

Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:1-16

by Don Falkos

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Adam and Eve had two sons named Cain and Abel. Abel was a herdsman, Cain a farmer. One day each of the brothers brought an offering to the Lord. Cain brought a few miscellaneous fruits and vegetables from his garden, while Abel brought the very best lamb from his flock. God was pleased with Abel's offering but not with Cain's.

God said to Cain, "If you do what is right, you will be accepted. But if you do not do what is right, be careful, sin is crouching at your door waiting to pounce on you. You must overcome it."

He did not overcome it. Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Later, God said to Cain, "Where is your brother?"

"How should I know? Is it my job to watch over him all the time?"

But God said, "What have you done? Listen! I can hear your brother's blood calling to me from the ground. Because of what you have done, you must leave this place."

Cain pleaded with the Lord, "Your punishment is too severe. You are sending me away from my home and away from yourself. And besides, anyone who finds me will kill me."

But God said, "If anyone kills you, he will be punished seven times over." Then God put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. That very day, Cain departed from the presence of the Lord and became a restless wanderer in the land of Nod, east of Eden.