

LISTEN UP & WRITE IT DOWN

The Blood of Abel Cries Out

The Gospel According to Genesis: Beginnings

Genesis 4:1-16

Sunday, April 19, 2009

III. The LESSONS of the Narrative . . .

1. Humble, dependent, “first fruit” faith is what pleases God.
(Hebrews 11:4)
2. Sin is crouching at the door . . . of our relationships.
(I John 3:10-13)
3. There is a blood that speaks better than the blood of Abel...
and we need it (Hebrews 12:24)

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I. The FUNCTION of the Narrative . . .

1. It shows the downward spiral of the Fall.
2. It shows the immediate and abiding enmity between the two seeds . . . those who live by faith in God vs. those who live independent of God
3. It introduces the “struggle between brothers” theme.

II. The FLOW of the Narrative . . .

1. The Contrast of Two Brothers in birth, name, occupation and offering (4:1-4)
2. Cain's Offering & the Lord's Rejection (4:5)
3. Cain's Anger & the Lord's Confrontation (4:6-7)
4. Cain's Murder & the Lord's Judgment (4:8-12)
5. Cain's Protest & the Lord's Protection (4:13-15)

THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read Genesis 4:1-16 again. How does this passage tie back to and flow from chapter 3? What are the explicit connections and parallels?
2. Look carefully at the descriptions of the two brother's offerings. How are they different and what does it imply about why Cain's offering was rejected?
3. What is striking about the way sin is described in verse 7? What's the point of this description?
4. How is this narrative, at every stage, a case study in unbelief and rebellion toward God? How might Cain have responded differently at each stage and how would that have changed the outcome of his life?
5. Look up the following passages and explain how each of the Cain and Abel narratives are used to instruct: Jude 1-11, 1 John 3:10-13, Hebrews 11:4.

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and most challenging for you in this week's text/message?
2. In what ways does Cain function as a sign post for us? What is the "way of Cain" mentioned in Jude 11 and how do we avoid it? What are the marks of his life?
3. What are some ways that sin "crouches at the door" of our relationships? Does sin always affect our relationships?
4. Where do we see God's grace in the Cain and Abel narrative? (There are multiple places!)
5. To whom does the blood of Abel cry out in 4:10? For what does the blood of Abel cry out? According to Hebrews 12:24, who else's blood cries out? Why does it "speak better" than the blood of Abel? What does it speak?