

'IN THE BEGINNING'
(The Origin of All Things Coming to Pass in the Last Days)
Studies in Genesis 1-11

Sacrifice or Salad?

Cain had to know what God wanted when it came to worship. His younger brother, Abel, knew that in a world now broken by disobedience and sin, God required a substitutionary sacrifice be offered to cover any inherited uncleanness or overt rebellion of the worshiper. Their parents, Adam and Eve, had no doubt passed on to them what God did for them when they fell from grace in the case of *the forbidden fruit*. God's *Original Sin* solution of slaying a lamb in the place of a sinner (vs. **3:21**), had no doubt been taught to the boys (**4:4**).

It was clear and simple and logical that this be the way of forgiveness and access to the holy presence of God. It was also important to do it God's way because the *lamb sacrifice* was a type (preview picture) prophetically foreshadowing Jesus the Lamb of God Who would one day come and take away the sin of the world (**John 1:29**).

To do it some other way was serious because it was flagrant disobedience and it defaced a *type* of Christ. But for some reason Cain thought he had a better idea-- a bloodless, sanitized offering to the Lord instead of the antiquated, somber sacrifice Abel continued to practice. Was it just Cain's inherited sin nature that came up with the idea of a salad rather than a sacrifice to offer to God? Or did the enemy somehow lure him to question God's Word, doubt there would be consequences, or persuade him that God would applaud his *god-like* decision to do things differently? This was the first incident of inventing a religion more humanly palatable (*pleasing to the eye, good for food, able to make a wiser way of worship*) than God's prescribed way through sacrifice.

Ever since, world religions and some make believe *Christians* have concocted pretty systems of good works as alternatives to coming to God through the blood of the Christ's cross-work (**Acts 20:28, Romans 5:9, Ephesians 1:7, etc.**). Religion like that is pretty, artistic, piously cryptic, and inspiring about human goodness. Like Cain's original, religious *Chef's Salad*, people like to bring the fruit of their own good works and social involvement to God, believing He will surely accept their best efforts and good intentions as an equal or better offering than faith in the bloody death of Jesus in our place.

The cross and the blood Jesus shed on it for us does not make us feel good about ourselves; it shames us by what our sins have done and who we really are in this flesh. Good works and religious activity cause people to think they deserve salvation and that they have a part in it. But the cross makes us feel guilt and shame, helpless to expunge all sin from the record with God - that is how we ought to feel in coming to God His way (**John 14:6**).

The warning on the religious salad bar of good works and humanistic effort reads: ***"Woe to them! They have gone the way of Cain..."*** (**Jude 11a**). This is not talking about his guilt in the murder – Cain's defense of his worthless religion is what led to murder.

On the other hand, Abel's name is first on the list of great heroes of the faith: ***"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 gift; and through it he, being dead, still speaks"*** (**Hebrews 11:4**). God's Word still speaks about the one and only way to come to God – total faith in Christ's work on the cross, not some *tossed salad* of mixed secular vanities and religious good works. PIL

‘Raising Cain’
(The Journey Away from God’s Grace to Disgrace)
Genesis Chapter 4

Cain’s Religious Choice
(Departure from the way of God)

“Now Adam knew Eve his wife; she conceived and bore Cain and said, “I have acquired a man from the LORD.” Then she bore again, this time his brother, Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry and his countenance fell.” 4:1-5

- **Why do people and religion prefer a ‘sanitized, pretty, pleasant gospel’ message?**
- **How do you think God ‘disrespected’ Cain’s worship? How can people today know when God has rejected their ‘home made’ religious activity?**

Cain’s ‘No Repentance’ Choice
(Departure from the Word of God)

“So the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 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.”

*“Now 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 killed him**. Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” And He said, “What have you done? **The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.** 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.**” And Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.” And the LORD said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And **the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.**” 4:6-15*

- **What do you learn about God from His attempt to reason with Cain?**
- **What do you learn about unsaved man from Cain’s silent refusal to repent?**
- **What do you learn about the progressive nature of sin in all who resist God?**
- **What do you learn about God’s tenacious attempt to bring Cain to repentance?**

Cain’s Reprobation Choice
(Departure into the world from God)

“Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife and she conceived and bore Enoch... to Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot... Lamech (took 2 wives who bore had 3 sons / a nomad, a musician, an iron-worker) Then Lamech said to his wives: “Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, even a young man for hurting me. If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.” 4:16-24

- **Discuss God’s punishment of Cain. Whenever you see people drifting through life like Cain, does it occur to you it’s because of refusing God and His Word and His ways?**
- **Why didn’t Cain repent instead of letting things get worse and worse?**
- **How can a ‘Cain life’ be avoided? How can ‘raising Cain’ kids be avoided?**

Genesis 1-3 Quiz

What 'creation week' day?

'Let there be sun, moon and stars in the heavens' _____	'Let the earth bring forth land creatures & let Us make Man' _____	'Let there be light to make Day and darkness for Night' _____	'And on the _____ day God rested from all His creation work' _____	'Let there be space between the waters beneath & waters above' _____	'Let the waters abound with fish & the sky with birds' _____	'Let the dry land appear and begin to grow vegetation' _____
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In which chapter do you find the following:

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| 1) Adam & Eve's disobedience _____;
2) God making Adam from the dust of the ground _____;
3) The Holy Spirit hovering over the waters _____;
4) The first marriage _____;
5) God driving Adam & Eve out of the Garden of Eden _____;
6) God making Eve from Adam's rib _____;
7) The earth without form, dark and void _____;
8) Satan in the serpent tempting Eve _____;
9) Adam and Eve hiding in their fig leaf clothes ____;
10) The first prophecy of a coming Savior (the Seed) _____; | 11) Adam tending Eden _____;
12) Angels and a flaming sword and the tree of life _____;
13) God saying, "Very good!" _____;
14) The ' <i>curses</i> ' _____;
15) Adam calling his wife 'Woman' _____;
16) Adam renaming his wife ' <i>Eve</i> ' _____;
17) The Bible implying the plurality of God's essence (' <i>Us</i> ' & ' <i>Our</i> ') _____;
18) God's first command about eating fruit _____;
19) The first sacrifice by God to forgive and cover sin _____;
20) First mention of something ' <i>not good</i> ' about Adam _____. |
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List the 3 curses and at least two things that were changed by them:

Marriage is the only spiritual institution to survive man's sin and fall from grace ***Genesis 2:24-25, reaffirmed by Jesus in Matthew 19:4-6 and by the Holy Spirit through Apostle Paul/ Romans 7:1-3).***

List three things God commands regarding marriages He will bless:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

