

Studies In Genesis

Cain and Abel

Profound Principles

Text: Genesis 4:1-8

Introduction:

1. The story of Cain and Abel introduces a number of “firsts” into the world: the first birth, the first siblings, the first murder.
2. However, there are also some important principles set forth in this story.
3. These principles have stood from the dawn of time until now.

I. The Importance of Worship (Genesis 4:3-7)

- A. Both Cain and Abel brought an offering unto the Lord.
- B. However, God accepted only Abel’s offering.
 1. Abel offered by faith (Hebrews 11:4).
 2. Faith comes by hearing God’s Word (Romans 10:17).
 3. Thus, God had instructed what was to be offered.
- C. Acceptable worship is that which is approved of God (4:7).
- D. This important principle must be remembered today (John 4:24).

II. The Importance of Justice (Genesis 4:8-16)

- A. God is aware of injustice in His world.
- B. God’s justness is violated when the innocent suffer.
 1. Cain’s motivation (1 John 3:12).
 2. God’s indignation (Exo. 3:7; Job 16:18; Isa. 5:7; Rev. 6:10).
- C. God will punish those who oppress the righteous.
- D. God’s justice is tempered with mercy.

III. The Importance of Influence (Genesis 4:17-26)

- A. Cain’s influence of wickedness continued through his descendants.
- B. Seth’s influence of righteousness continued through his children.
- C. When the wicked began to influence the righteous, the world became so filled with sin that God destroyed it (Genesis 6).
- D. We must be aware of our influence on others and of other’s influences on us.

Conclusion:

1. The story of Cain and Abel reminds us of very important principles.
2. Whose example are we following, Cain’s or Abel’s?