

→ The Primeval Story Cain & Abel



Son Risers
Bible Study

Sin!

Genesis 4:1-

Story focuses on their worship. First murder arises over religious practice. Sin lurks in the community of faith.

Motive for worship appears to be gratitude – offer the fruits of their labors

- God accepts Abel's offering, but not Cain's. Why? No rationale is offered.
- Abel offers the best. Cain's offering is not described in detail.

Cain's rejection may be the result of attitude – God not only looks at the offering, but the attitude of the giver (same concept in the story of the Widow's mite in Mark)

Basic issue is how Cain responds to God's interaction – God by talking to Cain about the rejection of his offering shows genuine concern for Cain – the door isn't closed – Cain will be accepted if he does what is right

God shows he understands how Cain feels. Offers him a choice of response. Does not force him to act one way or another.

Sin is lurking at your door – sin is portrayed as something that is eager to take control of our lives

Cain murders his brother. Cain misdirects his hostility toward Abel. Jesus suffers & dies for human sin. Hebrews 12:24 – Abel link.

Cain & Abel grew up together – same parents, values, - yet this did not prevent the violence – sin pervades even the closest relationships – how much more pervasive for all mankind.

Violates the family – an integral part of God's created order. Becomes a key theme throughout Genesis.

Cain takes a godlike power over Abel's life.

This story shows sin as progressive in nature. The location of the first sin is in the garden – The location of the second sin is in the fields away from the garden

Judgment!!

Genesis 3: –

God seeks Cain.

Cain doesn't hide – opts for denial. "Am I my brother's keeper?" – Almost implies the impropriety of God's question

God ignores this and gets back to the subject at hand – **What have you done?**

Proceeds immediately to the sentencing – cursed from the ground – it will no longer yield fruit. You will be a wanderer. (Intensified from the sentence Adam received.)

Cain does not passively accept the sentence. He recognizes the relationship between his crime and the sentence & acknowledges his guilt. He expresses his fear that he will be separated from the land and a target for Abel's avengers. God will be far from him and no longer offer His care and protection.

Grace!!!

Genesis 3: –

God says – "Not so!" – He puts a protective mark on Cain. Cain will still be under God's protective care.

God was Abel's keeper, but his mercy embraces his murderer

Breakdown in
Relationships

- God to Man
- Man to Woman
- Humankind to creatures in nature
- Man to the soil of the earth
- Brother to brother
- Herdsman & farmers
- Man & society