

## Lesson 6

### **THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CAIN'S AND ABEL'S OFFERINGS**

We have no certain knowledge of whether Cain brought the wrong type of offering, although from the context this appears to be so. Without the shedding of blood there was no remission of sin and sin is indicated in Gen. 4:7. Cain's offering before the Lord was of a kind afterwards required by the Law. The obscure passage, "sin lieth at the door" (Gen. 4:7) makes conclusive proof difficult.

Scripture indicates that Abel's offering was "more excellent" and that this was related to his "faith" and was imputed to him for righteousness (Heb 11:4). I John 3:12 states Cain's works were evil and Abel's righteous. This cannot be restricted merely to their respective offerings. It must relate to their different manners of life.

So it was that God had respect unto one and not the other. It is, of course, possible that Cain's evil works, though known before to God, were made manifest by his innovation of a sacrifice not required by God or, more importantly, his refusal to bring what was required and this being now made public became the occasion of his jealousy against his brother. This is all possible, even probable, but is not expressly stated.

### **SETH - THE "APPOINTED" SEED IN PLACE OF ABEL**

Although Cain had slain Abel, he did not secure the right of the promise through the first-born which was his by birth. He had been rejected by God for his wickedness, and another "seed" was appointed to replace righteous Abel. This was Seth, so named by Eve, for she said "God hath appointed so another seed instead of Abel whom Cain slew" (Gen. 4:25). The line of Cain was rejected – it perished finally in the flood; whilst through the line of Seth, via Noah and Abraham, came Christ - the true Seed of the Woman who destroyed the serpent by his death and resurrection.

### **THE DESCENDENTS OF CAIN**

In Gen. 4 a brief account is given of the descendants of Cain. This is of interest as it shows the characteristics of this section of the antediluvian world. The most famous descendant of Cain is Lamech and the brief account given of him reveals some of his characteristics: He was a polygamist – which involved a breach of the Edenic Law concerning marriage. He boasted of his prowess and uttered his defiance in the words of his "Song" recorded in Gen. 4:23-24.

We learn, too, something of the development of the Cainites' civilization - pastoral tribes living in tents, yet discovering many inventions and introducing arts and culture: for amongst them was Jubal – "the father of all such as handle the harp and the organ": and Tubal-Cain, "an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron". But we look in vain for any suggestion of the development of religion, or for any reference to the worship of God.

### TEACHING METHODS

1. Relate the events of this lesson to the disobedience in the garden of Eden, e.g. the need for offerings, the operation of sin evidenced in murder etc.
2. Explain the import of scripture in the shedding of blood and that God requires true worship in the way appointed.
3. Use the N.T. scriptures to contrast the evil works of Cain with those of innocent Abel.
4. Introduce the growing ascendancy of evil as a lead in the next week's lesson.