being there knowing that hell was never intended for you and that, like Cain, you are there by your own choice.

There are millions in hell today and millions more headed there as we speak.

Back in Genesis chapter 3, We know that God told Eve about the seed of a woman that would bruise Satan's head and that in doing so Satan would bruise his heel. This first family knew about their redeemer that was coming someday to do for them what they could not do for themselves.

They knew God's promise and were capable of faith in that promise.

## **I. Both Cain and Abel were sinners just like you and me.**

*A. Both Cain and Abel became sinners the same way as you and me.*

1. **Romans 5:12** Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
2. You became a sinner because of the sin nature you inherited from Adam, just like his first two sons.
3. Because of one man you became a sinner.
4. Likewise because of one man you can be saved.
5. **Romans 5:19** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.
6. How many?

**1 John 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*.

## **II. Abel is in heaven because he is righteous!**

*A. Adam made him a sinner...so when did he become righteous?*

1. We don't know exactly when, but we do know how!
2. **Hebrews 11:4** By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.
3. Unlike what some would have you believe, Abel was not saved by his blood sacrifice.
4. Abel was saved by God's grace through faith, the same as me.

## 5. Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

6. Abel could tell you about the day he was saved; I certainly can tell you about mine.

7. 47 years ago next month I placed my trust in Jesus to save me...which He did, on the spot.

8. When I placed my faith (trust) in Him, He became my offering for sin!

## 9. Hebrews 10:1-14

1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

3 But in those *sacrifices there is* a remembrance again *made* of sins every year.

4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

6 In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*; which are offered by the law;

9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

10 By the which will [God's will] we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

*B. Abel did not offer that more excellent sacrifice to become righteous.*

1. Abel offered that more excellent sacrifice because he was righteous.

2. Likewise Christians do not do good works and serve the Lord to be saved...They do it because they are saved!

### **III. You could become righteous just like Abel.**

*A. Most people think being righteous is about how you live.*

1. **Romans 3:10** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
2. **1 Corinthians 6:9** Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?
3. No one is righteous and unless you are, you cannot go to heaven.
4. That paints a pretty bleak, hopeless picture for sinners like us.

*B. But what if God was willing to let someone else pay our debt, the penalty for all our sins?*

1. I've got good news; Jesus is that someone else.
2. God did not want Cain to go to hell, even after he murdered his own brother.
3. God told Cain that his offering for sin was right there, readily available, even at the door.

### **Conclusion:**

**God has told us that our offering for sin IS the door!**

### **John 10:7-10**

7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

**Let us show you just how it works.**

**God will give you His own perfect righteousness As His free gift to you.**

**It will keep you out of hell and it is the only thing that will.**