

CAIN AND ABEL SACRIFICE TO GOD: GENESIS 4

The Bible tells us in Genesis chapter 4 that a man by the name of Abel pleased God. How? By coming the way God wanted instead of the way he himself wanted. His brother did not listen to God and did his own thing. God was not pleased. God could not accept him that way.

After Adam and Even were sent out of the Garden of Eden, God gave them two sons. The older one, was named Cain, the younger one named Abel. When they grew to be young men, Cain became a farmer while Abel was a shepherd with a flock of sheep. They both had wicked hearts like their parents. But Abel was sorry about his sins and believed the promise God had made to send a Saviour.

One day Abel brought a lamb from his flock and offered it as a gift to God by killing it and burning it on the altar. The altar was a pile of stones which was flat on top. He put the dead lamb on the altar to burn until only ashes and bones were left. Doing this was called a sacrifice. By giving God his lamb Abel showed God that he loved Him. God was pleased that Abel worshipped Him in this way. For the lamb was in many ways like the Saviour God would send someday to die for people's sins. The Saviour would be gentle and patient and innocent like the lamb and be killed as a sacrifice just as the lamb was.

But Abel's brother, Cain, did not turn from his sins or believe God's promise to send a Saviour. In fact he didn't want the Saviour. He wanted to do things his own way. So when he brought his offering, it was not a lamb, which was what God wanted, but he brought some vegetables out of his garden. So God was not pleased with Cain or his offering.

John the Baptist in the New Testament part of the Bible said: "Behold, or look, there's the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John the Baptist was speaking about Jesus. Just as the lamb was the only acceptable way into God's presence for those in Abel's time, so today, Jesus, as the Lamb of God, is the only accepted way. Jesus said: "No one comes unto the Father except through me."

Have your sins been taken away by the Lamb? Have you received the Lord Jesus as your Saviour from sin? He is the only way. Believe Him today like Abel did, and read Genesis chapter 4 in your Bible.