



Cain and Abel - The First Brothers (Genesis 4:1-16)

OVERVIEW:

Cain was the first-born son of Adam and Eve, making him the first human child to be born in the Bible. Like his father Adam, he became a farmer and worked the soil. The Bible doesn't tell us a lot about Cain, yet we discover in a few short verses that Cain had a serious anger management problem.

The story of Cain and Abel begins with the two brothers bringing an offering to the Lord. The Bible says that God was pleased with Abel's sacrifice, but not with Cain's. As a result Cain grew angry, dejected and jealous. Soon his fierce anger led him to commit murder

STEPS TO FAILURE:

- Disappointment
- Anger
- Failure to heed correction
- Failure to heed a warning
- Violence

LESSONS:

- **Best** - do things right the first time
- **Better** - correct things quickly
- **Bad** - blame others for your errors
- **Worst** - attack others for your errors

BLESSINGS:

- God give us a purpose: worship and serve Him
- God gives us direction: He desires proper worship
- God gives second chance: He provides forgiveness

(Other references to Cain - Hebrews 11:4, 1 John 3:12 , Jude 1:1)

EXTRA

“This account leaves us wondering exactly why God looked with favor on Abel's offering, but rejected Cain's. This mystery is often a point of confusion for believers. However, verse 6 and 7 of Genesis 4 contain the clue to solve the mystery. After seeing Cain's anger over the rejection of his sacrifice, God said to him: Then the LORD said to Cain, *Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.* (NIV)

Cain should not have been angry. Apparently both he and Abel knew what God expected as the "right" offering. God must have already explained it to them. Both Cain and God knew that he had given an unacceptable offering. Perhaps even more important, God knew that Cain had given with a wrong attitude of heart. Yet God still offered Cain a chance to make things right and warned him that the sin of anger would destroy him if he did not master it.

Cain was faced with a choice. He could turn from his anger, change his attitude and make things right with God, or he could intentionally give himself over to sin.”

-- Mary Fairchild @MaryFairchild