Offerings to God

What are you offering?

**Introduction**

There are many names mentioned in the bible

Some are simply written to show the progression of generations

Others have more meaning and tell a story or guiding principle

Most are unrecognizable but many are; for example, Abraham, David, Paul, Jesus.

We see them in their ups and downs, their integrity and failures

God knows we learn best from experience. And in scripture we see experience.

When you hear the names Cain and Abel many things can come to mind.

 Murder, Jealousy, Anger, etc.

**Slide 2-5**

Genesis 4:1-7 (NIV)

**4**Adam[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-81a)] made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-81b)] She said, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-81c)] a man.” **2**Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. **3**In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. **4**And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, **5**but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

**6**Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? **7**If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

Little is known, at this point in history, how or what was to be offered unto the Lord. But we do know they knew something was to be brought.

The type of offering, to me, has little to do with the story.

However, it is obvious from scripture that blood is the ultimate sacrifice but God has always made a way in which one could sacrifice to him. It is not about the amount but it is about the attitude in which one gives.

There is a noticeable difference between the sacrifice of Cain and Able.

**Slide 6: Point 1 It’s a matter of faith**

Abel’s sacrifice was a sacrifice of faith Cain’s was not.

The Bible says of Abel’s offering that it was “the firstlings of his flock and the fat thereof.”

Abel’s offering was not just of the first but it was of the best of the first.

It was the best he had.

This was something close to his heart yet he still gave it up as a sacrifice.

Cain on the other hand brought some of the fruits.

It would seem as that Cain brought what he felt like giving to the Lord.

Maybe he felt the Lord did need his prime tomatoes and potatoes. I mean all he did was burn them anyway. Maybe he felt it would be a waste.

 And with this came the loss of respect for his sacrifice.

Some people are like Cain. They don’t trust the Lord enough to give him their best. They figure they could get more for their best than the Lord could.

**Slide 7: Point 1 It’s a matter of attitude**

Abel’s attitude was, “give his best to the Lord and the Lord will always give his best back”.

With what Cain gave to the Lord we see that his attitude was not right.

His attitude was not to the Lord but to himself.

I don’t care if he would have given him the best of what he had.

We see some more of this attitude shown when God did not respect Cain’s sacrifice.

The Bible says that when Cain saw God’s reaction to his sacrifice that he was “very angry, and his face was down”.

You know we sometimes do this too.

We may not show it but boy if you could look on the inside you would see that lip poked out.

So, God questions him. “Why are you angry”. I you do right won’t your sacrifice be accepted but if you do wrong sin is waiting at the do desiring to come in.”

When we are angry we are vulnerable to sin. Especially when we are angry for the wrong reasons.

**Slide 8: Know who is knocking at your door.**

**7**If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

We easily picture Christ knocking at the door of our heart. A beautiful picture we have in our mind

But yet sin also lurks at the door of the heart. Knocking and waiting for an entrance.

And remember just as Christ had to be invited so does sin.

Yes, sin is real and waiting to pounce on us but as stated here

“it desires to have you, but you must rule over it”.

Oh how much Cain missed by allowing anger, jealously, and envy get into his way.

We need to watch these tools of Satan he will use them to cloud our judgement so that we can see what is truly going on.

Oh how quickly anger can change into envy and lead to murder.

Matthew 5:22 But I tell you, that anyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment:

**Slide 9-11: Conclusion**

Give God your best from a heart of faith

Give God your best with a right attitude

Be careful who you let in your heart