



Lesson Eight: The Blood of Abel and the Blood of Christ

Genesis 4:1-17, Hebrews 12:22-24

Paul Goebel – March 7, 2023

Genesis 4:1-17

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.”² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.³ In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground,⁴ 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,⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.⁶ The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?⁷ 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^ayou, but you must rule over it.”

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?”¹⁰ And the Lord said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground.¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.¹² 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.”¹³ Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear.¹⁴ 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.”¹⁵ 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.¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.¹⁷ Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch.

Hebrews 12:22-24

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,²³ and to the assembly^[a] of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Discussion Questions:

1. Reflect on the first 4 chapters of Genesis. Where do you see yourself in the story of creation and the fall of Adam and Eve? Where do you see yourself in the story of Cain and Abel? How do these Biblical stories help you understand your own life story?
2. Why does the Lord accept Abel's offering but deny Cain's? What does that say about the offerings that we bring to the Lord?
3. What is genuine faith? What makes faith in God different than the knowledge of God?
4. What sins led to Cain murdering Abel? What does this progression teach us about sin?
5. Read Genesis 4:7. What does it mean to rule over sin? How has God empowered us to rule over sin?
6. How did the blood of Abel cry out from the ground?
7. How has the blood of Jesus spoken a better word than the blood of Abel?