

Life Outside

of the Garden

Adam and Eve were **banished** from the Garden of Eden, **removed** from the presence of God...and **blocked** by powerful Cherubim angels.



They were **without hope** of returning and **without hope** of making things right in their own strength...



All of mankind now will be born separated from God, with no ability on their own to please God or make things right with him...everyone will suffer death and eternal separation from God. Things are very bad.

God is going to begin to relate with mankind through a **sequence of covenants**, starting with Adam and Eve and their children.



The **covenants** will be an **agreement** between God & man, that will allow God to cover their sinfulness & have a relationship with mankind.



Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel could be God's friend and have a covenant relationship with God, by:



Trusting what God said about sacrifices and following his instructions on offering them...



God wanted them to remember that the punishment for **sin is death!** This way they would remember that they would die and go to everlasting punishment...unless He saved them!



This would allow them to:

- 1) Show that they **agreed** with God that they were sinners
- 2) Show that they **believe** that God would save them if they came to him the way that he had directed

God promised that if they came **by faith**, offering to him the blood of animals & believing that he would accept them...he would forgive their sins!



Adam and Eve's sons were born outside the garden (Gen 4:1-2)



The garden of Eden represents life, **friendship** with God, eternal **LIFE**!



Being born outside of the garden means that they are **DEAD**, **separated** from God and headed towards eternal death!



Adam and Eve's son were born under the curse and had to work the land... (Gen 4:2b)



God must have told them:
(Heb 11:4)

•When they came to him, they had to bring an acceptable animal as an offering to him, on behalf of their sin. They would have to kill the animal in such a way that the blood would flow out.

"For the life of the body is in its blood. I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the LORD. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible." Lev 17:11

Both Cain & Abel Came to Offer Sacrifices to God



Both Cain and Abel believed in the **existence of God** and were **attempting to come to him**! Both Cain and Abel were **trying to please God**, be acceptable to God and make it right!

Cain was a farmer and he brought some of his produce (fruits, veggies) as an offering.



Abel was a shepherd and he brought a firstborn lamb as an offering.



Abel's Offering Was Accepted by God

Abel showed that he agreed with God that he was a sinner, helpless to save himself, worthy of eternal death and that only God could save him!

God accepted Abel's offering because Abel came to God-God's way!

God accepted Abel because of his faith in what God had said.

Cain's Offering Was Rejected by God



Cain was **trying to please God** and he wanted to have a relationship with him (*or he wouldn't be at the altar in the first place*).

Cain was **acknowledging that he was a sinner**, separated from God and that there was a problem and something needed to be done...

But Cain decided to come to God in his own way...rather than trust the way God had made.

Cain was not ready to admit that he was helpless to save himself...and that he needed to trust God.

Did God reject Cain because he loved Abel **more**?

- Was it because God doesn't like fruit?
- Was it because Cain was a worse sinner?

God rejected Cain's offering because he did not come to God the way God had told him and that showed that Cain was not ready to admit he was helpless to save himself, and that he needed God to save him!

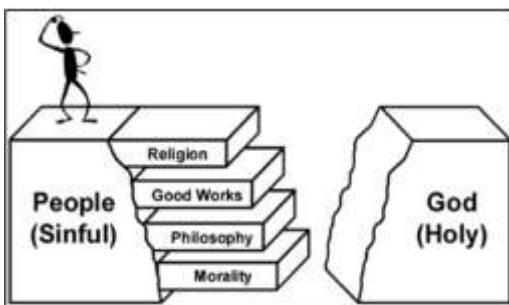
Cain did not believe what God had said or trust in the way which God had told them to come.



Cain was coming to God through his **own ideas** and **own strength**, like his father, Adam.



This is exactly what humanity does today: attempts to come to God through their **own ideas** and **own strength**.



When God rejected Cain's offering, **Cain became angry!**



God reasoned with and confronted Cain and asked him why he was so angry.



Remember God already knows the answer

(like when he called out to Adam and Eve)

...but he asks questions to allow us the opportunity **to admit to him** what he already knows. There is no sense in hiding from God or lying to God, he already knows the truth.

God didn't just reject Cain's offering and leave it at that. He gave Cain a second chance to admit that he was wrong, he was a sinner and God was right.



God tells Cain that he can still be God's friend, if he comes the way God instructed.

God is merciful, kind and compassionate!

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?"

Gen 4:6-7a

-God confirmed that there was a previous conversation/instruction about how Cain/Abel should come to God.

-God tells Cain "if you do what is right (offer the way I instructed you), you will be accepted."

-In this conversation we see that Cain previously knew what was right. He wasn't confused on how he should come to God.

If you come to me my way, that is RIGHT...and I will always accept you on that basis. The basis of faith, 'you believed what I said about your situation and my solution'.

ACCEPTED

If you come to me your way, that is WRONG... and I will never accept you on that basis!

REJECTED

"But if you do not do what is right, **sin is crouching at your door**; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."
Gen 4:7b

"Be alert and of sober mind. **Your enemy the devil** prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."
1 Pet 5:8

Satan, Lucifer, was the sinful enemy waiting to pounce on Cain.



Remember that he had heard that a male, from the line of the woman, would crush his head (Gen 3:15). He was now trying to destroy both boys in one fatal event.



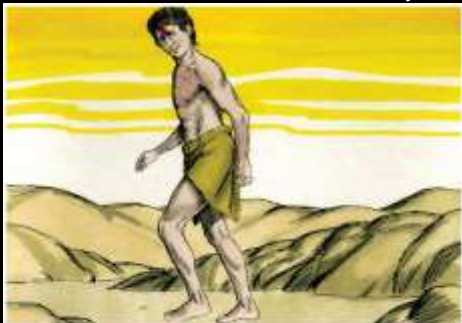
Cain was **not willing** to admit that he had come to God wrongly & repent by bringing a correct sacrifice. Instead, he blamed his brother...



Cain was **not willing** to admit that he was the problem...and killed his brother.



After Cain refuses to come to God the right way, kills his brother and does not admit his sin...God curses Cain and sends him away.



Next week we will learn about Cain's descendants...who follow in his footsteps.



...and what God decides to do about it.

