

## Genesis 4

- 1-3 First births and the first mention of offering. Surely Adam had told them of their Creator and the expulsion from the Garden. "In the course of time", sounds as if it was at a particular time, harvest? When did they brought a harvest offering? It was probably following Adam's tradition.
4. Abel brought the tastiest portion of the sheep. If indeed it was a sheep that was slain for their clothing and their first domesticated animal, he brought what, in the future, the priests would lay upon the altar.
5. Did they know by the sacrifice being consumed and the other not? Or as in the next verse did the Lord speak to them audibly? Why would God accept one and not the other. Man looks on the outward appearance, while God looks on the heart. It was not the offering itself but the heart behind the offering. It is a humble and contrite heart that He will not despise. The fact that Abel was angry when it wasn't accepted showed he gave with a proud heart, expecting that God should be pleased with his work.
6. WHY? They heard the voice of God and God asked Cain to examine his heart.
7. God warns Cain and reveals some fundamental truths. If you do right (righteousness) you will be accepted by God. He is righteous. If we are not accepted we have done wrong and need to examine where we are off track. There is a guide for living and checking to see if we are walking in righteousness. When we are not accepted there is no peace in our heart and we need to stop and get back to Him, knowing if we don't sin is desiring to master us. That lack of peace is a warning light on our dashboard telling us we are about to have a breakdown if we don't stop and fix something. Once sin has us we are destroyed. You must master it! God is telling Cain he can yield to the sin or resist the sin. Many would limit this expression to the OT, but it is all through the NT too. Put to death your old nature. The OT characters had the same challenge, to yield to God and not their sinful nature. Jesus died for them too and by faith looking forward through their sacrifices to his provisional sacrifice they were saved and enabled to be new creatures in Him. Notice it does not say you can master it, but YOU MUST master it.
8. But Cain did not master it, and gave in to it, letting it have him. It manifested itself as jealous rage and he committed the first murder. It didn't take long in the history of things before man is taking the life of another.
9. Just as He asked Adam, "Where are you?" he asks Cain, "Where is your brother?" A chance to repent, to confess and seek mercy. But sin has him and he continues walking in it by lying. He has doubted God's omnipresence and omniscience. Sin makes one brazen. His response seems to be slapping back at God in anger as if God required too much. "What, now am I suppose to keep track of my brother as well as please you with my works? Is there no end to what you require of man?" This is typical with the heart mastered by sin. When we find ourselves arguing with God like this know you are down the road of sin quite always and need to stop and repent and go back to where you got off track.
10. It is no longer his father's sin but now his own. Consider your actions that are a result of the condition of your heart. Listen! Could Cain hear it in his heart? It cried out to God for justice.
11. There is the curse of sin upon mankind but there is also a curse on individual lives that let sin master them.
- 12-14. The presence of God is everywhere, but Cain found himself hidden from it. The cloud of his sin made him unaware of it. Cain fears he will reap what he has sown.
26. To call on the name of the LORD could either be translated to mean a revival as men sought God, or that this lineage called themselves children of God as opposed to the idolaters.