

## WHO DOES GOD ACCEPT? CAIN OR ABEL?

### Genesis 4:1-26

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

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

3**After 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**.

6**Then** 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. 12**Now** 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)

*<sup>36</sup>What is the greatest command in God's Law? <sup>37</sup>Jesus answered, "Love your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, [30]and with all your strength.' <sup>38</sup>This is the first command – and it is the greatest command. <sup>39</sup>The second command is like the first command: 'Love other people like you love yourself.'" <sup>40</sup>All 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. A prophet **knows** God's thinking – and **tells** us God's thinking – (today, God's thinking is in the Bible).

b. 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.

who	誰
accept	受け入れる
Cain	カイン
Abel	アベル
sleep - slept - slept	眠る、(妻と) 寝る
(become) pregnant	妊娠する
give birth - gave birth - given birth	産む
son	息子
later, later on	あとで、その後
another	別の、他の、もう一人、もう一つ
take care of - took care of - taken care of	(面倒を) 見る、見守る、養う
sheep	羊
goat	ヤギ
worked the ground	土を耕す
grow - grew - grown	育てる、背が高くなる、生える、結ぶ、(野菜を) 作る、大きくなる
plants	植物
vegetable	野菜
after a while	のちに
bring - brought - brought	連れてくる、持ってくる、もたらす
offering	供え物
from	から
also	また、も、それに
but	しかし
firstborn	初子 (ういご)
young	若い
best (good / better / best)	最も良い
part	部分
Creator God	創造者、創造主、天地創造の神様
happy with	歓迎する
so	だから、それで、それに従って、そのためには、そんなに

very	非常に
angry	怒る
feel down - felt down - felt down	落ち込む
then	そして、その場合、その時、そしたら
why	なぜ、どうして
right	正しい、正しいこと、ちょうどいい
if	もし
wrong	悪いこと、悪い、悪の
sin	悪い考え、態度、言葉、行い - 罪、罪を犯す
crouch	(忍び寄る為に) しゃがむ
door	戸口、ドア
want	欲しい、欲しがる、望む、求める、やりたい
have - had - had	自分のものにする、持つ
must / must not	しなければならない・してはいけない
rule over	支配する
control	管理する、抑制する、収拾する、押さえる
field	畑、野
attack	攻める、攻撃（する）
kill	殺す
ask	尋ねる
where	どこ
answer	答える、答え
know - knew - known	知る
have to - had to - had to	しなければならない
job	仕事、職、役割
what	何、何と
listen!	聞け
hear - heard - heard [pronunciation = heer - hrd - hrd]	聞く、聞こえる
blood	血
cry	泣く、叫ぶ、泣き声、叫び声
curse	乗ろう (are cursed = 呪われている)
banish	遠ざける、追放する

because	～のため、～のせい、なぜなら
pour	注ぐ
now	今、もう、さて、それで
help	助ける
wander	さまよう
evil	悪、悪い
heavy	重い
carry	持っていく、運ぶ、背負う
far away from	～から遠く離れる
people (1 person / 2 people)	人々
meet - met - met	会う、出会う、待ち合わせる、出迎える
mark	しるし
_____	
how	どう、どのくらい
humble	謙遜、へりくだる
repent	悔い改める
fight - fought - fought	戦う、喧嘩する、戦うこと、 <u>反対する</u>
proud	高慢、高ぶる、傲慢
help	助ける
bless	祝福する
before (God)	(神の) 前
powerful	力ある、力強い
lift up	引き上げる、高くする
only	だけ、のみ、ただ、ひとりの、ただ一人の、ただ一つの
care about	気を使う、心配してくれる、気にする、構う、大切に思う
great / greater / greatest	偉大・より偉大・最も偉大、素晴らしい・より素晴らしい・最も素晴らしい
command	命令する、戒める、命令、戒め
Law	神様の律法
love	愛する、愛

all	すべて
heart	心
soul	魂
mind	心、思い、精神、考え
strength	力、強さ
first	第一、一番目、最初、まず、初めに、最初の
second	第二、二番目
like	のように、似る
other	他の、他
yourself (yourselves)	あなた自身（あなた方自身）
Bible	聖書（神様から私たちへの大切なことば）
hang - hung - hung (hang - hanged - hanged)	かかる、吊るす、下げる、掛ける
I am sorry	すみません、お詫びします
just	ちょうど、ぴったり、ただ、だけ、ジャスト
worry	思い煩う、心配する
punishment	罰
kind	親切
belong	属する、ものである
tell - told - told	命じる、教える、伝える、戒める、話をする
bad	悪い
thought	思い
word	言葉、(神様の) 言葉
action	行動
big	大きい
problem	問題
everyone	皆
save	救う、助ける
thank	感謝する
God the Father	父なる神様



light	光
Kingdom of Darkness	(サタンの、悪魔の) 暗闇の王国
kingdom	(神の) 国、(神の) 王国
die	死ぬ
cross	十字架
buy back - bought back - bought back	買い戻す
explain	説明する、説き明かす
prophet	預言者
faith	信仰 (信仰＝信じること・神様を信じるこ と)
believe	信じる
give - gave - given	上げる、下さる、献げる
better (good / better / best)	より良い
reason	理由
thinking	考え
future	将来、未来
show - showed - shown	見せる、表す、示す
point	指す、指し示す
plan	計画、計画を立てる
lamb	子羊 (God's Lamb = 世の救い主である「神 の子羊」イエス・キリスト)
take away - took away - taken away	取り除く、奪う
speak - spoke - spoken	話す、語る
today	今日
dead	死んでる
cannot (can't)	わけにはいけない、できない
make - made - made	造る、作る、させる
obey	従う
come from - came from - come from	～から生まれる、～から発する、による、根 ざす、から来る
relationship	関係、(人間) 関係