

By Faith Abel
Sermon 32 in the Hebrews Series

Hebrews 11:4

Augustine “The City of God”.

*“Cain was the first-born, and he belonged to the city of men;
after him was born Abel, who belonged to the city of God.”*

I. Exposition of the Text -- Heb. 11:4

1. Both Cain and Abel offered a sacrifice to God.
2. Abel’s sacrifice was “more excellent/acceptable” than Cain’s.
3. Abel’s sacrifice proves:
 - a) that he was righteous
 - b) that his gift was the proper one
 - c) that it still has lasting value for us as we consider it

And the Hebrew writer mentions Abel one other time **12:24**.

II. Abel -- the First Christian Martyr -- Matt. 23:35-36

1. Important in terms of eschatology “this generation”.
2. As is with most martyrs, Abel was murdered by a godless man.

Revelation 6:9-11

Understanding the fact that Abel’s blood figuratively “cried out” from the ground helps us to realize that this too is figurative.

III. Cain and Abel -- Genesis 4

1. All Good Gifts come from God. **Gen. 4:1-5**

Cain = “Acquire” or “gain”. A man from the Lord.

Abel = “*breath*” or “*nothing*”.

Psalm 144:4 – Man is like a breath. His days are like a passing shadow.

James 4:14 – You do not know what tomorrow will bring. For what is your life? It is even but a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

The word “seed” in Hebrew can be in the plural or singular.

Gen. 3:15 – it is singular (Messiah) – to agree with the pronoun

Eve wondered if the promise would be fulfilled through Cain.

No, but it would come through Seth “appointed” -- 4:25

2. What made Abel’s offering better than Cain’s?

- 1) Cain was a farmer – He brought the fruit of his own hands.
- 2) Abel was a shepherd. It was not a more godly profession.
- 3) It was either the wrong type of offering – not a blood sacrifice -- or a wrong heart attitude in giving it – and it is probable it was both.

3. The intervention of God **Gen. 4:6-7**

There are no truly repentant lost men.

- 1) There are men who are sorry for what they have done.
- 2) There are lost men who have a world of regrets
- 3) There are lost men who would change the past if they could.

Evangelical repentance, true repentance admits:

“God is right. I am wrong. I deserve to die, for this is what I rightfully deserve.”

The godly see their offenses as committed against a Holy God.

4. The Murder and Aftermath -- **Gen. 4:8-16**

Note: the murder takes place after the intervention of God.

Without a regenerated heart, God’s warning to Cain falls on deaf ears.

Abel went into the presence of the Lord.

Cain went “away from” the presence of the Lord. (anthropomorphic)

Jude 11 -- the way of Cain – false teachers

1 John 3:12 – the example of Cain

By faith – Abel. Salvation has always been by faith!