

## **Genesis Series – Part 3 - Living Apart from the Life-Giver**

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Welcome back to week three of our series on the book of Genesis. We are starting to see a pattern emerge. Which is ultimate the storyline of the entire bible and each of our lives. Creation, fall, destruction, recreation, salvation, and inheritance.

### **1. Living apart from the life-giver always leads to destruction.**

#### **Genesis 4:2b**

**Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. <sup>3</sup>In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. <sup>4</sup>And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup>but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.**

#### **Hebrews 11:4**

**<sup>4</sup>By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.**

Why was Abel's sacrifices better than Cain?

- Cain: some of the fruits of the soil "some"
- Abel: fat portions from some of the firstborn "first fat"
- Did both Cain and Abel know that they were supposed to bring a blood sacrifice?
  - My sin deserves death
  - I need a substitute
- Was the issue faith? The sacrifice exposes the heart of Cain and Abel.

Cain's response...

**So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.**

This is an interesting response,

why angry? “raged”

Why downcast? “mood”

He is angry and distant. He could have been terrified and persistent to be right with God.

**2. Living apart from the life-giver, is a decision that leads to distinction.**

**<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”**

- Again, God comes in the form of a question, the questions expose the heart of Cain.
- While sin was first exposed to Adam and Eve in a crafty deception, now sin is described as a predator with intent.
- But you must rule over it.

1 John actual references this distinction between Cain and Abel.

**1 John 3:12**

**<sup>7</sup> Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work. <sup>9</sup> No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. <sup>10</sup> This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God’s child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.**

**<sup>11</sup> For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. <sup>12</sup> Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous.**

**<sup>8</sup> Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.**

**<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”**

- Again God come to Cain with a question, it exposes his heart.

**“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”**

- Yes and No.
- Wrong response, like Adam.

**<sup>10</sup>The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground.**

What have you done? This is the same questions God asks Eve in the garden.

You know you killed your brother; I know you killed your brother; your brother knows you killed your brother; even the earth knows you have killed your brother.

I want to pause for a moment and talk about Abel’s blood speaking because it’s brought up in other parts of scripture and I think it is really important.

**Hebrews 11:4**

**<sup>4</sup>By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.**

**Hebrews 12:24**

**<sup>24</sup>to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.**

The blood of Abel’s sacrifice says, “I am wrong, I deserve death, but God is providing a substitute.”

Abel’s actual blood that speaks from the ground speaks of injustice, murder, and vengeance.

The original language says Abel's blood cried for vengeance; Christ's blood cries for peace and pardon, both in the court of heaven, where it is pleaded by Christ, and in the court of conscience, where it is sprinkled by his spirit: or than the sprinkling of the blood of Abel's sacrifice, or than Abel's sacrifice.

**<sup>11</sup> Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."**

**<sup>13</sup> Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is more than I can bear. <sup>14</sup> Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."**

**<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. <sup>16</sup> So Cain went out from the Lord's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.**

The word Nod means wanderer.

There is still grace to live. Cain became the father of the Canaanites. They were a pagan people. We do read that some of them married back into the people of God.

Creation, fall, destruction, recreation, salvation, and inheritance.

Closing

Prayer team