

Cain and Abel Part 3

Genesis 4:6-9 “And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?”

The Lamb - A Demonstration of God Himself in One Person

Now you remember the story, you remember the reality there, it's the very beginning, and it's the first two sons. And it is Cain and Abel and the offering that Abel brought was a lamb. The offering that Cain brought was the fruit of the ground, that is significant and we'll talk about that later. There is this reality that the Lamb is central to the heart of God. Notice I didn't say central to the plan of God because that would make God sitting up there planning something, coming up with a great idea that is only in His head. But the Lamb is central to the heart of God, because it is a demonstration of God Himself in one person form. It is the demonstration of God Himself, not what all God can do, not what all God can create, not all those things. It is a demonstration of the very being of God.

What's Heaven Going to be Like?

Now if you consider just this thought, and I remember asking this, and I've had a lot of people ask me, "What's heaven going to be like?" I had somebody ask me the other day. "Well are there going to be any horses in heaven?" And I said, "I guess because Jesus comes back on one." But you know, "What's heaven going to be like? Is there going to be volleyballs?" And so there is all this thought from everybody. I know this country song, I don't recommend it, but I'm going to tell you about it. It's called, "Will there be any in heaven?" And it leaves it up to your mind, is there going to be...And it's someone who is trying to picture heavenly realities based on earth likes. Is there going to be this? Is there going to be that? All of this stuff and interestingly enough, really most of the way people describe heaven, if it really was what they thought, you would find a whole lot more there. But if you go through the book of Revelation and you particularly are looking into the heavenlies, what you will find is the Lamb.

Revelation 5:6 “And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four

beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours”

Isn't it interesting that people talk about when you're in heaven we're going to sit around, float around on clouds playing harps. Has anybody ever heard that before? We're going to float around on clouds playing harps. If harps had anything to do with it, we are going to be throwing them down as we fall down before Jesus. No, as we fall before the Lamb. This scenario is painted over and over in the book of Revelation. It is the only major picture that we get of what heaven is like. Let's read on:

Revelation 5:9-11 “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book (Lamb), and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain (Lamb), and hast redeemed us to God (Not redeemed us from Hell). And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the living beasts and the elders: and the number of them was...”

Now this is all the people and what they are doing in heaven. And I'll give you an explanation of that in just a second. This is the only picture we see of everybody doing stuff. There are no other things that it describes, but there is this focus on the Lamb, finding the Lamb as central. That is the people of the heavenlies. Let's read on.

Revelation 5:11 “and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.”

When you say, “Forever and ever” in the heavenlies that is going to be the case. “This is the initial introduction to heaven, a worship service.” That is the way that we think. “A big worship service and then we go about our duties.” That is not what this is pointing out.

The Heartbeat of the Heavenlies

Revelation 5:14 “And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth forever and ever.”

Think about this, in truth the only real picture we are given of heaven is where the Lamb has become central. Let me clarify this: this is not a picture of a worship service. This is a picture of what the heavenly people will be like and what is central to every one of them regardless, the Lamb of God. This is not a worship service. This is giving us a picture of those gathered and why they are gathered. You don't see anyone wandering off over here; you don't see anybody watching the parking lot, or with the kids. Why, because this isn't a service. This is not a worship service, and it is not a church service. This is what those and only those, what they worship and honor and love. We will see this in Abel, something Nissi shared a long time ago, and to those gathered, whether they fully manifest the Lamb or not, this is what they worship and

honor and love. And this is central not just to them, but to the one to their left, and their right, and behind them and in front of them and all around them. This is the heartbeat of the heavenlies. This is, everything is focused, not on Jesus, it doesn't say Jesus, it doesn't say the savior. It doesn't say the healer, it doesn't say the good guy, and it doesn't say gentle Jesus, meek and mild. It is this one who will reign. He will not only reign on the throne, He will reign in them. He will be the government. He will be the government of the heavenlies.

You Can Call It Faith

We begin to grasp a little bit of Abel. We find out more of what he is like. We find out in the book of Hebrews that he had faith and he is listed in the hall of faith among all those in Hebrews 11 that are listed there. "So and so by faith they did this, so and so by faith did this and that..." and he is mentioned there with them. Because what he offered is what he believed in. It was not just an offering; it wasn't giving God what God believed in, because he would not need faith. He would just need what? Obedience. You would just need what? Duty. Am I right? A whole lot of people in the Old Testament probably gave the offering and you get down to the prophets and almost to a man, those prophets say, "God is sick of your offering. He is sick of your new moons, He is sick of your burnt offerings." How in the world can that be if God instituted it and represents Christ to God? God is not the one with the problem. He knows what the Lamb is, He knows what the Son is to Him. He does not just want the Lamb, He wants us to be intimately intertwined with our heart. You can call it faith. More than believing a religious system called Christianity. More than. Because again, in all of this honoring and everything you don't hear all these people going, "Yeah, dude!" High-fiving one another saying, "We ain't going to Hell! We made it, yeah!!" Honestly! I saw a movie the other day and it was about Americans in a foreign country and they were just like maniac, wild, crazy people. They are like what we are, just fun and doing stuff, and loud, and there was this culture. But you know what, there is not going to be culture of Americans, and a culture of this, and a culture of that, it's going to be Lamb lovers. I didn't say "land lovers", only sailors make it! No, LAMB lovers. That sets the stage. That starts showing us the division from the very beginning, after the fall. The first thing we are hit with after that, and the little preliminaries are done with them, the only thing of significance that comes up is, there is one son going this way and there is another son going that way. One is bringing forth the fruit that he produced. And the other is bringing God the Lamb, Bringing God the Lamb.

God Respects the Lamb

We read when we started the class that Abel's offering was pleasing to the Lord. You get the gist of that when he says, "And the Lord had respect unto Abel's offering, but unto Cain's offering He had no respect. Have you ever seen that comedian that says, "I get no respect? I don't get no respect." That is because you don't offer the Lamb. You think your lousy jokes are going to get you across. God loves the Lamb. God accepts the Lamb. God respects the Lamb. Respect is a pretty interesting word. And He had no respect unto Cain's offering. But unto Abel's offering He had respect. Remember at this stage Abel hadn't died. Death for Abel may not have even been thought of if there hadn't been this trying to please God thing and Abel bringing that Lamb that got him in trouble. I don't believe it was in Abel's heart to show up Cain. I believe it was in his heart to honor God with what He wanted. I really believe that. I believe

that's what was going on and that was what moving him. But there was a contrast that was set up and that contrast was probably not so evident to Abel. But it was evident to Cain. And you know what, it was evident to God, right off the bat. "No, I can't accept that". That scripture where it says, *Genesis 4:6-7 "And the Lord said unto Cain, "Why art thou angry? And why art thou countenance fallen? If thou doest well shall thou not be accepted?"* We will read a scripture in a minute in Hebrews that will explain that, but I want you to remember this little phrase, *"If thou doest well, thou shalt be accepted."* Because what we do is we read that in light of ourselves. We read that in light of how good we're doing, or how we're pleasing we think we are to God by doing well. We will see in Hebrews, God's definition of His own conversation with Cain. And let me tell you something, I don't care who defines what for you, your definitions if you got them from Billy Graham, or me or anybody else mean nothing, unless they are God's definition. So in one sense it's useless to listen to me if you are not weighing it by the Word of God and the heart of God, you must do that! Don't accept any man's interpretation. If the spirit of God bears witness with you, that that is the Word of God and that's the Lord, that is fine. But you are getting that from the Holy Spirit's conversation and not from some man. Don't set people up! Because if you set them up, God will take them down.

But then He goes on, *"But if thou doest well shall thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lyeth at the door."* That is an interesting phrase. Some of you have the same bible I have and at the bottom it has a note, "or sin offering". If what you offer isn't accepted, a sin offering lies at the door. It is not all over with. But do you know what a sin offering is? It is a Lamb! Do you get it? It is like, "I rejected the Lamb here, and now I am confronted, I want to get it right and I'm talking with God about it and God says, "Here's how you do it, you're going have to bring a Lamb!" That is tough. We have no record of Cain ever doing that, ever. Do we have any record ever of Cain bringing the lamb to God? Accepting this Lamb as, if I was Cain, as my only sufficiency. No. *"If thou doest well thou shalt be accepted."* Abel was accepted. Why? Because he did well. What does that mean? What is the interpretation? What is the definition? Doing well is not you doing well. It is you giving God what He wants, which is His Son, which is the Lamb the problem is that to be accepted we have to get out of the picture. We have to accept that Jesus is accepted and we are only accepted in the Beloved, in union with the Beloved. When we offer our self, when we offer our stuff, then we are not acceptable. But consider this now, God had respect, the end of verse four, *"And the Lord had respect unto Abel and unto his offering."* Unto his faith, and unto his offering.

Faith in the Offering

At this moment when Abel is offering this Lamb, Abel is not a Lamb. But he believes in the Lamb. Ben and I were talking about this today. There are times I don't know what is wrong with me, I cannot be the Lamb. It's like I don't do things that I should, I do what things Jesus wouldn't do, I just cannot get through at that moment and be the Lamb. But I tell you what I turn to Him and I say, "But you are and you are beautiful to me and you are what I worship and what I respect and what I love and what I know is the only thing that makes me acceptable at all, to you are myself is you and so my faith in what? In Jesus? No there is no just faith in Jesus. There is a faith in the Lamb, there is a faith in the offering, and there is a faith in the cross. There is a faith in the giving of the sacrifice. Not just, "I have faith in Jesus." I know people that are really trying to get over their problems and stuff, or they're really trying to face some

trial by having faith in Jesus, but they are just putting it in a random Jesus, not the things that we should have faith in. I have faith enough to not say, "God I have faith in you that you are going to do everything for me. I've got more faith in that, I've got faith that you put me on the cross and the only thing you accept is the Son. And if you are going to do this physical thing, or this outward thing, or move on my behalf, you are going to do it because I am giving you the acceptable one either in my faith or through my manifestation." But your faith is sufficient. Do you believe that? It wasn't sufficient for Israel, yes, that was the Old Covenant, but it was still sufficient for anybody who believed. The New Covenant is simply the blessed opportunity that He can actually live in us and demonstrate that. But we still begin with and end with faith in the Lamb, not manifestation of the Lamb. In other words, only and forever your faith in Him, something separate from you, is counted to you for right-standing. Never is your manifestation counted to you for righteousness. That goes for someone who is really showing Jesus, and someone who has a real hard time showing Jesus.

I want all of you to get this, God wants you to be able to manifest Christ, yes He does, He wants you to manifest the Lamb, and yes He does. And no it should never be an excuse to just have a bad attitude. But believe with all your heart in the Lamb, keep Him central and never leave Him and never settle for anything less in your own life but now let me say that again: never settle for anything less in your own life, even if you're not manifesting say, "I can't settle for anything less but I groan until He's formed." But at no time do you leave faith in that Lamb that is external to you. Never leave that, "By Him am I accepted and He is the acceptable one and I am in right-standing right now, not because I failed or succeeded." Don't put your Lamb successes in manifestation as anything other than making God happy, by Him seeing His Son, not thinking this makes you good with God. It is real important. If anybody needs to hear this, I would say ACTS Bible School, New Creation Fellowship need to know this and need to settle these things in their heart. Let's go to Hebrews 11, we alluded to it, let's read it.

Hebrews 11 – Hall of Faith – Did You Believe in the Lamb?

Here we can plainly see what I'm saying, Hebrews 11:4, now of course as you go through this if you'll just look at the beginning of the verses here it will say, "*By faith...*" Look in verse 4, "*By faith Abel...*" verse 5, "*By faith Enoch...*" they're all doing different things, but their faith is in one thing. Number 7, "*By faith Noah...*" number 8, "*By faith Abraham...*", and so in verse 4 Abel is right up there with Abraham, or Noah! Why? Because the Lamb is what is accepted, not whether you built an ark or you founded a nation. Did you believe in the Lamb? Verse 4, "*By faith Abel offered up unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.*" Can it get anymore clearer than that? He's giving God something better than Cain without trying. He is not trying to out-do Cain. Cain might be trying to out-do him and that would make him mad. If you're trying to do that and you don't do it, you get mad at somebody. And they are ignorant that you are trying. It's like a Forest Gump movie when Lt. Dan said to Forest, "Forest, have you found Jesus yet?" And Forest said, "I didn't know I was supposed to be looking for him." When you innocent, you are not all caught up in the circumstances. You are just going and Abel was just going for God. But Cain was eventually going for Abel. "*By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain. By which...*" By which what? By which sacrifice. Not Cain was better than Abel. Again I said this in an earlier class, Cain and Abel were exactly the same except one is believing in the Lamb and one is isn't. One is believing that there is something

righteous and good about “me”. *“By which he obtained a witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts.”* Not God testifying of Abel, but of his faith and his gifts. *“And by it being dead, yet speaketh.”* God is testifying of His gifts.

What Do You Bring to the Lord?

What do you bring to the Lord? Since this is just a short while away from Christmas, the three wise men brought Him gold, frankincense and myrrh. I wonder if sweet little, baby Jesus was just hugging that and saying, “Oh I like that, could you rub some of this myrrh on me and rub this frankincense in my hair so I smell good.” I don't think sweet, little, baby Jesus was wowed at all! I think, if anything, God and Jesus would be moved by their faith in this one being the one. The one what? The one that is going to die for everybody. A savior has come. Well how do you save? You die! We say, “Oh a savior is born, Christ the Lord and He is going to be ripped and torn and bleeding and suffering and dying and we are going to slap Him!!!” We never do that at Christmas because it is sweet, little, baby Jesus.

So God testified of his gifts and you know what? This chapter doesn't say the three wise men, “By faith the three wise men offered up unto God a more excellent gift.” It doesn't say that. Here's why, get ready: It's not what you give to Jesus, it's that you give Jesus, either in faith or in manifestation. If it wasn't true in the basis of faith, there wouldn't be hope for newborn Christians or medium aged Christians, or even old ones like me, there wouldn't be any hope if it was all based on manifestation. But it's not, just like the three wise men, “This is the one!” It was based on, “This is the one! Where is He that was born King of the Jews?” What do you think was written on the cross above His head? “King of the Jews”. What did Pontius Pilate say? “Will you crucify your King?” Answer, “Yeah.” Sure will, sure will.

In Cain's case, he slew his own brother. Now again he doesn't have like two or three other brothers. He doesn't have five or six brothers. He doesn't have twelve brothers, like Jacob had twelve sons and they had eleven brothers a piece. That's pretty cool. When they thought Joseph was dead, crucified by their hand, when they thought he was dead, they thought life would be better. That's not true. Think about it, I just can't even imagine killing my own brother. My brothers may not be the best in the world, but you are not going to find me killing them! There was a recent situation where one of the girls was being picked on, and my girls don't always got along on every front. And as soon as they were being picked on, the other two came to me and came to their rescue and one of them said, “my sister may not be the best in the world, or does everything right, I tell you what, she's not like this...” And I just said, “Lord stir up more persecution.” That's what I'm thinking because then our heart comes out. It's just true. The truth is if I had a stroke tonight and went into the hospital and could never talk again, never write another book. I was just a vegetable in the hospital; all the people that hate me would forget it then. They would probably come visit me and say, “God bless you, we forgive you, you poor thing.” And surely if I died that would be like, “Oh we forgive you, and we just want you gone.”

I often pointed this out. Maybe you never noticed in the scripture, Herod was an Idumean, which meant he was from Ishmael, he wasn't even a Jew, he was an Ishmaelite. And Pilate who was Roman, they didn't get along until they got together over Jesus' crucifixion. And

the bible says for the first time they got along. People that just can't get along and hate everybody, they can find a way to get along when it comes to putting Jesus to death. It just works out.

The Meaning of the Names of Cain and Abel

What do these names Cain and Abel mean? What is the Hebrew? I looked it up and Cain means see if this makes sense to you. The name Cain means "acquisition" and the name Abel means "what ascends up". "Acquisition" from Cain, "what ascends up" from Abel. First of all you have to consider the thought. Acquisition is nothing more than going out and getting things for yourself. You take things that are outside your realm and you lay hold of them and pull them into yourself. But what ascends up is what leaves you. You are not acquisitioning anything, you are losing. But you're gaining, God's gaining. And of course if you remember when we had the class on the offering, that the burnt offering was the word that was similar to that, "what ascends up". There is another little phrase that uses not exactly that, but it is very similar, it is that sweet savor of Christ, not meant for the stinky earth but for the nostrils of the Father that enjoys the Lamb. Turn with me to John chapter fifteen. Before we read this, do you give God fruit or the Lamb? Because without the Lamb, without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. There is a place for fruit.

John 15:1-4 "I am the true vine," why would He say true vine? Because there some other vines pawning themselves off as something that is right, and they are not. He is the true vine. "And my Father is the vinedresser. Everyone that abides in me that beareth not fruit is taken away. And every branch that beareth fruit He purgeth it so that it will bring forth more fruit." Verse four, "Abide in me and I in you as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, neither can you except you abide in me."

Fruit Will Come through Union

Fruit is something that happens way, way down the road. I used this example a long time ago, but it is just a fact that a child, a newborn child, an infant, a kid that is five, six, seven, eight, nine, they can't bear fruit, they can't have kids. They are fully developed in just about every way except they can't procreate. They can't bring forth fruit. Isn't that interesting? You can plant an apple tree out here, it will grow, grow, and it will develop everything and be a beautiful tree, full grown. The right tree, an apple tree, but it won't bring forth fruit for a long, long time. Fruit is a manifestation of something. It is not the ground of acceptance. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. For us that ground of acceptance comes based on what we have faith in. What do we have faith in? Where is our heart? If you remember a scripture in Genesis, it says, it's very sneaky. We read right over a mess of this and we never get the real thing that God's saying. It says that Cain brought forth from the fruit of the ground, not of the fruit of the vine. Jesus is the vine. He brought the fruit of the ground, the fruit of the earth, the fruit of the dirt, the fruit of us and our labors. We are supposed to bring forth the fruit of the vine. Not our own fruit. It never tells you to bring forth your own fruit in that sense. In fact, the truth is, if anybody is commanded to bring forth fruit, it is the vine. And He is the one who does bring it forth; you just have to be a branch.

You can be like Abraham, and you can get worried, and you can get fretful about your condition. And you can go out and get you an Ishmael and bring forth some fruit when it's not the Lord manifesting through you, just so you can look good to yourself, or calm your fears that, "I'm never going to get this." Or you can have faith, the faith of Abraham, who appeared as dead. Whose wife's womb was dead, God still did it! But when God does it, God does it. If you do it, then you do it. If you do it, it's not just, "Well you do and uh-oh, shame, shame". Abraham turned around and said, "Father forgive me for Ishmael." But you're going to have to deal with Ishmael for the rest of your life. "Be patient therefore my brethren unto the coming of the Lord, for the Lord has long patience for the fruit thereof until He receives the early and the latter rain." Be patient! That's not talking about the Lord in the sky, I'm sorry. That is talking about the Lord out of a tree. Out of the harvest. It is a different reality. It's not talking about being patient until Jesus shows up.

I told this example but when I was in bible school, we had some Jesus freaks and we were all hanging around. We got up and walked outside and it was crystal blue sky, not a cloud in the sky, and one of my friends said, "Praise God, Jesus could come back today. I said, "No, no Jesus said He's coming back in the clouds, and there's not a cloud in the sky." We know different now. We know those scriptures in James are talking about the Lord coming forth out of us, and there is supposed to be a patience that we don't just go out and do stuff that's us and call it Jesus. Why? Because there's only one acceptable sacrifice and when it comes to fruit that will come. Union will bring that. Trust God and quit worrying about yourself and spend more time looking at Jesus. He's beautiful; He'll make your heart happy. You'll be glad when you do. Your face will shine; you'll feel a lot better about everything. It'll put a little zip in your step. Just sit down and have a little talk with Jesus, it'll do you a world of good! And quit looking at yourself. And not only that, this bible is supposed to be a mirror where you see Jesus, not yourself. If you see yourself, you're going, "Ooh, on no, I messed up!" All this stuff that we go through! Quit making this a mirror of you and make it a mirror that shows the face of Jesus. And when you look in the mirror and you see Jesus, you say, "I'm one with Him and you're secure in that." Anybody ever looked in there, seen Jesus, God spoke to your heart and you felt so good because you knew you were one with Jesus? It sure beats the other method.

The Way of Cain

Cain's method, the "way of Cain" speaks of that in the book of Jude. "The Way of Cain". No Lamb, it's in Jude eleven. "*Woe unto them, for they have gone the way of Cain.*" What is the way of Cain? No Lamb. Let's just say it like this, Cain's way involved no death, no Lamb, no cross. Let's take that back. The only death Cain offered was Abel. Let me say it a different way. The only death Cain offered was Abel and not what represented his own death. Galatians 2:20, "*I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me. And the life I now live in this flesh, I live by faith.*" See there it is! "*Of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.*" "*Woe unto them,*" why? "*For they have gone the way of Cain.*" They are religious, was not Cain religious? They are sincere, was not Cain sincere? But there was no death involved, except the death of Abel, when he killed him. When he slew his own brother. There was no death that represented his own death.

Well one more class down, I'll end now.

