

Lesson 18

5.2) Cain and Abel

- So far, we have seen how the 1st period ended, we have seen how God gave the promise of rescue to fallen man and how man accepted that offer from God. We also saw how God blocked the path to the Tree of Life so that the sinful state in which man found himself, even though he was saved, would not be perpetuated.
- God now begins to deal with a fallen race, wanting to restore it. But every time God reveals His plan, we will see that Satan comes with another plan, which is similar. We will see this in this period and in the others, but there is always a remnant faithful to God in each period.
- Man was outside of that garden, he now had a sinful nature, and God could no longer relate to him in that free and direct way. Now, because of sin, for man to relate to God, there had to be blood between man and God, thus showing that a life had been given for sin.
- Right from the beginning, God begins to show that a life would have to be given in place of man's life. The sacrifices of those first animals, whose skins served so that man and his wife could be dressed before God, were already pointing to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Animal sacrifices until the coming of Jesus served as concrete proof that man believed in God's provision for his salvation. Man would place his hand on the animal, declare that his sin would be passed onto that animal, and that the animal would die in his place. Only by faith! Man recognized that his sin was great, that it was deserving, that it was worthy of death.
- In this second period, man was left to be guided by his own conscience. What is conscience? It is the knowledge of good and evil. Didn't man become knowledgeable of good and evil, even though the wrong door of experience?
 - ⇒ **Romans 2:14~15;** God's law: *'show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness.'*
- Conscience only indicates good or evil, it says don't do that which is wrong. There is no power in the conscience to make me do good or avoid doing evil, it only indicates, it only turns on the 'red light' or the 'green light'. When the conscience is guided by the flesh, it is that 'elastic' that we have already studied, it goes far and accepts everything. In this time that we are about to begin, there were no laws or government, man was left to be guided by his own conscience.
- When Adam and Eve left the garden, the development of the human race began. They began to have children, and their children also began to have children. This is where the development of the race began in terms of growth. We will see the Bible mentioning some direct children of Adam and Eve, but not all of them. The Bible only mentions descendants for genealogical purposes, with information related to God's plan or even Satan's plan. The children of Adam and Eve married each other; it was the only way for the race to grow. In the future, we will see that marriage between siblings is prohibited.

- God will show and it will be clear to man that conscience will not take him anywhere. If man does not return to a relationship with God, through the path that God proposes, he will move further and further away from God. In each period, God reveals His will to man. Man is then responsible for believing and following it or for disbelieving and moving further and further away from God.
- All the orders revealed by God up until then remained. God never took them back: multiply and fill the earth; rule over the animals. Everything continued, but the environment was different now. These orders mentioned are in the area of government.
- In the area of the word, we will see that Adam passed on the guidelines to his children, that is, the Word of God was transmitted 'by word of mouth'. We see in Genesis principles of God in force that the Bible does not mention that they were already in force, that is, these principles were established later on in the time of the law of Moses, but the first men already followed them. God established from the beginning in the family, for example, that the father should speak to his son about the things of God, but this was established as law only later on. Another example is that of Noah, when he entered the ark, the Bible mentions that he separated clean animals from unclean animals, but only in the law of Moses did the Bible establish which animals were clean and which were unclean. We see that God's principles, from the beginning, were transmitted, were revealed by God to man, and man transmitted them to his children.

⇒ **Hebrews 11:4**; *'By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain; something was told to him to believe.'* It could only have been his father, Adam.

- In the area of worship, sacrifice with blood was clearly established. For man to worship God, for man to relate to God, a life would have to be given in place of that worshiper.

⇒ **Genesis 4:1~5**

- We can be sure that Adam and Eve passed on all the information to their children: the fall in the garden, how God had saved them and that it was only through blood that they could relate to God. We can believe, because as we saw in ⇒ **Hebrews 11:4**, Abel believed and therefore made an offering with blood. Both Cain and Abel believed in the existence of a God, the text here shows that both brought an offering.
- Was Cain religious? Yes, he was, because he came to perform a religious act; Cain came to offer a sacrifice before God. Cain's offering was certainly much more beautiful, more eye-catching, because it was full of fruits of the earth. Why then did God not accept Cain's offering? **Because there was no blood.**
- Abel did not, he took a dead animal, covered in blood, and placed it on the altar. The Bible says that God 'respected' (*NIV= looked with favor*) with Abel and his offering. The word 'respected' here means: 'set fire to,' fire fell from heaven, fire came down from heaven and consumed Abel's offering. This was how God showed whether or not He accepted the offering. God consumed Abel's offering and not Cain's. Cain then became angry with God.
- Abel's offering was based on the substitute, on obedience to the Word of God, because it contained blood. Cain's offering was rejected because it was an offering 'the work of his own hands', in total disobedience to God.

Cain, with the lack of blood on that altar, was saying to God: 'I'm not that bad, I don't need someone to die in my place.' At the time of the law, Cain's offer existed; it was a meal offering, offered in addition to the sacrifice; the meal offering went on top of a blood sacrifice.

- Cain could have offered God the first fruits of the land, he was a farmer. However, the offering had to be a blood sacrifice, because God had made it very clear that He could not have a relationship with sinful man, destined to die as punishment for sin, without the death of an innocent substitute. When someone died in man's place, God was free to accept that offering, because man was accepting the fact that he was a sinner and that he deserved death.
- Cain did not believe in God's Word; he did not obey. Cain was rebellious to God and chose another path, which the Bible calls *'the way of Cain'*.

⇒ **Jude 8~11**

- Cain decided for himself that he could relate to God without bloodshed, without resolving the problem of sin. Cain concluded that God should accept him, and this is no different from what many people want to do today. Many want to get close to God, they want God's favor, they want God to heal, to do this or that, without going through the cross of Jesus Christ, without identifying with the death of Christ, without believing and declaring with their mouths that they receive Jesus as their Savior. This is the *'way of Cain'*.
- The *'way of Cain'* is the way of the religious man, who wants to relate to God through human effort, independent of God. Man makes an effort, does something, says he is doing his best to be useful to society, to not lie, to not commit adultery, to help others, and God has to weigh it up and accept him. There is a 'religiosity,' there are external religious acts, but there is no cross of Christ. Entire religions are based on the way of Cain; They talk about Jesus, they read the Bible, they talk about God, but if you go deep into their doctrines, the blood of Jesus is not there, they follow another gospel.
- Cain recognized the existence of God, but he did not believe in His Word to obey it.
⇒ **I John 3:10~12;** *Cain was the wicked one and murdered his brother, his works were evil.*
- All religions invented by Satan and the human mind have this in common: they want to reach God through works and not through the blood of the substitute. In fact, there are only two religions, if we can call them that: the religion that believes in the substitute and the one that believes in the works that man can perform, in humanism. There is no way to reach God, except through Jesus Christ; it is blasphemy, it is an insult to God, and worse than that, it is the perdition of the man who believes that all paths lead to God. Cain inaugurated the principle of the phrase that 'all paths lead to God'.
- Jesus did not come to bring religion; He came to bring the only thing that man, who is dead and separated from God, needs: life. Man needs life and Jesus said:

⇒ **John 11:25;** *I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.*

⇒ **John 14:6;** *I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

⇒ **John 10:10**; *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

- Man does not need religion. We have seen the existence of religion since the beginning. Cain was a complete religious man, with every form, but he was far from God.

⇒ **Genesis 4:6~7**

- Here we see, once again, God seeking man, seeking this rebellious man. God gives Cain a new chance, instructs Cain. The love and longsuffering of the Lord God are impressive.

⇒ **Genesis 4:8**

- But Cain, once again, does not listen to God and continues on his path. The Bible says in ⇒ **Psalm 42:7**; that one '*deep calls unto deep*'. And Cain, continuing on his path, sinks into sin and ends up in what we read: he murdered his brother. Cain projected his sin onto Abel; Abel's righteous action bothered Cain. Instead of looking to the Lord and solving his problem, Cain killed his brother. Here we see that there is a tendency to always place the blame on others.

⇒ **Genesis 4:9~16**

- **V.13**: perhaps here Cain was telling God that his sin could not be so great as to deserve that punishment, he did not recognize it. Sin is a disease that makes our reasoning 'dull', and you cannot see anything. Cain's problem was called Cain; our problem is ourselves. Our soul, our ego, wants to solve, wants to help; we want to decide everything ourselves.
There is a rebellion in us against the things of God, even after being saved; it is spiritual blindness.
- **V.14**: this is the attitude of those who definitively rebel against the Lord; they prefer to die rather than repent and come to God. This happened to Judas, who hanged himself. During the tribulation period, in ⇒ **Revelation 6:15~17**, unbelievers, even though they know that what will happen is God's judgment, will prefer to die rather than repent and convert to God. This attitude began here with Cain.
- **V.15**: '*whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him*' Cain, no one will kill you; you will walk the earth with your sin.
- **V.16**: and Cain withdraws from the presence of the Lord. Here it means that Cain never returned to God; he withdrew from the presence of the Lord deliberately and definitively. God is omnipresent, but despite this we can live far from Him. Cain turned away from God; ⇒ **I John 3:12**; Cain belonged to the Evil One.
- If Adam and Eve were the first to be saved, Cain was the first wicked person destined to the lake of fire and to be eternally separated from God. Cain perpetuated his rebellious attitude in a rebellious generation. Abel's faith is a landmark for us to this day; ⇒ **Hebrews 11:4**.
- From Abel and Cain, two lines emerge before God. When God looks at the earth, He sees all of humanity divided in this way: those who follow the path of Abel and those who follow the path of Cain.

- God does not look at humanity and see it divided into races, social classes, and nationalities. He sees it divided into two paths: those who want to come to Him through works, humanism, and those who come to Him through the blood of the substitute, the path of those who know that in themselves there is no way to return to what man lost in the beginning, the life of God.
- Cain's path leads to the lake of fire, and Abel's path leads to New Jerusalem, to that city that the Lord Jesus is preparing so that we may be with Him forever.