

Cain & Abel - God Does Not Lie

Foundation

Bible passage: Genesis 4.1-12, Titus 1.2 & Hebrews 6.18

Cain and Abel

Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel but when they were grown, we see how the problem of sin spread. In what followed the greater sin was murder, but we also see Cain lying foolishly to try to conceal his sin from God.

Genesis does not explain why Abel's offering was more acceptable than Cain's and people have come up with various ideas. However, in the New Testament God does reveal the reason in the letter to the Hebrews, the problem was that Abel had offered by faith, but Cain had not. Therefore, as would be seen many times in the later Old Testament, it is not the offering, but the heart of the offeror that really matters to God. Sin comes from within (Mtt 15.18).

The problem of Cain's sin came to the surface when God rejected his sacrifice. God warned Cain that sin was crouching (or lurking) at the door implying that Cain could have resisted it, but he let his anger rule him.

The lie came when the Lord asked Cain where his brother Abel was (v9). Cain's answer, that he does not know, is a clear lie for God clearly already knew this. Cain hoped to hide his wrong. In the same way when we do wrong, including telling lies, we often think we can hide this from others. We can dread people finding out the truth and sometimes people do manage to conceal terrible wrongdoing. But Cain could not hide his sin from God, and no-one can. The lie only makes things worse. We may try to hide our sins from God like



Cain and Abel, ivory panel from the cathedral of Salerno, ca. 1084.

this, but our secret sins are known to God (Ps 90.8) and therefore we should confess them and turn away from them (Proverbs 28.13).

“It is impossible for God to lie”

God does not lie

This is a very similar to the previous unit. We see in the Bible people who, like us lied to others and to God, as Cain did. We are told not to bear false witness, but we also see that the character of God is not to lie. In the Bible we have examples of people who did lie, and this should help us to beware of the temptations and pitfalls. We also have examples of people who told the truth despite the consequences. We have the perfect examples of God who does not lie, of Jesus the Truth, and indeed of the Spirit of Truth.

In Titus 1.2 and Hebrews 6.18 the fact that God does not lie is important because it means we can trust His promises and so have a sure hope for the future through Jesus.



God does not lie and, though we may try to hide our lies we cannot hide them from Him, and only make things worse.