

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
DECEMBER 22, 2021
GENESIS 4:1-15

INTRODUCTION:

1. Cain and Abel were the first children recorded in the Bible. (Gen. 4.1,2)
 - a) **GENESIS 4.1:** “*she conceived and bore Cain.*” Cain (qiyān): Literally, “acquired.”
 - b) **GENESIS 4.2:** “*Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel.*” Abel (habel): “breath.”
2. The account of Cain and Abel

I. THERE IS A COMMAND

- A. In the immediate context, there is no command spoke by God. Yet, Cain and Abel offered to God a sacrifice according to their occupations. (Gen. 4.2,3)
 1. Consider the kind of sacrifices that were offered.
 - a) **GENESIS 4.3:** “*Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground.*”
 - b) **GENESIS 4.4:** “*Abel also brought of the firstfruit of his flock and of their fat.*”
 2. **GENESIS 4.4,5:** “*And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering.*” Respect (sa’a): To look with favor.
 3. Why did God respect the sacrifice of Abel, but not the sacrifice of Cain? (Heb. 11.4)
 - a) “*By faith*” Abel’s sacrifice was in keeping with the command of God.
 - b) “*A more excellent sacrifice.*” Literally, a sacrifice of better quality. He gave his best to God because he gave His heart to God.
- B. God always expects us to give our best.
 1. God is to be a priority in our giving. (Prov. 3.9; Mal. 3.8-10)
 2. Giving is easy when you first give to God your heart. (Matt. 22.37; 2 Cor. 8.1-5)

II. THERE IS A COUNTENANCE

- A. **GENESIS 4.5:** “*And Cain was angry, and his countenance fell.*”
 1. Countenance (pa’nay): “head, face.” Refers to the expression. He hung his head.
 2. His downcast expression and feelings of rejection was the result of his own failure.
 - a) **GENESIS 4.6,7:** “*If you do well, will you not be accepted?*” Not a change in action, but a change in heart. If you give God your heart. (Prov. 4.23)
 - b) Accepted (s’et): Literally, lifted up. His feelings of anger came because of his poor choice. In contrast, making a good choice would lift him up. (1 John 3.12)
 3. **GENESIS 4.7:** “*And if you do not do well...*” If you do not change your attitude and give God your heart, then you are inviting sin into your life.
 4. **GENESIS 4.7:** “*But you should rule over it.*” You need to regain control.
- B. Who are the truly happy? (Ps. 144.15; Prov. 16.20)

III. THERE IS A CONSEQUENCE

- A. The consequence of Abel’s righteous choice.
 1. **GENESIS 4.8:** “*Cain rose up against his brother and killed him.*”
 - a) Doing the right thing often provokes the envy and hatred of others. (Matt. 27.18)
 - b) The righteous will suffer persecution. (2 Tim. 3.12)
 2. **HEBREWS 11.4:** “*he being dead still speaks.*” Doing good sets a good example.
- B. The consequence of Cain’s wicked choice. Genesis 4.9-15) “*driven me out...hidden from Your face.*” The consequence of sin is separation.

