

WHO DOES GOD ACCEPT? CAIN OR ABEL?

Genesis 4:1-16

1Adam slept with his wife Eve – and Eve became pregnant. And Eve gave birth to a son, Cain.

2Later Eve gave birth to another son, Abel.

Abel took care of sheep or goats. And Cain worked the ground – he grew plants or vegetables.

3After a while, Cain brought an offering to God – he brought plants or vegetables from the ground. 4Abel also brought an offering to God – but Abel brought the firstborn from his young sheep or goats – and he brought the best parts.

Creator God was happy [1] with Abel – and God was happy [2] with Abel's offering. 5But God was not happy [1] with Cain – and God was not happy [2] with Cain's offering. So Cain was very angry – and he felt down.

6Then God said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why do you feel down? 7Do what is right – and I will accept you. But, if you do wrong, sin is crouching at your door – sin wants to have you. But you must rule over sin – you must control sin.

8Then Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." So Cain and Abel went out to the field – and Cain attacked Abel – and Cain killed him.

9Then God asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" Cain answered, "I don't know. Do I have to take care of my brother? – is that my job?" 10God said, "What did you do? Listen! I can hear your brother's blood – his blood cries to me from the ground."

11God said to Cain, "You are cursed – you are banished from the ground. You are cursed because you poured your brother's blood on the ground. 12Now the ground will not grow plants and vegetables for you – when you work the ground, it will not help you. And you will wander on the earth."

13Cain said to God, "My evil is too heavy to carry. 14You are banishing me from the ground. And I will be far away from you. I will wander on the earth. And when people meet me, they will kill me." 15Then God put a mark on Cain – God put a mark on Cain so no one would kill him.

CONTENT QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What were the names of Adam & Eve's sons? (verses 1-2)
- What work did Cain do? What work did Abel do? (verse 2)
- What did Cain offer to God? (verse 3)

How did God feel about Cain? (verse 5)

How did God feel about Cain's offering? (verse 5)

- How did Cain feel about what God did? (verse 5)

Was Cain humble? Did Cain repent?

God fights against proud people, but God helps and blesses humble people. So be humble before God – be humble under his powerful hand. Then God will lift you up – he will lift you up at the right time. 1 Peter 5:5-6

- What did Abel offer to God? (verse 4)

How did God feel about Abel? (verse 4)

How did God feel about Abel's offering? (verse 4)

Does God only care about what we offer to him?
Who accepts us or does not accept us?

- What did Cain do to Abel? (verse 8)
 - Then what did God ask Cain? (verse 9)
 - * What did Cain answer? (verse 9)

36What is the greatest command in God's Law? 37Jesus answered, "Love your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, [30]and with all your strength.' 38This is the first command – and it is the greatest command. 39The second command is like the first command: 'Love other people like you love yourself.'" 40All God's Law, and all the Bible, hang on these two commands."
Matthew 22:36-40 [Mark 12:30]

- What did God do to Cain? (verses 11-12)
 - Did Cain repent? Did Cain say, "I am sorry"?
Or did Cain just worry about his punishment?
 - How was God kind to Cain? (verse 15)

Who Does Cain Belong to? Who Does Abel Belong to? Who Do We Belong to?

- What did God tell Cain to do? (verse 7)

[sin = bad thoughts, bad words, bad actions – and not obeying God]

- Did Cain do what is right? Did Cain control sin? (verse 8)

Why not? What was Cain's big problem?

[1000s of years after Cain, the Bible says:]

Do not be like Cain. Cain belonged to Satan – and he killed his brother.

1 John 3:12

Cain did not belong to God. This is everyone's problem!
So how does Creator God save us (if we believe)?

11Be happy and 12thank God the Father. Why? Because God brought us into his light. 13God the Father saved us from Satan's Kingdom of Darkness – and God brought us into the Kingdom of Jesus. 14Jesus died on the cross to buy back our lives – and to forgive our sins.

Colossians 1:11-14

Did God tell Cain & Abel what to offer (in the story)?

No! So how did Abel know what to offer God?

[1000s of years after Abel, the Bible explains:]

1. ***Jesus said, "...the prophet...Abel..."***

Luke 11:46, 50-51

2. ***Abel had faith in God – he believed God. So Abel gave God a better offering than Cain did.***

Hebrews 11:4

So there are two reasons why Abel gave a better sacrifice:

1. Abel was a prophet.

A prophet does 2 things:

- A prophet knows God's thinking – and tells us God's thinking – (today, God's thinking is in the Bible).
- A prophet knows the future –
How? Because God shows the future to the prophet.

So Abel's offering pointed to the future.

God had a big plan for the future. What was God's big plan?

[1000s of years after Abel the Bible says:]

Look! Jesus is God's Lamb. Jesus takes away the sin of the world.

John 1:29

So Abel's sheep (or goat) pointed to the future –
Abel's offering pointed to Jesus dying on the cross.

2. Abel believed God – Abel had faith.

So Abel understood what God wanted – and Abel gave it to God.

A prophet speaks to us. So how does Abel "speak" to us today?

Now, Abel is dead. But Abel's faith speaks to us today.

Hebrews 11:4

What does Abel's faith say to us? What do you think?

Do you have no faith? Then you cannot make God happy.

Hebrews 11:4, 6

Why must we have faith? If we have no faith, why can't we make God happy?

Obedying God comes from faith.

Romans 1:5

FAITH ———> OBEY GOD & DO GOOD

Which is first?

Believing in God or obeying God?

Believing in God or doing good?

Why must we believe God first? Why must we belong to God first?

Because God wants to have a relationship with us!

God wants us to love him.

Jesus said, "Do you love me? Then you will obey me."

LOVE ———> OBEY GOD & DO GOOD

Which comes first: loving Jesus or obeying Jesus?

So we must believe God, love God and belong to God first – like Abel.
Then God helps us do good.

So Creator God says to us: "Don't be like Cain."

"Cain belonged to Satan" – he did not love God.