

# Cain

**Introduction.** The language in which scripture tells the significant events of the past is extremely simple. The Bible does not profess to give a detailed history of the world, but simply a history of the kingdom of God. When offering to the Lord, Cain made a series of decisions, which we will study, which led to his terrible sin.

## I. ***We Must Offer What God Asks***

- A. We do not know exactly what was wrong with Cain's offering (Genesis 4:3-5).
  - 1. It could have been that it was fruit of the ground. However, the Old Testament allowed for grain offerings (Leviticus 2:1-16).
  - 2. Grain could even be used as part of a substitution if the person was too poor to offer all of the animal sacrifice (Leviticus 14:21).
- B. More likely because it was not the first "fruit of the ground."
  - 1. Abel's was the first of his flock (Genesis 4:3-5).
  - 2. The grain offering had to be of "fine" flour (Leviticus 2; 14).
  - 3. No sacrifice was to be given to God unless it was the best.
- C. It is also possible that there was a problem with the offering that the text does not mention.
  - 1. However, it is clear that they both knew what the Lord expected.
  - 2. Cain's works were evil (1 John 3:12).
    - a) Evil or sin comes when we give in to our lust (James 1:14-15).
    - b) There is a difference in the "way of Cain" and the "way of God".
      - (1) The "way of Cain" (Jude 11).
      - (2) The "way of God" (Luke 20:21).
      - (3) If we are involved in our own lusts, we are opposed to the "way of God"!

## II. ***God Loves And Encourages His People***

- A. What a beautiful picture (Genesis 4:6-7).
  - 1. God takes Cain aside as a loving parent.
  - 2. In loving terms, God tries to explain to Cain that doing good is of God, but serving self is of Satan.
- B. There is a stark contrast between God and Satan.
  - 1. God loves and encourages Cain.
    - a) Even after Abel is gone, He grieves for him (Genesis 4:10).
    - b) Thousands of years later, Abel's blood is still remembered by God (Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:51; Hebrews 11:4; 12:24).
  - 2. Satan, however, has a distinct disposition toward mankind.
    - a) Satan was cunning and crafty in the garden (Genesis 3:1).
    - b) Satan was crouched near Cain (Genesis 4:7).

- c) Satan walked about in the earth (Job 2:2).
  - d) Satan wandered in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-3).
  - e) Satan schemes against us (2 Corinthians 2:11).
  - f) Satan transforms himself to deceive (2 Corinthians 11:14).
  - g) Satan is still prowling today (1 Peter 5:8).
3. There is no love and encouragement, just a desire to devour!

### III. ***Murder Begins In The Heart***

- A. When Sean Taylor, a safety for the Washington Redskins, was killed in November 2007, there was a discussion as to whether it was pre-meditated or an act of passion.
  - 1. The thought is that some murder begins in the heart, others in the hands.
  - 2. According to God, all murder begins in the heart (Matthew 5:21-22; 1 John 3:15).
    - a) Murder began as anger, just as adultery began as lust.
    - b) All four are deserving of the same penalty.
  - 3. Man ranks crime on motive, but sin is sin in the eye of God.
- B. Cain's sin progressed from smaller displeasing attitudes that he did not "master".
  - 1. Desire to serve self.
  - 2. Unwillingness to listen to God.
  - 3. Jealousy.
- C. We can and must master our sin, otherwise we will be as lost as Cain (Romans 6:9, 12-15). Jesus Christ is the answer (Romans 7:24-25).
- D. If sin begins in the heart, then its mastery must begin there as well (Psalm 40:8; 119:11).

### IV. ***Fear Of Consequence Vs. Penitence***

- A. Cain was in rebellion against God (Genesis 4:9, 13).
  - 1. The question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" demonstrates his attitude.
  - 2. He had no remorse.
- B. Even after the sin was revealed by God, he had no remorse.
  - 1. Vs. 13 shows that his concern was for his punishment, not for the disappointment of his father, mother, brother and God.
  - 2. Compare David and Cain.
    - a) David was penitent (2 Samuel 12:5-7, 13; Psalm 32:1-11; 51:1-19).
    - b) Cain's first thought after the pronouncement of his judgment was for his safety.

V. **God Does Not Base Punishment On Effect**

- A. Many people think that withdrawal does not work, therefore we should no longer do it!
  - 1. However, God is a just God, and He has told us what He wants done.
  - 2. When it was evident that the punishment did not lead Cain to repentance, God still enforced the punishment.
- B. God sees whole picture, we do not. We must submit to His desire for our benefit and the benefit of others.
  - 1. Ideally, judgment leads to repentance (Acts 17:30-31).
  - 2. If it does not, God's judgment is always just.

**Conclusion.** God loves and desires our success. He will punish us for failure to subject ourselves to Him. Cain was marked as a sign of his wickedness (Genesis 4:15). We are marked as a sign of our righteousness (Revelation 3:12).