

## **Heb 11:4; Gen 4:1-16**

### Abel – Sacrificial Faith

- I. Introduction:** The author of Hebrews commended the faith of Abel as an example to be followed because he brought a better sacrifice to God than his brother.
- II. Abel – Sacrificial Faith (Heb 11:4; Gen 4:1-16).**
- A. Two Sons Contrasted (Gen 4:1-5a).
1. Adam and Eve had two children after the Fall who were taught to worship God and offer Him sacrifices, but only Abel did what God wanted him to do.
- B. Two Heart Attitudes (Gen 4:5b-7).
1. God went to Cain and encouraged him to make the proper sacrifice, warning him of the consequences of worshipping Him in his own self-styled way.
- C. Two Paths Offered (Gen 4:8-10).
1. Cain chose to ignore God’s admonition and instead killed his brother in cold blood because Abel’s sacrifice was better than his own.
- D. Two Destinies Diverge (Gen 4:11-16).
1. Cain was cursed by God and exiled as a son of the devil, while Abel was honored in the hall of faith as a righteous man, a true son of God.
- III. Conclusion:** The author encouraged his Jewish audience to live by faith, just as Abel had obtained a righteous standing with God through his obedient sacrifice.

## Study Questions: Abel – Sacrificial Faith

1. What does the right kind of faith look like? How do sinners approach a holy God? Why does the author start with Abel? Why is he a brilliant choice to begin the hall of faith?
2. What does the author of Hebrews praise Abel for in the story? (**Heb 11:4**) How did Abel's sacrifice prove that he was righteous? How does Abel still speak, though he is dead? (**v. 4**)
3. How did Moses contrast Cain and Abel in Genesis? (**Gen 4:1-5**) What do their names mean? (**v. 1**) Why did Moses specify their occupations? (**v. 2**) How does this play into the story?
4. Why was Abel's sacrifice accepted and Cain's rejected? (**Gen 4:1-5**) How do we know God desired a blood sacrifice? (**Gen 3:21; Heb 9:22**) What does this tell us about worship?
5. Why did Cain respond to God in anger? (**Gen 4:5b-7**) What did God encourage Cain to do? (**v. 7**) What warning did God give to Cain regarding sin? (**v. 7**) Why did God warn him?
6. How did Cain respond to God's rebuke? (**Gen 4:8-10**) Why did Cain kill Abel? (**v. 8; 1 John 3:12**) What did it reveal about Cain? (**John 8:44; Jude 11**) How did God confront him?
7. What curse did God place on Cain because he murdered his brother? (**Gen 4:11-16**) How did God deal graciously with Cain? (**v. 15**) What eventually happened to Cain? (**v. 16**)
8. What are Christians supposed to learn from this story? (**Heb 11:4**) How is Abel an example of sacrificial faith? (**1 John 3:12**) How is Cain an example of selfish apostasy? (**Jude 11**)

### Prayer

1. Ask God to help you worship Him sincerely, giving sacrificially to Him in faith.
2. Pray that God would give you the confidence to believe in His promises in simple belief.