

Cain and Abel

Main scripture passages for personal study and preparation: **Genesis 4:1-24, Hebrews 11:4, 1 John 3:12, Jude 11**

Cross reference scriptures for additional study:

Part I - Leviticus 1:1-9, Hebrews 9:22, Ephesians 3:8,9, Titus 3:3-7

Part II - John 15:18-21, 1 John 3:11-15, Matthew 27:18, Galatians 6:8, Proverbs 10:18, Isaiah 30:1,

Part III - Jeremiah 17:5,13, John 10:10, Matthew 25:41

Part IV - Genesis 1:28, Deuteronomy 6:7,11:19

Memory verses: Genesis 4:4, John 15:17, Hebrews 9:22,11:4, 1 John 3:13,14

General outline of topics:

I. A time for offering. *(Having learned from Adam and Eve the religious practice of sacrifice, Cain and Abel bring their sacrifices before the Lord God to make atonement for their sins. Cain comes to God his own way while Abel comes to God His way! Abel's sacrifice is accepted before the LORD because he comes to God by grace through faith. It is God's grace that allows us sinners to even come before Him, and it is through faith, [believing that Jesus Christ's blood sacrifice is the only way to God for sinners], by which we are accepted before Him.)*

II. Cain kills Abel. *(Cain represents the animosity of unbelievers towards believers in this world. Being "of that wicked one", Cain's envy over Abel's acceptance before God drives him to murder his own brother. How quickly our sin can lead us to commit the most despicable acts! When confronted over what he has done, Cain attempts to cover his murder with lies and he loathes God's efforts to give him the chance to confess. Let us not behave as Cain. We must love the brethren and respond humbly to God when He leads us to confession.)*

III. Cain is cursed. *(Because Cain has chosen to depart from the ways of the Living God, he becomes utterly cursed and must depart from the presence of God. While he still has life in this world, he will never be able to receive the best in life. Marked as a criminal on the run, God puts a mark upon Cain lest anyone finding him would attempt to slay him. All those who choose to depart from God are ultimately cursed "into everlasting fire".)*

IV. Cain's posterity. *(A little less than 130 years into Adam's life, it is likely that Adam and Eve have had dozens of children. Also, the bible does not teach that Cain and Abel were the first two children of Adam and Eve. Cain's wife is possibly therefore his very own sister, (daughter of Adam and Eve), or even his niece, (daughter of his own brother and sister)! Remember that genetic degradation was not a factor in those days. Deformities and mental retardation were not possible effects of brothers and sisters having children together. Remember, Adam married his own rib! Also, close marriages were not forbidden until the time of Moses. Abraham married his half sister Sarah! Sadly Cain's influence shows up in his great, great, great grandson Lamech. How important it is to teach our children the ways of the LORD!)*

Parable of the Sower

Main scripture passages for personal study and preparation: **Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:4-15**

Cross reference scriptures for additional study:

Part I - 1 Peter 5:8, 1Corinthians 2:14

Part II - Revelation 3:1, Matthew 15:8, Hebrews 10:22,23, 1 John 2:19

Part III - Revelation 3:17, Psalm 37:5, Proverbs 16:3, Matthew 6:19,20, Hebrews 11:26

Part IV - Exodus 19:5, Deuteronomy 29:9, Psalm 119:2, Colossians 3:17, James 1:25

Memory verses: 1 Peter 5:8, Matthew 6:19,20, Mark 4:20, Colossians 3:17

General outline of topics:

I. The seed by the way side. (*"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." Because of an unbelieving heart, those who receive seed by the way side do not understand the word of God, though they hear it. The Devil is therefore able to take away that which was sown in their hearts. The Devil is always the enemy of mankind and God's word and is therefore never willing to allow God's word to have it's good effect against unbelief. It takes a believing heart to have ears to hear!*)

II. The seed on stony ground. (*"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." Because of an hypocritical heart, those who receive seed on the stony ground fail in their faith soon after the tests of their faith in this world arise. They cannot ultimately bear the reproach of the world for their profession of faith and they become offended. They ultimately show themselves to be apostate, though they once seemed to have a genuine joy in the word of God. They sprout, but they are defective. With no root penetrating the soil, they have no access to living water by which they can endure the trials of the sun. Without the Spirit, there is no way to access the well of living water offered by Jesus Christ and no way to endure when "persecution ariseth because of the word."*)

III. The seed among thorns. (*"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." Because of a materialistic heart, those who receive seed among thorns indeed hear the word, but devotions to the unrighteous mammon distract and choke them. They become unfruitful. They are not unbelievers. They are not hypocrites. They are believers deceived by the riches of this world. They commit themselves to laying up treasures here on earth "where moth and rust doth corrupt" and learn not to commit their ways and works unto the LORD. They are hearers only. They bring no fruit to perfection.)*

IV. The seed on good ground. (*"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."* Because of an honest and good heart, those who receive the seed on good ground understand and keep the word and bring forth fruit with patience unto perfection. They are believers in word and deed. Some are more fruitful than others, but all see the spiritual abundance that comes from believing God and His word in this world.)