

Cain and Able

By David Phillips

Introduction

1. Often in the Bible we are able to compare the lives of two or more people to better understand what God does and does not accept.
2. The story of Cain and Able is just such an account.
 - a. They provide a wonderful comparison of faithfulness vs. unfaithfulness,
 - b. True worship vs. false worship,
 - c. Of faith vs. tradition,
 - d. Of truth vs. error.
3. Let us consider their examples and learn the lessons the stories of their lives have to offer.

Discussion

I. Who Were Cain and Able?

- A. Read Genesis 4:1-12
- B. Second generation to live on the earth.
- C. Brothers.
- D. Examples of good and evil.

II. The Faith of Able.

- A. Able is the first person we observe offering up true worship to God (Read Gen. 4:4).
 1. We will notice that both Cain and Able offered sacrifices to God (Gen. 4:3-5), but of the two, only Abel's was accepted by God.
 2. The Hebrew writer comments on this in Hebrews 11:4 saying,
 3. *"By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks."*
 4. Why do you suppose God associates his faith with his faithful worship?
 5. Observe:
 - a. *"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom. 10:17).
 - b. Able is described as a prophet of God in Luke 11:50-51, so we know that God spoke to and through Abel as one of His prophets.
 - c.
 - d. When we put all of these facts together we must conclude that since Able hear the word of God and worshiped God according to the truth of His word He worshiped according to faith, doing as he was instructed.
- B. Abel's True Worship
 1. Now, we may also observe that when Abel worshiped God he was accepted by God. We may conclude that God's approval shows that Abel's worship was done according to truth (John 4:23-24).
 2. As a prophet of God, Able would have heard the word of God.

3. In John 17:17 Jesus states that God's word is truth.

III. The Way of Cain (Jude 11).

A. False worship

1. Jude 11; Gen. 4:3, 5-7
2. Matthew 15:8-9

B. The Progression of Sin

1. Gen. 4:5-12
2. Departure from standard, false worship, anger (as opposed to penitence), murder, influence future generations when sin is allowed to persist (Gen. 6:5).

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