

Maranatha Fellowship CRC
Farmington, NM 87401

Sunday, June 5, 2022, 10:00 AM

Week 1: Faith in Action

The LORD Looked with Favor on Abel and His Offering

Scripture: Genesis 4:1-16

Context:

The offering Cain and Abel brought to the Lord is the ‘grain offering.’ Leviticus 2 mentions the grain offering as *minha*. The grain offering is usually given as a gift to honor God in terms of celebration. Often, it accompanies an animal sacrifice. The text clarifies: God continued to meet with the children of Adam and Eve at the outskirts of the garden of Eden.

Abel chose his offering from some of the first born of his flock, which included the fat portions (v. 4). The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering (v. 5a). Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. The first fruits are to be set aside for the Lord under the law (Exodus 23:19; Neh. 10:35). God did not look with favor on Cain and his offering (v. 5b). So Cain was outraged, and his face was downcast (v. 5c). The way Cain responded was not good. Cain did not do what was right (v. 7a). God spoke kindly to him and said, "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?" Further, the LORD said to Cain, "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 (v.7b)."

The word 'sin,' in the phrase, 'sin is crouching at your door (v.7b),' pictures a well-known Mesopotamian demon, which lingers around doorways waiting for its victims to cross the threshold. Ever since the Old Babylonian period in Mesopotamia, such demons in the doorways were considered evil and thought to attack their victims. 'Sin crouching at your door' indicates the ancient serpent, to which the LORD God cursed (Gen. 3:14-15).

Cain did not listen to God. The sin's desire to have him took place; he plotted to kill his younger brother, Abel. Not only did he attack him, but he murdered him (v.8). So, Cain suffered the consequences of his sins. He was under a curse of God and driven from the ground. Cain worked, but the land no longer yielded its crop to him. He became a restless wanderer on Earth (v. 11-12). Cain pleads to the Lord that his punishment is more than he can bear: God will drive him out of the land, he will be hidden from the LORD's presence, he will be a restless wanderer, and anyone who finds him will kill him (v.13-14). The LORD was kind to Cain and said, "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. So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden (v.15-16).

Questions and Answers (Part I)

1. Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. What's the meaning of "Cain?" She said, "With the help of the _____ I have brought forth a man" (Gen. 4:1, NIV)
2. Later she gave birth to Abel. (Gen. 4:2). Is there a possibility Cain and Abel be twins? Yes or No?
3. Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked in the soil. Cain brought some of the fruit of the soil as an offering to the LORD. The LORD did _____ look with favor on Cain and his offering (Gen. 4: 3, 5, NIV).

Outline

- I. Introduction
 - A. Opening Story: The “Snapshots” Survey
 - B. Context: The Story of Cain and Abel (v.1-2)
Ex. 'Sin is crouching at your door.'

- II. Bad and Good Offerings
 - A. God did not look with favor on Cain and his offering (v. 3 and v.5)
 - B. God looked with favor on Abel and his offering (v.4)
 - C. Some practical implications: do not live in Cain’s world.
Ex. stop selfish behaviors

- III. Obedience Matters to God
 - A. Do not forsake your neighbor – **Illus.** “The Crowd on Mt. Everest”
 - B. God’s Instructions, Disobedience, and Consequences (v. 6-14)
 - C. Some Practical Implications
Ex. The pervasive effects of sin are rampant, but God continues to demonstrate his grace.

- IV. Offering Our Lives as Living Sacrifices
 - A. Listening and Learning without practicing Does not Help
 1. **Illus.** Addiction to Chewing Tobacco 2. Faith in Action: Care for your neighbors
 - B. God is kind: ‘But the Lord said to Cain, ‘Not so; anyone who...’ (v. 15-16)
 - C. God’s Story of Grace from the Tower of Babel to the Day of Pentecost
(Gen. 11:1-4, 8-9; Gen. 12:2-3; 1 Cor. 15:1-8; John 14:15-18, 25-27, 15:26-27; Acts 2:1-13)
Ex. Two Steps: 1. Share the Good News of the Gospel 2. Listen to Holy Spirit: Live your faith

- V. Conclusion
 - A. God is full of grace.
 - B. Faith in Action: Offer your life as a living sacrifice to God’s service

Questions and Answers (Part II)

1. Then, the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face _____? (Gen. 4:6, NIV)
If you do what is right, will you not be _____? (Gen. 4:6).
2. But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must:
a. rule over it b. be ruled by it c. crouch at door d. none of the above (Refer to Gen. 4:7, NIV for answer)
3. Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were there in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and _____ him (Genesis 4:8, NIV). a. Hugged b. Laughed c. Praised d. Killed
4. How did Cain respond when God said, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s _____? a. Shepherd b. Keeper c. Friend d. None
5. Cain was under God’s curse and said to God (Refer to Gen. 4:13-14): a. You are driving me from the land b. I will be hidden from your presence c. I will be a restless wanderer d. whoever finds me kills me e. my punishment is more than I can bear f. All of the above g. None of the above
6. But the Lord said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer _____ seven times over.” The Lord put a _____ on Cain so that no one who found him would _____ him (Gen. 4:15, NIV).
7. So Cain went out from the LORD’s _____ and lived in land of Nod, east of _____ (Gen. 4:16, NIV).