

# Cain and Abel

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**Quote:**

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

John 4:23-24

MARK THESE NOTES IN YOUR MARGIN IN GENESIS 4:

v.1 – **“Cain”** - means gain, acquired (see margin).

v.2 – **“Abel”** - means vanity, breath, vapour.

v.3 - **“offering”** - Heb =‘minchah’ - a meal offering. A bloodless offering of gratitude for blessings. It represented the giving of one’s labour to Yahweh.

v.4 – **“also”** – This implies that Abel brought both the firstling of his flock, AS WELL AS a ‘minchah’. **Heb 11:4** indicates this also.

**“firstling of his flock”** - i.e. a firstborn. These were always given in sacrifice to Yahweh (**Num 18:15-17 cp. Exod 13:2,12-13**).

v.5 – **“very wrath”** – enmity revealed (**Gen.3:15**). It began with wrath, envy and hatred and ended with murder - just as would be the case with the Jew’s response to Christ.

v.7 - **“be accepted”** - Heb. “have the excellency” (see margin). Refers to the status of firstborn in a family which would be Cain’s status if he “did well”.

**“sin”** - better translated as ‘sin offering’.

**“at the door”** - a lamb was available, which could be offered as a sin offering.

v.8 – **“slew him”** - would rather slay his brother in rage, than slay a lamb and seek peace with God (**1 John 3:12**).

v.12 – **“vagabond”** – means ‘wanderer’.

v.14 – **“every one that findeth me shall slay me”** – there were other family members (**Gen.5:4**).

v.15 - Just because Cain had killed his brother Abel, did not give license for others to kill Cain.

v.16 – **“Nod”** – Exile

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## What Was Wrong With Cain’s Offering Mark below Genesis 4

Cain’s offering lacked faith (**Heb 11:4**), whereas Abel offered the firstling of his flock looking forward in faith to the offering God would provide which had been promised in **Genesis 3:15**.

Abel recognised that “without the shedding of blood there is no remission” of sins (**Heb 9:22**). He being conscious of sin, sought out what God required of him (**Jn 4:24; Prov 15:8**) and offered the firstling of his flock (**Gen 4:4**). This animal was slain - speaking the crucifixion of the flesh, and a

life dedicated to Yahweh ([Gal 5:24](#) [Lev 17:11](#); [Rom 6:5-10](#)). Abel offered it “with the fat thereof” ([v4](#)) symbolising the giving of the offerer’s stored energy to doing the will of God.

Cain, was not prepared to submit to the requirements of God ([Mic 6:8](#)). He felt God should be pleased with whatever worship he condescended to give Him, and therefore merely offered a meal offering (Heb - minchah). In doing so Cain refused to acknowledge the need for the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world. He refused to identify himself with that lamb (we do this by baptism), or to dedicate his life to Yahweh. He did not recognise that all these things need to be done BEFORE any labour and works can be performed to the glory of God.

THE ACCOUNT OF CAIN AND ABEL IS A TYPE OF THE HATRED THAT EXISTED BETWEEN JESUS AND THE JEWS AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT PUNISHMENT.

Christ drew this parallel in [Matthew 23:33-36](#).

Mark above [Genesis 4](#)

Cain and Abel	Jesus Christ and the Jews
Cain hated Abel and his thoughts turned to murder	The Jews hated Jesus “without a cause” ( <a href="#">Psa 69:4</a> ) and sought to kill him ( <a href="#">John 8:40</a> )
Cain murdered his brother Abel out of jealousy ( <a href="#">1 John 3:12</a> )	The Jews killed Jesus out of envy ( <a href="#">Mat.27:18</a> )
Cain’s punishment for killing Abel was to be a fugitive and wanderer throughout the earth	The Jews punishment for killing Jesus was to be scattered throughout the earth ( <a href="#">Deut 28:64</a> , <a href="#">Luke 21:24</a> )
Cain’s fear was that he might be slain while he roamed the earth	The Jews lived in fear while they were scattered ( <a href="#">Deut 28:65-67</a> )
God put a mark on Cain to protect him and promised to curse all those that would kill him	God’s protection has preserved His people while they were scattered, and has promised to curse those who curse His people ( <a href="#">Gen 12:3</a> )
Seth replaced his brother Abel ( <a href="#">Gen.4:25</a> )	Jesus Christ was raised to life again

### The Fall of Man and the Hope of Redemption

#### Genesis 3:1-4:26

- [3:1-7](#) - Temptation and sin.
- [3:8-13](#) - God investigates the cause of sin.
- [3:14-19](#) - Judgment, Punishment and Hope.
- [3:20-24](#) - The Plan of Redemption Typified.
- [4:1-4](#) - The Worship of Cain and Abel.
- [4:5-8](#) - The First Murder.
- [4:9-12](#) - The Punishment of Cain
- [4:13-15](#) - Protection of Cain.
- [4:16-24](#) - Development of the Line of Cain.
- [4:25-26](#) - Appointment of Seth in Place of Abel.