



Cain's Critics

Genesis 4


Skeptics and the Bible agree!

- Skeptics criticize Cain; he is fabricated.

Where did Cain get his wife?

Carl Sagan: *Contact*

- Bible criticizes Cain; he sinned. Gn.4



I. Chapter Digest

1, Cain sounds like “gotten”

Promised seed? [3:15]

2, Abel . . . vanity, vapor, breath

**First men: farmers (3:23)
and shepherds (pastors)**

**Did not live thousands of years
as half-human cave-dwellers**

3-4a, worship

- **In process of time...**
- **Implies time, place, **details** of worship already revealed to Cain and Abel**

**Faith requires Word
(Ro.10:17)**

**“By faith”
(Hb.11:4)**

3-4a, worship

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- Cain ¹brought ²fruit of ground ³to God
- Abel ¹brought ²firstborn . . . and ³fat

3-4a, FAT

- **Bounty, i.e., a figurative extension of fat as a sign of prosperity (Ge 45:18).**
 3. **the finest, best part** – Swanson et al.
- **Nu.18:12 –**

“All the best of the oil, all the best of the new wine and the grain, their firstfruits which they offer to the Lord, I have given them to you.

3-4a, worship

- Implies time, place, details already revealed to Cain and Abel

Faith requires Word
(Ro.10:17)

“By faith”
(Hb.11:4)

Summary: Abel worshipped . . .

- in **truth** (WHAT God commanded)
- in **spirit** (HOW God commanded – **BEST**)

3-4a, worship

- Implies time, place, details already revealed to Cain

Faith required
(Ro.10:1-4)

Not
“act naturally”

Summary. Abel worshipped . . .

- in **truth** (WHAT God commanded)
- in **spirit** (HOW God commanded – **BEST**)

4b, God ‘**respected**’ Abel and his offering

- Def.: gaze, regard with favor
- God “paid attention to” Abel’s offering

5, ‘**did not respect**’ Cain, his offering

- Nu.16:15 –

“And Moses was very angry and said to the LORD, ‘**Do not respect** their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, and I have not harmed one of them.’”

4b-5: a 'Cain reaction'

- **Burn, be kindled; burn w. anger. Rage.**
- **Lit., *and it was very hot to Cain***
 1. **Cain is angry with God / brother –
everyone except himself**
 2. **Cain envies Abel – 'chain reaction' –**
 - **Mt.5:22, heart → anger → murder**
 - **First murder illustrates Lord's point**

4b-5: Cain's face fell

- **Downcast appearance, formally, sag, i.e., be in a state of a frowning, angry or disconcerted appearance (Ge 4:5, 6); displeasure**
- **“Written all over his face”**

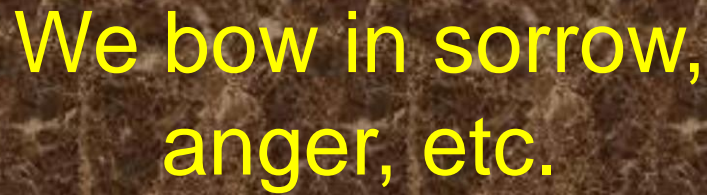
6: God pleads with Cain

Loving correction: wasted on Cain

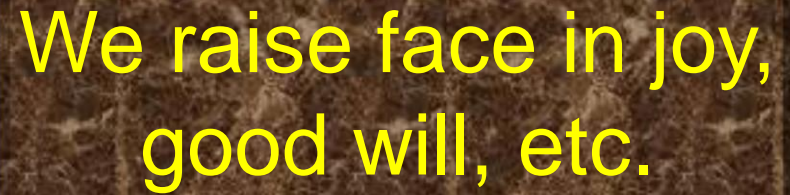
- **Why are you angry? Why has your countenance fallen?**
- **God does not compromise to make Cain feel good about himself**

7: If you do well...

- **Accepted: “lifted up”**



We bow in sorrow,
anger, etc.



We raise face in joy,
good will, etc.

If you do not do well...

- **The moment of decision**
- **Worship in spirit / truth – face-lift**

7: If you do well...

- Accepted: “lifted up”

If you do not do well...

- **Sin** crouches at door (lurking)
 - Zoomorphism

“For the law brings wrath, but where there is **no law** there is **no transgression**” –Ro.4:15

“...**sin** is not counted where there is **no law**”
– Ro.5:12-13

Explains Gn.4:5, 8, 9

7: If you do well...

- Accepted: "lifted up"

If you do not do well

No record
'when' these
laws came
into effect

Penalty
proves they
'were' in
effect

no law there is no transgression - Ro.4.15

"...sin is not counted where there is no law"
- Ro.5:12-13

Explains Gn.4:5, 8, 9

8: ...killed him

- **Ruthless violence, especially private violence, Gn 4:8, 14, 23, 25**
- **Cain chose murder; 1 Co.10:13**
- **Hoped-for redeemer becomes murderer...his brother the victim**

8: Cain's heart

Downward spiral of sin

- 1. Frustration and wounded pride.**
- 2. Envy at brother's success.**
- 3. Anger. Ep.4:26-27.**
- 4. Anger, given free rein, frets sullenly over imaginary wrong, rousing hatred & desire for revenge.**
- 5. Vents its revenge in violent murder (1 Co.9:27).**

9: *I do not know* (lie)

Am I my brother's keeper?

(stubborn pride, rebellion)

- **Ignores real question: *brother's killer?***
- **Abel had not hurt Cain**

10: *What have you done?* [3:13]

- **Blood crying from ground is worst pollution (Nu.35:29-34)**



I. Chapter Digest

**II. Cain's
Dangers**

1. Cain and his God, 1-7

Hb.11:4, *by faith...*

- Always implies revelation – Ro.10:17

Abel offered to God. Mt.26:29; Ac.10:33

More excellent sacrifice... Gn.4:3-4

1. Cain and his God, 1-7

Hb.11:4, *by faith...*

- Always implies revelation – Ro.10:17
- Abel offered –
 - **Firstborn**
 - **Fat**
 - **Faith**

1 Co.11: not enough to eat and drink; God deserves our best

1. Cain and his God, 1-7

Hb.11:4, *by faith...*

- Always implies revelation – Ro.10:17

Abel offered to God. Mt.26:29; Ac.10:33

More excellent sacrifice... Gn.4:3-4

Witness...he was righteous.

Gn.4:4; Pr.9:8

Jude 11

Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.

What is in Jude's mind? (4...8...10)

- **Cain yielded to natural instincts, even in worship, rebelled against God . . .**
- **Hated the godly; murdered brother . . .**
- **Ignored his sin; protested punishment**