

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why did God respect Abel's offering but not Cain's?
2. Can a man deceive himself into thinking his sin is justifiable and will go unpunished?
3. Why is the penalty of sin, death?

SUMMARY:

In this lesson we see how sin can come forth and grow in the heart of man. We see the steps involved in Cain's downfall. God, who graciously lets us know of mistakes and sins, has provided a way whereby sins can be forgiven. But many sinners, like Cain, perish because they will not call upon the Savior who is willing and able to save them. Like Cain, they are unwilling to humble themselves in God's sight. Our own desires and pride can bring us to sin, and the penalty of sin is death.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #3

January 21, 2007

First Quarter

THE FIRST MURDER

LESSON TEXT: *Genesis 4:1-15; James 1:14-15*

LESSON SETTING: Outside the Garden of Eden.

TIME: Approximately 20 years after expulsion from the Garden of Eden.

I. PRINCIPLES IN THE MURDER. Genesis 4:1-5

- A. Abel - Shepherd (vs. 2, 4) Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 2:5
- B. Cain - Farmer (vs. 2, 5) Proverbs 1:58 James 1:20

II. PARTICULARS OF THE MURDER. Genesis 4:6-8

- A. God's Gracious Warning (vs. 6-7) Acts 10:35; 1 Peter 4:15; 1 John 3:15
- B. Hatred Intensified (vs. 8) Genesis 27:41; 37:4; Hebrews 12:15
- C. Sin Committed (vs. 8) Luke 4:28-29; Acts 7:58

III. PENALTIES OF THE MURDER. Genesis 4:9-15

- A. Sin Known to God (vs. 9-10) Job 10:14; Jeremiah 16:17, 2:22
- B. Divine Curse (vs. 11) Deuteronomy 11:28; Galatians 3:10
- C. Punishment (vs. 12-15) Jeremiah 21:14; Romans 2:8-9
Revelation 20:15

IV. PROGRESSION OF SIN. James 1:14-15

- A. Origin of Sin (vs. 14-15) Genesis 3:6-7; Psalm 51:5; Matthew 15:19-20
- B. Fruit of Sin - Death (vs. 15) Matthew 7:17; Galatians 5:19-21
- C. Result of Sin - Death (vs. 15) Romans 6:23; 2 Peter 2:12-13; Revelation 21:8

GOLDEN TEXT: *BELOVED, FOLLOW NOT THAT WHICH IS EVIL, BUT THAT WHICH IS GOOD. HE THAT DOETH GOOD IS OF GOD: BUT HE THAT DOETH EVIL HATH NOT SEEN GOD.* 3 John 11

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Genesis 6:1 through 7:24;
Matthew 24:38-39

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Luke 17:20-27

QUARTERLY THEME: The Beginnings

TOPIC: JUDGMENT BY FLOOD

INTRODUCTION:

In Genesis, Chapter 1, we read that as God finished His creation each day He saw that it was good. How He must have rejoiced in this beautiful wondrous creation. Now in Genesis 6, He regrets that He made the creation and plans to destroy it. How awful to realize this glorious creation had fallen so low because of sin that it deserved to be destroyed. God had promised a Redeemer, but even this promise did not keep sin from bearing fruit.

One shining example of righteousness stood out in the midst of the dark sinfulness and that was Noah with his family. He was obedient to his Creator and served Him in love. He, therefore, was to be saved from the destruction of the world.

Although God is merciful and forbearing He does not tolerate sin, because He is holy. He pleads and warns and draws men to Him, but if they persist in rejecting Him, He sends severe judgment.

CENTRAL TRUTH: We determine if God will be our judge or our savior.

GOLDEN TEXT: *AND THE LORD SAID, MY SPIRIT SHALL NOT ALWAYS STRIVE WITH MAN, FOR THAT HE ALSO IS FLESH: . . .*

Genesis 6:3

How it grieved the heart of God, (Genesis 6:6) when He saw sin and evil grow and abound more and more in the hearts of men. At the beginning He could see that everything He had made was “**very** good”. Now “*every imagination of the thoughts of man’s hearts was only evil continually.*” (Genesis 6:5) Yet, God knew that because of sinful flesh, man was naturally bound to do evil. How it pleased God when He could see a few just persons, who endeavored to do His will. If man could only have a new spirit and mind to overcome the will of the flesh, salvation could yet be attained. Even as God was preparing to destroy wicked men by the flood, He was planning the flood of mercy which would provide the Ark of the New Covenant. When God’s own chosen people turned from Him, He so often forgave them. “*For their heart was not right with Him, neither were they steadfast in His covenant. But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity and destroyed them not; yea many a time turned He His anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath. For he remembered that they were but flesh.*” (Psalm 78:37-39)

We are fortunate to live in this time of grace, but we have the added responsibility to seek this salvation which God provided through His Son, to be reborn of the Spirit, and then to fight the battle which each of us must face. “*For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that you would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*” (Galatians 5:17-18)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF January 22 - 28

M. *Judgment by Flood. Genesis 6:1 through 7:24; Matthew. 24:38-39

T. Judgment Stayed. Exodus 32:7-14

W. Judgment Declared. Ezekiel 18:20-28

T. Judgment Upon Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel 4:24-34

F. Judgment Will Be Just. Romans 2:1-12

S. Judgment in God’s Hands. Romans 12:9-21

S. Judgment in the End. Revelation 20:7-15