

THE ORIGIN OF EVIL -  
Lesson 03-02  
False Religion and Murder  
**Genesis 4:3-4:15**

**False Religion  
and Murder**



## Genesis 4:3-4:15

### Genesis 4:3-15

**GEN 4:3** And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

**4** And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

**5** But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

**6** And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

**(Continued)**



## Genesis 4:3-4:15

**7** If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

**8** Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose against Abel his brother and killed him.

**9** Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

**(Continued)**



## Genesis 4:3-4:15

**10** And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

**11** "So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

**12** "When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."

**13** And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

**(Continued)**




## Genesis 4:3-4:15

**14** Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.

**15** And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.



# Cain's False Religion



## **Genesis 4:3-7 – False Religion**

**Let us now consider how false religion develops.**

**In Genesis 4:3-7 we see:**

- Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. (v. 3)**
- The LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: (v. 4)**
- Unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. (v. 5)**



## **Genesis 4:3-7 – False Religion**

**When Cain became upset, God told him:**

- **If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. (v. 7)**



# Cain's False Human Religion <sup>[90]</sup>

Cain's religion was a purely human scheme (salvation by works).

Cain's religion was a purely human sacrifice.

Cain's religion was a purely human satisfaction.



## False Religion - A Human Scheme [90]

***First - Cain's religion was a purely human scheme, salvation by works.***

- Cain's religion was self centered humanism, he was going to do it his way.
- Cain's offering was the fruit of his own labors.
- Abel's sacrifice was a blood sacrifice.

**We cannot save ourselves, we are saved by the Blood of Christ.**



# Salvation Requires Blood

**EXO 12:13** And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

**EPH 2:8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:  
**9** Not of works, lest any man should boast.

**1JO 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

# Atonement Is Not Obtained By Works [90]

When God sees the blood of Christ He will pass over your sins if you belong to Christ.

1PE 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Atonement is not by works offerings as brought by Cain, but by the blood offering as brought by Abel, and once for all as by Christ's shed blood.



## Good Works [90]

**Good works is at the heart of all false religion.**

**Cain brought fruit of his own labors.**

**Cain knew that the proper sacrifice required blood.**

**God had shown that to his parents when He killed an animal to cover their sin.**



# The Way Of Cain [90]

The Way of Cain is false religion:

**JUD 1:11** **Woe unto them!** for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core [Korah].

- **Balaam**, for gain, tried to lead God's people astray, to turn them away from following Jehovah, (hired by Balak - see Numbers chapter 22).
- **Korah**, with two companions, rebelled against the authority of Moses; after which, they were swallowed up by the earth, together with their followers (see Numbers chapter 16).

# False Religion - A Human Sacrifice [90; 93]

**Second - Cain's religion was a purely human sacrifice.**

- **Works expects a reward.**
- **Cain brought an offering, not a sacrifice.**
- **Cain brought the fruit of the cursed ground.**

**GEN 3:17** And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;**



## A More Excellent Sacrifice [90]

HEB 11:4 **By faith** Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, **by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.**

- **Abel brought the proper sacrifice.**
- **Cain had no reason to be angry with God or his brother.**
- **If Cain had brought the proper sacrifice with a right heart it would have been accepted.**
- **Cain ignored Calvary (the Blood).**

# A More Excellent Sacrifice [90]

- Cain was willing to worship only on his own terms.
- Cain approached God without a sense of sin or guilt.
- Cain's offering was a rejection of the "promised seed."
  - It was the first attempt of salvation by works, without need of the blood sacrifice of Christ.
- Cain thought he could do it his way.
- Remember the song written for Frank Sinatra by Paul Anka, "I Did It My Way".
  - Success is our way, or so the world believes.



## False Religion - A Human Satisfaction [90]

***Third - Cain's religion was a purely human satisfaction.***

**Cain was satisfied that God should be satisfied.**

**He had done his best, or so he convinced himself.**



## God Encouraged Cain [90; 93]

According to Genesis 4, Verse 7 - “If you do well, will you not be accepted?”

God **invited Cain** to come to Him the right way.

Cain was **encouraged** to bring the proper sacrifice.

Then he would regain the right of the first born (seniority) over Abel.



# Jealousy <sup>[93]</sup>

*Jealousy - In Cain's mind, God seemed to favor the younger Abel.*

Thus Cain would lose his seniority or privilege of the first-born.

He lost earthly position.

Pride rose up!

Rather than submit to God and bring the proper sacrifice Cain decided to murder his brother.



# Jealousy <sup>[93]</sup>

*In Genesis 4, Verse 7 we see the words “Sin lies at the door”.*

If Cain refused to bring the proper offering, sin would devour him.

JAM 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.



# Rebellion <sup>[93]</sup>

*Cain was a rebellious person, not a believer as regards faith, trusting in a form of religion or godliness.*

*Abel was a true believer, trusting in God.*

**Cain provided for himself, not trusting in what God had provided.**

**God will accept us only in Christ – we cannot save ourselves.**



# Rebellion <sup>[93]</sup>

*Like many religious people today, Cain was infuriated by what he heard from God.*

Today's humanists are **infuriated** by the very mention of God's word.

Don't you dare impose your **values** on me!

Man in his **pride** does not accept that he is subject to God's law.



# Rebellion

Imagine God looking down on Shirley MacLane, like a tiny ant, standing **defiantly** on the beach with her guru in Out on a Limb proclaiming that **“I am god”**, **“I am god”**.

Imagine God saying: **“OK Shirley, Walk on water.”**

Man shows **a form of godliness**, but he **denies the power thereof**, destitute of any genuineness or reality.

**We see this in 2 Timothy chapter 3:**



# Watered Down Christianity

**2TI 3:1** This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

**2** For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

**3** Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

**4** Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

**5** Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.



# Watered Down Christianity

*Men practice religion but do not have faith in its power.*

**Many men today practice a watered down form of Christianity.**



# Approach God With A Right Spirit

*If Cain had approached God with a right spirit he would not have been angry if his offering was rejected.*


**We need a humble desire to learn God's will.**

**We are to rule over our own wills and practice self-control.**



# Murder





## Genesis 4:8 - Murder

**GEN 4:8** *Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose against Abel his brother and killed him.*



## Cain's Religion [90]

*The seed of the Serpent was striking at the Seed of the woman, trying to prevent the fulfillment of the redemption.*

**We will now begin to see that Cain's religion was marked by four things.**



# Cain's Religion [90]

**Cain's religion was marked by four things:**

- 1. Cain's religion was marked by force.**
- 2. Cain's religion was marked by falsehood.**
- 3. Cain's religion was marked by futility.**
- 4. Cain's religion was marked by fear.**



# Cain's Religion Marked By Force

*First - Cain's religion was marked by Force.*

**Force - It produced rage and murder.**

**Cain spoke with Abel.**

**He was upset that his beautiful offering was rejected in favor of the blood sacrifice of Abel.**

**Cain's offering cost labor.**

**Abel's sacrifice cost nothing.**

**Labor and nothing, that's the difference between works and sacrifice.**



## Cain's Religion Marked By Force [13; 90]

Today many denominations want to remove the **atoning blood** from their hymnals and Bibles as disgusting and offensive.

False religion would **martyr** those who stand for **God's truth**.

*According to the notes for verse 8 in the Companion Bible: “**Religion**’ is and ever has been the greatest cause of blood-shedding.”*

In the world we need **relationship**, not **religion**.



## Genesis 4:9 - Confession

**GEN 4:9** Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

God was trying to get Cain to **confess**.

"Am I my brother's keeper?" - Cain **questioned God's right** to ask the question.



## Cain's Religion Marked By Falsehood [90]

**Second - Cain's religion was marked by Falsehood.**

**Falsehood - Cain lied to God saying "I do not know."**

**False religions are based on lies.**

**At their heart are deception and fraud.**



## Genesis 4:10 – Blood Cries Out [93]

**GEN 4:10** And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

**Sin cannot be silenced, it cries out, God sees it.**

**Blood is mentioned the first time.**




## Blood Cries Out

*This blood would be avenged at Calvary.*

**HEB 12:24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

**Christ offered the perfect sacrifice.**

**1JO 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.



## Genesis 4:11-12 – Thorns

**GEN 4:11** "So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

**12** "When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."



# Thorns <sup>[93]</sup>

*Cain can no longer produce the fruits by which he sought to approach God.*

Those who attempt to earn salvation by good works find that they can produce only thorns and thistles.

Cain would be a perpetual reminder of the consequences of rebellion against God.

# Cain's Religion Marked By Futility [90]

*Third - Cain's religion was marked by Futility.*

- **Futility - God exposed Cain's false religion.**
- **As all who follow false religion, Cain would spend his days wandering away from God.**
  - **Faith made Abraham a pilgrim and a stranger.**
  - **False religion made Cain a fugitive and a vagabond, a lost and cursed man.**
    - **And, as we shall soon see, the father of a doomed and fallen line.**



## Genesis 4:13-14 – Lost Ground

**GEN 4:13** And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

**14** Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.



## Lost Ground [54]

*“...face of the ground (or earth)” = Literally “face,” as in turning away, from the red earth.*

- Refers to that portion of the ground that Cain had been long accustomed to, **the home of his parents, his native country.**
- **The earth was his possession, his idol which he worshipped.**



# Cain's Religion Marked By Fear

*Fourth - Cain's religion was marked by Fear.*

- Fear - Cain's religion did not produce repentance, only resentment, guilt, unrest, unhappiness and fear.
  - He feared man, not God.
- Cain's legacy, like today, was to found a civilization characterized by great social, secular and scientific activity, which ignored God's promise.
  - His line would be totally destroyed by the Flood.



## Genesis 4:15 - Fear

**GEN 4:15** And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

*God would preserve Cain as a continuing warning against sin to his generation.*



## The Mark of Cain

*Whatever the mark was, it identified Cain as one that was protected by God as a sign to his generation.*

- Literally = “The Lord gave a sign, a token or pledge to Cain, that no one who found him should kill him.”
- “Sevenfold” - Anyone who killed Cain would suffer worse punishment.



# End of THE ORIGIN OF EVIL - Lesson 03



# Closing Prayer

# Creation Revelation



God is in the details

Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.

Psalm 119:160

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