
PART THREE

CAIN AND ABEL

CLOUD
OF
WITNESSES

KEY VERSE IN HEBREWS 11

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

Hebrews 11:4 ESV

OLD TESTAMENT

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

OLD TESTAMENT

Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

OLD TESTAMENT

Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Genesis 4:1–16 ESV

ONE

THE WHO

**CLOUD
OF
WITNESSES**

WHO IS CAIN?

1. Hebrew "qayin" meaning "to acquire, possess, or gain"
2. Eve named him as a confidence in Cain being the promised seed from Genesis 3:15
3. Eve's language of naming Cain is problematic, she places herself on the level of God in bearing life: "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." Placing herself as participating in the glory of God revealed in the promised seed. That the LORD merely "helped" her achieve this feat.
4. Cain may have been given the faith as the fulfillment of the promised seed who will redeem Adam and Eve back into the Garden by his mother. Which is the basis of his name "acquire, gain, or possess."
5. Cain places his trust in himself rather than heeding the warning of God about ruling over sin. "If you do well..." is the condition that Cain knew what was right and did not do it. Instead, he killed the one on whom favor is found.

WHO IS ABEL?

1. Hebrew "hevel" meaning "breath, vapor, or vanity" found in Ecclesiastes as "vanity or futility"
2. Second son to Adam and Eve
3. Eve's naming of Abel was that of worthlessness. He is simply here and will be gone. Which prophetically comes to pass at the hands of the one who was thought to be the promised seed.
4. Earliest approval for an offering (mincha = meaning tribute)
5. First victim of murder as the level of sin that has been made manifest since the Fall

TWO

THE FAITH

CLOUD
OF
WITNESSES

THE FAITH: OFFERING

1. Hebrew "mincha" meaning "tribute or offering or grain offering"
2. Mincha does not require a blood offering
3. Mincha is a grain offering in Leviticus 2
4. Where did the idea of offering sacrifices to God come from since the Law had not been given yet?

God displayed the measure of atonement in the Garden when He killed two animals and clothed Adam and Eve in their shame.

And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. (Genesis 3:21 ESV)

OPINIONS ON ACCEPTANCE

1. God's actions are inscrutable
2. Genre or Source of the Offering: From the ground vs from life
3. Character of the Worshipper

THREE

THE HOW

CLOUD
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WITNESSES

HOW ABEL BEARS WITNESS

1. Pure in Heart of God's Worship
2. Divine Retribution
3. Good Theology produces Good Doxology

NEXT WEEK...

ENOCH

CLOUD
OF
WITNESSES
