

## Timeline of Truth

### Two Men, Two Ways: The Right Way and the Wrong Way to Approach God (Genesis 4:2b-5)

<sup>1</sup> Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

<sup>2</sup> Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

God's Plan for Children: Marriage → Intimacy → Conception → Bearing  
Were Cain & Able twins?  
Meaning of names  
Different "bents" of people

<sup>3</sup> And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

<sup>5</sup> but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

*What happened here?*

*Both Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord. Each brought an offering from his "line of work." The Lord respected Abel and his offering, but not Cain and his offering.*

*What did God respect – Abel or his offering?*

*Both. The Lord respected both Abel and Abel's offering, the giver and his gift.*

*What did God not respect – Cain or his offering?*

*Both. The Lord neither respected Cain nor his offering.*

*Why did God respect Abel and his offering, and not Cain and his offering? (person and offering, not just person, and not just offering)*

*This is a little uncertain. There are three possible reasons (though Hebrews 11:4 & 12:24 seem to indicate the first reason).*

- **Atonement** – What they brought.
  - Blood sacrifice vs. non-blood sacrifice
- **Approach** – How they brought it.
  - Abel brought his first and best.
  - Cain brought "of the fruit" (not the first or the best).
- **Attitude** – Why they brought it.
  - Cain brought out of his own selfish pride.
  - Abel brought out of his awareness of his need of God in faith.

*Were the actions of both men actions of worship?*

*Externally, they were both acts of worship.*

*Internally, it appears that Cain came on his own terms and/or an evil heart.*

*Did they not both offer to the Lord?*

*Yes, they both brought their offerings to the Lord. The text specifically says Cain did so.*

*Did God require offerings?*

*Uncertain. There is no record of any command from God.*

*Whether God required offerings or not, did He give a basis or pattern for the offering?*

*However, the fact that God provided skins of animals for Adam and his wife in place of the fig leaves provided a pattern of a blood sacrifice. That could be construed either as an ongoing requirement that reminds of the need of a blood sacrifice (they had an ongoing need for clothes), or at least an indication of how to approach God when desired.*

*How did Abel and Cain know immediately God's responses to their offerings?*

*The text doesn't say. We do know that God talked directly to Adam in Genesis 3, and to Cain later in this Chapter. It is likely that God either gave indication of respecting the sacrifice (maybe by consuming it with fire?) or by telling them directly.*

*God's Slaying of Animals to Obtain Skins for Adam & Eve Served More than Just to Provide Clothing*

- *Illustration of the requirement for a payment that required death (shedding of blood) – remember the fig leaves were inadequate – why?*
- *Pattern of expectation of a continued relationship of sinners to God only on the grounds of a payment that required death (shedding of blood)*
- *The offering requirements apparently were known, if by nothing else but God's slaying of animals for coverings*

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

Πίστεϊ πλείονα θυσίαν Ἄβελ παρά Κάιν προσήνεγκεν τῷ θεῷ, δι' ἧς ἐμαρτυρήθη εἶναι δίκαιος, μαρτυροῦντος ἐπὶ τοῖς δώροις αὐτοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ, καὶ δι' αὐτῆς ἀποθανὼν ἔτι λαλεῖ.

Hebrews 12:24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of Abel*.

καὶ διαθήκης νέας μεσίτη Ἰησοῦ καὶ αἷματι ῥαντισμοῦ κρεῖττον λαλοῦντι παρὰ τὸν Ἄβελ.

1 John 3:12 not as **Cain** *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

οὐ καθὼς Κάιν ἐκ τοῦ πονηροῦ ἦν καὶ ἔσφαξεν τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ· καὶ χάριν τίνος ἔσφαξεν αὐτόν; ὅτι τὰ ἔργα αὐτοῦ πονηρὰ ἦν τὰ δὲ τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ αὐτοῦ δίκαια.

Jude 1:11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of **Cain**, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

οὐαὶ αὐτοῖς, ὅτι τῆ ὁδοῦ τοῦ Κάιν ἐπορεύθησαν καὶ τῆ πλάνῃ τοῦ Βαλαάμ μισθοῦ ἐξεχύθησαν καὶ τῆ ἀντιλογίᾳ τοῦ Κόρε ἀπόλοντο.

<sup>3</sup> And in the process of time it came to pass that

**Cain** brought an offering  
of the **fruit** of the ground  
to the LORD.

**Abel** also brought  
of the **firstborn** of his flock and  
of their **fat**.

And the LORD respected

**Abel** and  
his offering,

<sup>5</sup> but He did not respect

**Cain** and  
his offering.

And **Cain** was very angry, and his countenance fell.

	<b>What They Brought</b>	<b>How God Responded</b>	<b>Why Did God Respond as He Did?</b>
<b>Cain</b>	<i>"Cain brought an offering of fruit of the ground to the LORD."</i>	<i>"but He did not respect Cain and his offering."</i>	<p>Hebrews 11:4 By faith <b>Abel</b> offered to God <u>a more excellent sacrifice than <b>Cain</b>, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous</u>, God testifying <u>of his gifts</u>; and through it he being dead still speaks.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cain offered his sacrifice without faith.</li> <li>2. Cain's sacrifice was somehow inferior.</li> <li>3. Cain's sacrifice indicated that he was not righteous.</li> </ol> <p>1 John 3:12 not as <b>Cain</b> <i>who</i> was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because <u>his works were evil</u> and <u>his brother's righteous</u>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Cain followed Satan's way. "was of the wicked one"</li> <li>5. Cain's works were evil. "his works were evil"</li> </ol> <p>Jude 1:11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of <b>Cain</b>, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Cain's way was rebellious, against God.</li> </ol>
<b>Abel</b>	<i>"Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat."</i>	<i>"the LORD respected Abel and his offering"</i>	<p>Hebrews 11:4 By faith <b>Abel</b> offered to God <u>a more excellent sacrifice than <b>Cain</b>, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous</u>, God testifying <u>of his gifts</u>; and through it he being dead still speaks.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abel offered his sacrifice by faith.</li> <li>2. Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice.</li> <li>3. Abel's sacrifice indicated that he was righteous.</li> <li>4. Abel's gifts still speak (indicating his gifts were important).</li> </ol> <p>Hebrews 12:24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the <u>blood of sprinkling</u> that speaks better things than <i>that of <b>Abel</b></i>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Abel's sacrifice was a blood sacrifice.</li> </ol>

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## Timeline of Truth

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### ***Two Men, Two Ways: The Right Way and the Wrong Way to Approach God (Genesis 4:2b-5)***

<sup>2a</sup> Now **Abel** was a keeper of sheep, but **Cain** was a tiller of the ground.

<sup>3</sup> And in the process of time it came to pass that **Cain** brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> **Abel** also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected **Abel** and his offering,

<sup>5b</sup> but He did not respect **Cain** and his offering.

#### **1. Two Brothers (2b)**

Gen 4:2b Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

- *Older brother CAIN – Was a tiller of the ground (a gardener or farmer)*
- *Younger brother ABEL – Was a keeper of sheep (a shepherd)*

#### **2. Two Offerings (3-4a)**

Gen 4:3-4a And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat.

- *Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground.*
- *Abel brought of the firstborn of the best (“of their fat”) of his flock.*

#### **3. God Responded Two Ways (4b-5a)**

Gen 4:4b-5a And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering.

- *The Lord respected Abel & his offering (of his flock).*
- *The Lord did not respect Cain & his offering (of the fruit of the ground).*

#### **4. Why Did God Respect Abel & his offering, but not Cain and his offering?**

Hebrews 11:4 By faith **Abel** offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than **Cain**, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

- *Abel came to God by faith. Cain did not. We must come to God by faith (believing what God has said).*

Hebrews 12:24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of **Abel***.

- *Abel came to God through a blood sacrifice, the way God had shown Adam & Eve (through a blood sacrifice). Cain came to God his own way. We must come to God not by our own way or our own works but by Jesus' shed blood.*

1 John 3:12 not as **Cain** *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

- *Abel's works were righteous. Cain's works were evil. The offerings of Cain and Abel showed what was in their hearts and how they lived.*

#### **5. We are to be like Abel, not Cain!**

- *We need to believe God, and obey what God says.*
- *We need to believe in Jesus to save us, and not trust our own good works to save us (Eph 2:8-9).*