

**The Long War Against God:
“The Cain Mutiny, the Rest of the Story”
Gen. 3:15**

Some Theme Scriptures:

Gen. 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He will bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

Heb. 11:4 "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."

Review:

- ***In our first fellowship on this new theme of “The Long War Against God”, we saw in Matt. 2 how King Herod, no doubt under influence and control of Satan and his emissaries, brought about the killing of innocent children in Bethlehem in an attempt to destroy the Christ child. But he failed entirely to accomplish his purpose of destroying the seed of the woman. The Lord God overruled and the life of the incarnated Son of God, the innocent one above all innocent ones, the one without sin and even “the lamb slain from before the foundation of the world”, was preserved. “This one without sin became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him.”***
- ***Then, in our last fellowship we saw that at the very beginning, Lucifer rebelled and fell from heaven’s glory***
 - ***His pride as the greatest of God’s creation overcame him as he considered himself to be even above his creator in beauty, knowledge, wisdom and power (see Is. 14 & Ez. 28 for all the details). IN SHORT, HE THOUGHT HE WAS GOD HIMSELF! And the creator God, in his judgment of Lucifer, then cast him from the Third Heaven and changed his name to Satan, or, in Hebrew language, THE ADVERSARY.***
- ***This brought us to Satan’s first encounter with mankind in the Garden of Eden:***
 - ***The Lord God replaced Lucifer in the Garden of Eden with a new***

creation, Adam, and he was given the dominion that had been Lucifer's alone spawning the conflict of the ages. Eve was brought forth from Adam's side and through lies and the twisting of God's word, Satan deceived Eve into partaking of the forbidden fruit of a particular and very special tree indeed, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

- **You know how the story proceeds. Eve then led Adam to also partake of the fruit even though he knew well what God had commanded and what he had forbidden.**
- **This summarizes the beginning of the Long War in the heavens itself with its inevitable manifestations on earth first in the Garden of Eden. God then casts Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden and in the course of time, we come to the circumstance before us today, the Satanically-driven conflict between the two sons now born to Adam and Eve, Cain, the firstborn, and Abel, his brother.**

Transition:

- **The focus changes dramatically in Gen. 4 from Adam and Eve to their two sons, Cain and Abel, and Adam and Eve are rarely mentioned from now on in the book of Genesis. We see revealed in the conflict between Cain and Able what Satan's motive was as he killed his brother.**

Scripture is not silent on Cain's motive here. It is his motive here as much or more than the murder itself we we need to see and understand -- and it is the background and the meaning of this murder (indeed, Abel's martyrdom, as we shall see) that we shall focus on today.

[REREAD] Gen. 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He will bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

- **So if we carefully study the Scripture in relation to the Messianic line, we should expect to see Satan at work as well as God, the one against the other, throughout the course of Biblical history.**
- **You will recall the focal point of the developing story here in Genesis 4:**

- ***Satan now knows (once the promise in Gen. 3:15 has been given) that God will work to accomplish his purpose through the seed of the woman. Note well the prophecy here regarding this long war against God. The coming long war is hinted at here and the details we be evident as time passes.***
- ***Which one is "THE SEED OF THE WOMAN", that is Satan's big question. Everything Satan does will now be focused on overcoming the work of the Lord God since otherwise he himself will be destroyed and God will be the VICTOR! That is The Long War Against God, AND IT IS ALL ABOUT THE "SEED OF THE WOMAN"!***

Gen. 4:1-12

1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man [from] the LORD.

2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

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.

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

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, [the] sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

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.

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

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.

- ***Our Outline (the same for each of our studies) now springs forth from these verses:***
 - ***The circumstances: Adam has two sons, Cain first and then Abel (Gen. 4:1-2)***
 - ***His "strategy": Anger due to pride, envy and human religion as Cain's offering was rejected / Abel's was "respected" v. 3-5***
 - ***Satan's apparent "victory": Murder of the apparent "seed" v. 8***
 - ***God's intervention: Banishment & a curse vv. 11-12***
 - ***Satan's defeat: Even though both sons have been set aside, God's plan goes on - what a significant defeat for Satan!***
 - ***God's encouragement: Adam & Eve are given yet a third son, by the Lord God, Seth (name meaning "substituted")!***

So the development of Satan's war continues as we were reading here in Genesis chapter 4 with what we have called the Cain Mutiny! It all began in heaven. Now on earth both Adam and Eve have been infected with sin and rebellion. And now their children! The war develops as the eldest son has now murdered the youngest!

Well, why, we might ask, would Cain carry out such a crime? But Scripture does provide the answers... We shall see what they are as we see how God had provided both a **PROPHET** and **AN EXEMPLAR**.

- ***In Luke 11 (as we hinted last time) we find the key to understanding:***

[REREAD] Luke 11:50-51 "Therefore the wisdom of God also said, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute, so that the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the temple. Truly I say to you, It shall be required of this generation."

I. Fire from Heaven - The Fire of God's Respect Revealed for Faithfulness

- ***[READ] Lev. 9:24*** "And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces." [Aaron]

- **[READ] Judges 6:21** "Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight." [Gideon] - also, Judges 13:20 [Manoah]
- **[READ] 1 Kings 18:38** "Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench." [Elijah]
- **[READ] 1 Chron. 21:26** "And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering." [David]
- **[READ] 2 Chron. 7:1** "Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house." [Solomon]
- **What must we conclude from this extreme wealth of Biblical evidence?**
 - **Sacrifice was commanded by God from the beginning**
 - **Abel was the first prophet according to our Lord Jesus (Luke 11:50-51) and demonstrated by his word and testimony what God expected**
 - **Religion, based in "good works" from man's perspective, first with Cain's example here, perverted the truth of God**
 - **God accepted the one sacrifice, Abel's, but not the one of a quite different kind, Cain's.**
 - **God's fire from heaven was the proof given.**
 - **Indeed, and quite literally, God proved so often that he was "a consuming fire" (Heb. 12:29).**

Point #1: Fire from heaven was the proof of God's respect for faithfulness to his revealed word.

II. Fire from Heaven - The Fire of God's Disrespect Revealed Against

Unfaithfulness

Leviticus 10:1-4 "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and **put fire therein**, and put incense thereon, and **offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not**. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace."

- ***The incense offering was to be offered by fire, and it was. But their offering was not received because of what is called here "strange fire". But what about the fire that they used was "strange"? Clearly it was the wrong fire that they used. But what was wrong about it, what about it was prohibited, that was the question? Well, let us see.***

Point #1: Fire from heaven was the proof of God's respect for faithfulness to his revealed word.

Point #2: Fire from heaven was sometimes also the proof of God's disrespect of mankind's unfaithfulness.

III. Our Final Point - the Divine Fire Was to be Always Preserved

The Divine Fire Was to be Preserved! It was to be preserved and reused as needed. Yes, fuel may sometimes have been added. Any OTHER FIRE was considered to be ALIEN AND STRANGE, PROHIBITED. We find the answer to our question in the details. But sometimes the details are of utmost importance as we shall see here.

Consider what is said in Leviticus 6 about the fire to be used in worship of the Lord:

- ***[READ] Leviticus 6:12-13***
"And the fire upon the altar shall be burning in it; it shall not be put out: and the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order upon it; and he shall burn thereon the fat of the peace offerings. The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out."

- So the "acceptable" fire for burnt offerings was simply the fire that had been given by God himself. **THE ACCEPTABLE FIRE WAS INDEED THE FIRE OF GOD HIMSELF!** This is the key to understanding the problem with Nadab's and Abihu's worship - they used strange or foreign or "out of the way" fire and were therefore judged by God for their rebellion.
 - Their fire was not in any way God's fire. What was so wrong about theirs? It was offered in rebellion to God's revealed word of instruction -- and God held them accountable.
 - Their punishment was destruction by a fire from heaven that demonstrated God's wrath against rebellion and sin.
- We must worship God in His way and no other!! **AND CAIN DID NOT, SO MANY YEARS BEFORE, OFFER AN ACCEPTABLE GIFT. HE KNEW BETTER SINCE HIS BROTHER WAS THE PROPHET SENT WITH THE MESSAGE OF GOD REGARDING THE SACRIFICES THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. CAIN REBELLED AGAINST THIS WORD OF TRUTH AND KILLED HIS BROTHER. THAT IS "THE REST OF THE STORY OF THE CAINE MUTINY!"**

Point #1: Fire from heaven was the proof of God's respect for faithfulness to his revealed word.

Point #2: Fire from heaven was sometimes also the proof of God's disrespect for mankind's unfaithfulness.

Point #3: The Divine Fire Was to be ALWAYS Preserved

Application:

- God wants true and authentic worship today as well, not a religious response in the realm of feelings and rituals.
- Other examples of his displeasure regarding such man-made worship abound in the Scripture. See, for example, the example of Korah in Numbers 16:1-33!
- The same principle applies today - that is why we have looked into the Old Testament. **MANKIND'S WORKS, GOOD WORKS AS THEY OFTEN ARE,**

GLORIFY SATAN AND NOT ALMIGHTY GOD. AND GOD DOES NOT RECEIVE THOSE "OFFERINGS". INDEED, HE REJECTS THEM AS HE ALWAYS HAS AS WE SAW IN THE SCRIPTURE TODAY.

- **EVEN TODAY THEREFORE, "OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE" AS HEBREWS 12 SAYS IT SO WELL:**

"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 12:28-29