

One True Church Series
2 - Cain's Apostasy
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr

Review Summary: The One True Church of God keeps both the law and the testimonies. The law and the testimonies of Jesus cannot be separated. The Law and the Testimonies of Jesus Christ are the two main pillars of His One True Church. From Genesis to NOW all those who are the remnant, the remaining ones, ABIDE in the ONE Church of Christ by KEEPING ALL THE COMMANDMENTS of God including the God's seventh-day Sabbath and believe the testimonies of Christ which is the spirit of prophecy that reveals the first and second ADVENT (coming) of Christ.

The first two born on earth Cain, the oldest, and Abel represent two churches. Abel's character represents the true church of God while Cain's character represents Satan's false church system.

In the process of time Abel, a remnant, remained in the VINE, ONE CHURCH, but Cain was cut off. Abel loved the law and testimonies. Cain hated the law, but wanted the benefits of the testimony without the shedding of blood. Cain was an apostate who left the truth of the law and the testimonies.

Genesis 4:3 - 5

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Based on sanctuary protocols in the Old Testament, Abel's sacrifice was a sin offering. The sin offering recognizes the law of God that was broken and the only way to be reconciled back to God was through the "Blood". In addition, by faith Abel accepted the testimony of salvation and God's everlasting covenant.

After the sacrifice that pointed to the Blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse him from sin, Abel offered a thank offering (food offering) out of appreciation of the bountiful provisions that God had given him.

Cain wanted to skip the sin offering, he did not want to turn from sin, but wanted to make an appearance of righteousness by only presenting a thank offering of FOOD. The FOOD offering does not cleanse from sin, IT IS ONLY AN OUTWARD SHOW of your appreciation to God. Again, Cain wanted the benefits of the testimonies without turning from sin. The law reveals sin. Remember the law and the testimonies are married and can not be separated. And outward show of thanksgiving does NOT excuse SIN! Our money offerings don't cleanse us from sin.

Why was Cain wroth with Abel? Why is Satan wroth with the remnant in the last days? Cain hated Abel, like Satan hates the remnant in the last days, because he kept the law (the commandments of God) and the testimony of Jesus!!! Abel did not do anything to Cain.

What plea did God make to Cain?**Genesis 4:6, 7**

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou **doest well [Law & Testimonies]**, 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.**

In other words, “Cain if you accept the law and testimonies, turn from sin (symbolized in the sin sacrifice) and by faith accept the testimony of salvation, your younger brother will respect you and serve you as the older brother.

What was Cain's, response?**Genesis 4:8**

8 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.

First notice that Cain, does not respond to God's plea. It is as if Cain put his hand in God face and said “I am not listening to you!” You are not fair! Why do I need the law and testimonies. Just love me and accept me the way I am. I don't need to change. You NEED to change, God. Just do that ok and I will continue to thank you for it.”

Notice verse 8 says, “Cain talked with Abel his brother.” Cain obviously like the snake in the garden came to Abel as a friendly big brother looking for sympathy of God's rejection of his FOOD offering. Cain used by Satan, tried to get Abel to join in on his rebellion. Cain probably used credibility and position as the older brother to try to convince Abel. But Abel loved the law and the testimonies. Even though Cain claimed to be a follower of God, it was in name only. ABEL was a true follower of God who was part of God's true church that held on to the law and the testimonies! He was not going to compromise!

Verse 8 says, “so it came to pass” As Cain was trying to deceive Abel to join in the rebellion, ABEL refused, and probably tried to plead with his brother Cain, “turn, turn from your sin and live! You are going the wrong way, Cain! Out of love brother, repent turn from sin and you will live!” You can now imagine, that Cain's deceptive friendly cover turned into a face of pure hatred. Cain again rejected truth! Cain did what Satan wants to do to ALL who ABIDE in the ONE CHURCH of Christ by keeping the law and the testimonies, he killed Abel!

Cain was the first MURDER, BUT Abel was the first MARTYR for the kingdom of God.

The rebellious and murderous character of Cain will be the same spirit of Satan's false church system in the last days who claim to be followers of God while they persecute and kill the true remnant people of God that keep the law and the testimonies. They are so deceived that they believe that their murderous acts are the will of God!

John 16:2

2 They shall put you [true people of God] out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

Like Cain who betrayed his brother Abel, the same will be true of those who are persecuted and/or killed for the sake of Jesus Christ in the last days. What does Jesus say?

Matthew 24:9-10

- 9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.
 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

Matthew 10:21-22

- 21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against *their* parents, and cause them to be put to death.
 22 And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Even after Cain killed his brother, his heart was still hard in FULL rebellion....

Genesis 4:9

9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where *is* Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

Cain lied. He was still in full rebellion. His heart was hard never to be softened again. He totally rejected the Holy Spirit. He had not conscious or sensitivity to sin anymore.

What was Cain's punishment?

Genesis 4:10 - 12

- 10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.
 11 And now *art* thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;
 12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

What Cain was trained and loved to do, God cursed it. Cain would no longer be able to farm again. If he did, it would not produce food. Cain would now have to survive off the land through eating food grown wildy. It is also possible that Cain became the world's first person to eat flesh even though God did not permit it at the time.

To show how much rebellion Cain was in and how much he rejected truth...

What was Cain's response to His punishment? Did he afflict his soul and plead God for forgiveness?

NO...

Genesis 4:13

13 And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment *is* greater than I can bear.

Why was Cain heart SO hard? Here is very valuable lesson...

"With every rejection of truth the minds of the people will become darker, their hearts more stubborn, until they are entrenched in an infidel hardihood." Great Controversy p.603

As a result of Cain's rebellion his seed rejected the law and the testimonies! This is the same spirit that is in Satan's Rebellious church against God's true church.

Abel's death was not in vain! It was a seed, a memorial, for future generations.

Who was Abel's replacement?

Genesis 4:25

25 And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, *said she*, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.

Cain's seed represents a rebellious church that rejects the law and the testimonies

Seth's seed represents GOD'S ONE CHURCH that embraces the law and the testimonies.

But over the course of time what happened to some of Seth's seed who chose to be seduced and no longer abide in the TRUE VINE?

To be continued

Appeal

"We build on Christ by obeying his word. It is not he who merely enjoys righteousness, that is righteous, but he who does righteousness. Holiness is not rapture; it is the result of surrendering all to God; it is doing the will of our Heavenly Father. Religion consists in doing the words of Christ; not doing to earn God's favor, but because, all undeserving, we have received the gift of his love. Christ places the salvation of man, not upon profession merely, but upon faith that is made manifest in works of righteousness. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Not those whose hearts are touched by the Spirit, not those who now and then yield to its power, but they that are led by the Spirit, are the sons of God. {RH, December 31, 1908 par. 9}

To live by the word of God means the surrender to him of the whole life. There will be felt a continual sense of need and dependence, a drawing out of the heart after God. Prayer is a necessity; for it is the life of the soul. Family prayer, public prayer, have their place; but it is secret communion with God that sustains the soul-life. It was in the mount with God that Moses beheld the pattern of that wonderful building that was to be the abiding-place of God's glory. It is in the mount with God,--in the secret place of communion,--that we are to contemplate his glorious ideal for humanity. Thus we shall be able so to fashion our character building that to us may be fulfilled his promise. "I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." {Ellen White, Review and Herald, December 31, 1908 par. 9 and 10}