

Elpis Israel

for Young People

Cain and Abel

Class 16

Introductions:

Pin up sheets – who is joining us.

Review

Handout – everyone should have

- Was emailed out to all the “remote listeners”
- Available for download from the website if you didn’t get it
- Every student should have one around the table.

Background for the last few classes (HAVE KID’S FILL IT IN):

- We began looking at the division of **DARKNESS** and **LIGHT**
- We looked at the **THINKING OF FLESH** vs. **THINKING OF THE SPIRIT**
- 2 Seeds – **SEED OF THE SERPENT** vs. **SEED OF THE WOMAN**
- 2 Coverings- **FIG LEAVES** vs. **ANIMAL SKINS**
- 2 Ways – **MAN’S WAY** vs **GOD’S WAY**

This week

- 2 Sons: **CAIN & ABEL**
 - Can apply this same “division” to every story in the Bible
 - Seed of the Woman vs. Seed of the Serpent
 - Isaac vs. Ishmael
 - David vs. Goliath
 - Joshua& Caleb vs. 10 Spies
 - Israel vs. Canaanites
 - Esther vs. Haman
 - Stephen vs. Saul (what happened here in the end)

Profile of the 2 Boys of Adam & Eve

- Cain: Strong’s #7014 – Qayin “possession”
Gesenius: קַיִן *an unused root [under קָוַן in Thes.]. i.q. قان Med. Ye, to form, to prepare (comp. קָנָה No. 1), specially, to forge iron. Hence—*
קַיִן *m.—(1) a spear, 2 Sam. 21:16.*
(2) [Cain], pr.n.—(a) of the fratricide son of Adam. Allusion is so made to the etymology in Gen. 4:1, that קַיִן would seem to be the same as קָנָה, “she bare Cain (a creature [rather a possession, see קָנָה]), and said, I have created [rather possessed or acquired] a man by the help of Jehovah” [of course this is the true derivation].—(b) of the tribe of the Kenites, Numb. 24:22; Jud. 4:11; see קַיִן.—(c) of a town of the tribe of Judah, with the art. Josh. 15:57.
 - Occupation: (v2) – tiller of the ground

- Abel – 1893 – Hebel – Breath

Gesenius: הֶבֶל with suff. הֶבְלִי, pl. הֶבְלִים constr. הֶבְלִי.

(1) *breath, breathing, used of a gentle breeze, Isa. 57:13. (Well rendered by the Vulg. aura. Less correctly by the LXX. καταιγίς.) More often used of the breath of the mouth (Kimchi, אִיד שִׁיצָא מִפֶּה, Aqu. ἀτμίς, Symm. ἀτμός, which word,*

Sap. vii. 25, Syr. is rendered مَحْبُ). Commonly used of any thing transitory, evanescent, frail. Job 7:16, כִּי הֶבֶל יָמַי “for my days are a breath;” Prov.

13:11, הוֹן מְהֶבֶל יִמְעַט “riches vanish more quickly than a breath;” Ecc. 11:10, “childhood and youth are vanity;” Pro. 21:6; 31:30; Ps. 39:6; Ecc. 1:2, 14; 2:11, 17, 23; 4:4, 8; 5:9; 6:9, etc. Hence arises the signification something vain and empty, Lam. 4:17; Jer. 10:3, 8, and adv. vainly, emptily, in vain; Job 9:29; 21:34; 35:16; Isa. 30:7; Ps. 39:7. Specially used of idols as being vain and impotent, also used of their worship, 2 Ki. 17:15; Jer. 2:5. Plur. Ps. 31:7, הֶבְלִי שְׂוֹא “vain idols.” Jon. 2:9.

(2) *exhalation, vapour, mist, darkness, which cannot be seen through. Ecc. 6:4, of an abortion; “for it comes in a mist, and goes away in vanity,” seen by no one; Ecc. 11:8, כָּל־נִשְׁבָּא הֶבֶל “all that is coming is a mist,” i.e. involved in darkness; Ecc. 8:14.*

(3) *pr.n. Abel (LXX. Ἀβελ), the second son of Adam; prob. so called from the shortness of his life [but he had this name from his birth]; Gen. 4:2, seq.*

הֶבֶל i.q. הֶבְלִי No. 1, *breath, hence vanity, a Chaldaizing form. Ecc. 1:2; 12:8.*

- Occupation: a keeper of sheep
 - Other keepers of sheep:
 - Abraham
 - Isaac
 - Jacob
 - Joseph
 - Moses
 - David
 - Jesus – 1 Peter 2:25 – “The Shepherd and bishop of your souls”

Bringing the Sacrifice

Both boys (now men) would have been told the story of the serpent in the Garden

- Would have known about their parents attempts at “covering” – with the fig leaves
- Would have known how they were taken out of the Garden
- Would have seen the Cherubim at the EAST of the garden of Eden “keeping the way”
- Would have seen the FLAMING SWORD

Genesis 4:3-4 *And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:*

2 Offerings:

- Cain: Brought the fruit of the ground
- Abel: Brought the firstling of the flock

Principles at work:

1. Blood must be shed:
Hebrews 9:22 *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission.***
 2. The blood holds the life of the flesh:
Leviticus 17:11 *For **the life of the flesh is in the blood:** and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*
 - Represented the divine principle set out in EDEN that flesh deserves to die
 3. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom – must be put to death
1 Cor 15:50 *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*
 - Therefore – flesh needs to be put to death
- Abel’s offering respected these principles
 - Cain’s offering was the WORK OF HIS OWN HANDS
 - He thought he could get into the kingdom of God by his own WORKS
 - Thought he could EARN his way there
 - Commentary on the sacrifices:
Hebrews 11:4 *By faith Abel offered unto God a **more excellent [fuller] sacrifice** than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was **righteous**, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*

God's response:

Genesis 4:4-5 *And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And **the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect.** And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.*

- How God would have showed respect:

Judges 13:19-20 *So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wondrously; and Manoah and his wife looked on. For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground.*

2 Chron 7:1-3 *Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, **the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.** And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house. And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.*

1 Kings 18:36-38 *And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. **Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.***

Cain's response

Typical response – man is angry with God.

Genesis 4:5-6 *But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?*

Cain was an ATHEIST – in the true meaning of the word

Ephesians 2:12 *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and **without God** [atheist] in the world:*

- True atheism isn't to believe that God doesn't exist (Psalm 14:1 – this is what the fool does)
- It is to believe God exists and treat him as a liar
 - Not to believe in his promises
 - Not to believe his word

1 John 5:10 *He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: **he that believeth not God hath made him a liar**; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.*

- Cain didn't believe the principles God had laid out – that we've learned already in Genesis
- He was a religious man – but he brought what he was willing to offer and believed that God should be happy with that
- What the Bible calls “will worship” – Coll 2:23
- Religion today is full of these concepts
 - “Baptism isn't really important” – even though God has commanded it
 - “Just as I am Lord” – I can come to God on my terms.
- Learn from the lesson of Cain – God is not going to accept this.

God's admonition of Cain:

Genesis 4:7 *If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*

Look up Sin: 2403 – Chattah – a sin offering (Ezra 6:7)

- What God is saying to Cain:
 - If you repent (make amends, turn around and do well) you will be accepted (elevated) by God.*
 - If you don't repent then the sin offering will not be effective for you.*
- God Requires Repentance:
 - Isaiah 55:6-8** *Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: **Let the wicked forsake his way**, and the unrighteous man his **thoughts**; and let him **return** unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly **pardon**. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*

Cain Murder's Abel:

Genesis 4:8 *And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.*

Genesis 4:8 YLT *And Cain saith unto Abel his brother, 'Let us go into the field;,' and it cometh to pass in their being in the field, that Cain riseth up against Abel his brother, and slayeth him.*

- The Bible makes comment on the motives behind this crime:

1 John 3:11-14 *For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as **Cain**, who **was of that wicked one, and slew his brother**. And **wherefore slew he him?** Because his **own works were evil**, and his **brother's righteous**. **Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you**. We know that we have **passed from death unto life**, because we **love the brethren**. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*

Very different from Cain's response to God:

Genesis 4:9 *And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: **Am I my brother's keeper?***
c/p Jer 31:10 "keep him as a shepherd doth his flock"

This became synonymous with the "SEED of the SERPENT"

Jude 11 *Woe unto them! for they have **gone in the way of Cain**, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the ginsaying of Core.*

Aftermath

Cain – tries to make a name for himself:

Genesis 4:17 *And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and **called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch**.*

Seth – the appointed seed

Genesis 4:25-26 *And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the **[call themselves by]** name of the LORD.*