

THE FIRST BROTHERS

Genesis 4:1-16

When Adam and Eve were driven from the beautiful garden they had to make a new home for themselves. They had to work, hard each day to get their food, for now there were thorns and thistles, birds, bugs, plant diseases. All these things were a result of sin, and they all competed with, and destroyed the good food giving plants. Adam and Even most always fight theses things in order to grow the food that they needed to live.

Though these things made life difficult, God blessed Adam and Eve with sunshine and rain, so that the crops could grow. The LORD also blessed them with children. There fist baby was a boy that they named Cain. Eve said, "I have gotten a man from the LORD." After this Eve had another litter boy. They called him Abel.

As he grew up Cain liked working with crops, while Abel loved to work with animals. Time passed and both brothers brought a sacrifice to the LORD. Now as they grew up, I'm sure the boys were told by their parents all about the beautiful garden of Eden where they had first lived. They must have told the boys how they had disobeyed God's command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good an evil, and the result disobedience-being driven from the garden. Adam must have told his sons that the result of this sin was a curse on all the earth and death. Along with this the boys would have been told of the necessity of blood sacrifice in order to cover that sin and seek God's forgiveness.

The LORD was pleased with Abel's sacrifice and accepted it. But with Cain's sacrifice the LORD was not pleased. This made Cain very angry, and his whole attitude and the look on his face showed it. The LORD spoke to Cain and said, "Why are you so angry? If you do what is right, you know that I will accept you, if you don't sin will control you."

One day both Cain and Abel were out in the field. Cain had never repented from his sin against God. Instead he had become more and more angry that God wouldn't let him have his way. Cain had begun to hate his brother Abel, because Abel did what God wanted. This evil in Cain's heart finally came out, he murdered his brother Abel, because Abel did what God wanted. This evil in Cain's heart finally came out, he murdered his brother Abel. Then he hid his body. But God knows and sees all things!

God spoke to Cain again. He said, "Where is your brother Abel?" Instead of being sorry for what he had done, Cain continued to sin more and more. He answered God in a very disrespectful and sarcastic way, saying, "Am I responsible to take care of my bother?" Then God said to him, "What have you done? The voice of your bother's blood cries out to me from

the ground. Now you are cursed, the ground will no longer produce crops your crops for you. You will become a fugitive and wanderer over the earth.”

Still Cain was not sorry for his awful sin. He just whined and complained, “The punishment you are giving me is to much.” So God in his mercy put a mark of protection on Cain so that no one would be able to harm Cain. As far as we can know, Cain continued on in his rebellion. How sad for Adam to see the results of their sin worked out in the life of their family.

When we see what happened with Cain, it helps us to understand how important it is to confess our sin and turn from it the moment that God convicts us. If we refuse, then we will continue to rebel more and more and get father and father from God.

We also see the Abel obeyed God because of faith. That is Abel believed what God said about sacrifice, and his belief led to obedience. True faith always leads to obeying God. It is our faith in God and what he says, that he counts to us for righteousness.

LEARN: “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous.” Hebrews 11:4a