



“Offerings and Sacrifices”

Does God have a Standard?

Genesis 4:1-7

Our gifts to God are:

I. Prepared -“I have gotten ...from the Lord” (vs. 1-2)

God has given us :

A. Nature – “and again she bare his brother, Abel”

B. Names –“ Cain, Abel ”

C. Niches – “a keeper...a tiller”

II. Prescribed – “ it came to pass” (vs. 3-5)

Through giving, we express our :

A. Desire –“ brought..fruit..unto the Lord ”

II Samuel 24:24 - And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will verily buy it of thee at a price. Neither will I offer burnt-offerings unto Jehovah my God which cost me nothing. So David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

B. Devotion - “he had not respect”

C. Deportment – “his countenance fell”

III. Prevention - “why art thou wroth ” (vs. 6-7)

Our offerings will affect Our :

A. Face – “thy countenance fallen”

B. Feelings –“shalt thou not be accepted”

C. Future – “sin lieth at the door”

Conclusion: *God desires His children to gratefully acknowledge His provision and guard our heart from selfish desires and ambitions.*

INTRODUCTION:

Chicken and Pig Story.

A study in contrasts...Cain and Abel ...Seed of the Woman and Seed of the Serpent

Exegesis

VERSE 1

➤ ***And = Connection to previous verses and chapter that discussed:***

- ***the fall of man and***
- ***God’s promise and provision for forgiveness and salvation.***
 - ***The seed of the serpent and seed of the woman mentioned but perhaps not fully understood til....***
- ***God had just killed animals in order to make skins to cover Adam and Eve***
- ***...possibly the beginning of animal sacrifices.***

➤ ***Adam knew Eve, his wife = A man and a woman became intimate in accordance with God’s earlier instruction, “be fruitful and multiply.”***

- *She conceived = only females can do this ...also emphasizing the awesomeness of life beginning at conception*
- *bare Cain = name means spear and perhaps plays off of “gotten”*
- *a man from the Lord = literally “with” the Lord...emphasizing her acknowledgement of God as only way life can happen.*
 - *Likely her hope was placed that Cain would actually be the lineage for the promise found in 3:15...but she was mistaken and he actually was the other seed (cp. I John 3:12, Jude 11)*
 - *describes those who are of Cain but are also POSERS - Vocally discontented, sinfully self-centered, extravagantly egotistical, and deceptively flattering—such are apostates, then and today*
 - *Actually Abel would be the lineage for the seed of the woman and the Savior (cp. Hebrews 11:4; Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:50-51)*

VERSE 2

- *And she again bare his brother = Twins?!? Not necessarily but could be...not clear enough to be dogmatic either way.*

- *Abel = Cain’s brother...isn’t that the way it always goes...if you are second or third or...you are someones brother or sister and your name is sometimes lost in the shuffle. Name means Vapor, Breath, or vanity = emphasizing the shortness of life (cp. Romans 8:20).*
- *Abel = keeper of sheep.*
- *Cain = tiller of the ground.*
 - *Isn’t it interesting how men get their identification by their work. Even way back in the beginning it was so.*
 - *Some find excuses for their spiritual shortcomings because of their occupation but it is not a valid excuse as we will see from God’s perspective in the following verses.*
 - *Exa. Tim Tebow definitely has an occupation that would be difficult to stand up and do right but....Lets pray for that young man.*

VERSE 3

- *In the process of time = literally means “at the end of days” carrying with it the meanings of:*

- *There was an appointed time for offerings*
 - *The probable time would be at the end of the week or “Sabbath”*
 - *The offerings were not the first the boys were exposed to or most likely participated in.*
 - *Cain and Abel were of adult age and personally accountable*
- *Cain brings of fruit of the ground = He brought that which he valued and which he had easy access to. He did not have sheep and therefore God should understand and accept his offering that was more fitting with his ability and lifestyle.*
- *Unto the Lord = This describes who is to be pleased with the offering. It is the Lord who will decide whether it is a good offering. Some thoughts are:*
- *Acts 5:4 – We can deceive ourselves and others, but God will judge our hearts*
 - *I Samuel 15:22 – to obey is better than sacrifice*

- *II Samuel 24:24 – Worthy offerings are those which cost us something.*
- *II Corinthians 8:8 - Our giving reveals the condition of our heart and the sincerity of our love.*

VERSE 4

- *Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock = The first born animals.*
- *The first born animals would later be designated to be given to the Lord (Exodus 13:12-15)*
 - *The only exception was = The first born lambs were to be saved for Passover Meal.*
 - *Another reminder of the principle that we should give to God first in our budget ...honoring and acknowledging Him.*
- *And the fat thereof = The fatty pieces = why? They were the best portions of the meat if one was to eat the animal.(a practice later described as part of the peace offering – Leviticus 3:16).*

- *The Lord had respect = “to gaze upon” God took it seriously because Adam took Him seriously. It would be like me looking hard at a boat that would fit my “needs” as opposed to looking at just a boat that does not lend itself to bass fishin.*
- *To Abel = God looked upon Abel because he was looking upon God and His Word. He had placed his faith in God’s Word and God’s Grace which bring enjoyment of His favor and blessing.*
- *And to his offering = God evaluated Abel’s offering in light of Abel’s heart and not the reverse....No, God does not evaluate our heart according to our offering but He sees our heart and then judges our deeds.*

VERSE 5

- *But = here is a contrast...in fact our whole passage is a comparison and contrast of two seeds...one of the serpent, and one of the woman*
- *Unto Cain = God first looks at Cains heart and finds it to ugly to look at*
- *His offering = not something God is really interested in.*

- *Cain was very wroth = “furious” Have you ever been mad at God and the circumstances “He put you in?”*
- *His countenance fell = He was visibly unhappy....his face was easily read.*

VERSE 6

- *Lord said “Why” = God still asks this question today...Have you heard him ask you this?*
 - *Why haven’t you come when I have called you ?*
 - *Why are you waiting to get your sin problem taken care of?*
 - *Why haven’t you received the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ my Son?*
 - *Why do you poison your life with all the disrespect to what is written in the Bible?*
 - *Why do you continue to try to soothe your conscience with substances and activities, and possessions instead of confessing your sin and accepting the help God proffers.*

VERSE 7

- *If thou doest well = Obey the known will of God*
- *Shall thou not be accepted = “dignity” “lifted up” ...similar to what happens in I John 1:9 – Confess, be forgiven, and be cleansed.*
- *If not = refuse to come under God’s control*
- *Sin lieth at the door = a wild beast crouching at the door waiting to attack who ever would open the door. = Either we deal with our sin problem or it will destroy our lives and our very soul.*
- *Thou shalt rule over him = Either sin will dominate us or we will resist it. We cannot resist sin in our own strength...It only comes by the power of God, his Word, and His Holy Spirit.*

Sentence Sermon:

"God wants us to recognize His grace and worship Him with a whole hearted devotion to His desires ."

Additional Parallel Verses

- *Exodus 13:12-15*
- *Leviticus 3:16*
- *I Samuel 15:22*
- *II Samuel 24:24*
- *Romans 12:1-2 ; Romans 8:20*
- *II Corinthians 8:8*
- *Hebrews 11:4*
- *Matthew 23:35*
- *Luke 11:50-51*
- *Acts 5:4*
- *I John 1:9 ; I John 3:12*
- *Jude 11*

Questions to Ponder:

1. Why do you suppose Cain did not bring an acceptable offering? What sort of disposition and emotion might have led Cain to offer the unfit offering? (resentment, presumption, careless, prideful and rebellion)
2. How would you explain the difference between Offerings, Sacrifices, and Tithing?
3. What can we learn and apply to our own lives from today’s passage? What should motivate us to give? (Love, Gratefulness, Duty)