

THE WAY OF CAIN

GENESIS 4:1-8, JUDE 1:11

Text: Jude 1:11

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¹¹ Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Introduction:

There are many miraculous things that occurred the night that Jesus was born: the Star in the East, the appearance of the angels, and the incarnation of Christ Himself. However, one of greatest miracles was that Christ was even born. Since the very first prophesy of Christ's coming, Satan was working to stop His birth.

In this series Journey to the Manger we will see how that Satan did everything that he could do to prevent the prophecy that he received while in the garden.

Genesis 3:15

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

To understand how Satan tried to prevent the birth of Jesus we must understand his limitations. He is not omniscient, omnipresent, or omnipotent. He only

knows what has been revealed by God. Keep in mind that he understands God's revelation very well, but he is limited in knowledge. Therefore, he had to wait for each revelation and prophesy as it was given and seek to use this knowledge to stop the birth. The very first prophesy given in Genesis 3:15 not only predicted the coming of a Messiah but also predicted him conquering Satan. This was his driving motivation to stop His coming.

By keeping the Messiah from coming, he would save himself.

Notice Satan's first attempt to prevent to birth of the Saviour.

Read Genesis 4:1-8

Genesis 4:1-8

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, 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.

Satan led Cain to kill Abel, thus eliminating one and disqualifying the other.

The reason that Cain killed Abel was because God had respect unto Abel and to his offering.

Note:

It has always been Satan's goal to change God's methods and plans just enough to cause men to accept them yet thinking it is still of and from God.

It doesn't matter to Satan whom he uses, as long as the change is made. A matter can be partially correct and still be used of Satan. It can be enjoyable and resemble God's way, as long as it doesn't present the whole truth. There are many biblical illustrations in the Bible of Satan trying to overpower God and His plan.

Notice:

1. THE WAY OF CAIN – HUMANISTIC PHILOSOPHY

Cain Did Things His Own Way – He Rejected the Blood Sacrifice

Cain's error was he believed in God and in religion, but does things his own way and rejects God's way.

God Demanded a Blood Sacrifice

He changed God's requirement to please himself.

This was a beginning of Contemporary Worship. Contemporary religion removes the power, and necessity of the blood.

He tried to modernize worship.

We are seeing that same attitude today among, many if not most churches. Many churches have taken the blood out of their doctrine or are considering so. Nearly every church has some kind of contemporary worship.

He did not want to offer that which God required.

A. Man's Effort

The way of Cain is man's attempt to find favor with God by doing good works. Some people attempt to keep the Ten Commandments; others try to live by the Golden Rule. Yet nothing which unregenerate man does apart from God is sufficient for salvation.

Although, Cain's offering was attractive, it was not what God had required! When Adam and Eve had sinned in the Garden they had sewn fig leaves together as a covering. That is man's opinion, man's way, and man's mode of covering; but God said it was not enough, and shed innocent blood to make them coats of skin for a covering.

NO doubt, Adam and Eve had told this to their sons, but Cain rejected it.

Cain apparently did not take seriously the necessity for the shedding of blood, and the death of the sacrificial animal. But the problem with Cain seemed to be more than the kind of offering he brought. His attitudes and actions were evil.

B. Man's Exaltation

The way of Cain is to trust self, but the God's way is to trust in Him and Him alone! The best we can do is to obey God's way. Cain refused to come unto God as a sinner, thus he was rejected.

2. THE WAY OF CAIN – WILLFUL IGNORANCE

A. Deliberate Rejection

Cain must have known from the fact that he was born outside Eden and from the example of his father and

mother that he was a sinner in the sight of God. The very coats of skin given to Adam and Eve by God revealed the need for an atonement to cover.

But Cain rejected God's Way. He sought acceptance by his own way, his own approach, his own works, and his own ideas. He knew what God required, but chose to willfully ignore and reject God's way!

B. Deception in Religion

Many today are as Israel described in Romans:

Romans 10:2-3

² For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

They are going the way of Cain-the way of willful ignorance and rejection.

The way of Cain is Humanism and Ignorance and:

3. THE WAY OF CAIN – UTTER REJECTION

Genesis 4:5

⁵ But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

A. The Attitude of the Rejected

God just did not reject Cain's offering, but also He rejected the spirit in which he offered it. It is evident from Cain's reaction to God's rejection that his spirit was wrong. "Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell."

The word "wroth" means "to glow or burn with anger or displeasure." Cain became angry-very angry.

The Scripture also says "His countenance fell". The word "countenance" deals with the face or facial expression. It means to be downcast. Because of God's rejection, he was burning with anger and he was very downcast.

He was angry with God for not accepting his offering, he was angry because he could not approach God and worship Him his own way, and he was angry with his brother because God had accepted his offering.

B. The Attainment of the Rejected

What a tragedy it will be for all those who try to approach God and enter into heaven another way! They will be utterly rejected because they would not come God's way!

All those who reject redemption through the BLOOD will face utter rejection because they have gone the way of Cain! To realize that for all their religious zeal and activity the only thing they will have to show for it is utter rejection before the Throne and the pronouncement from the lips of Jesus, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Notice not only the Humanistic Philosophy, Willful Ignorance, Utter Rejection but also:

4. THE WAY OF CAIN – UNYIELDING PRIDE

A. Pride is Stubborn

Although Cain knew that the way he came to God was of his own choosing and displeasing to God, we see no desire for repentance or no willingness to confess his sin and forsake his way. We read in vv. 6-7:

Genesis 4:6-7

⁶And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? ⁷If thou doest well, shalt thou not be

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

B. Pride is Selfish

Pride is simply allowing SELF to inhabit the throne of your heart.

Cain could have availed himself of God's gracious offering, had he only heeded God's gracious exhortation. Instead, because of unyielding pride, he rejected the gracious substitute and went out to slay his brother.

Notice not only the Humanistic Philosophy, Willful Ignorance, Utter Rejection, Unyielding Pride, but also:

5. THE WAY OF CAIN – MANIFEST HATRED

Genesis 4:8

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.

A. The Jealousy

The reason Cain slew Abel was because God had accepted Abel's offering, but his God had rejected.

Abel was not killed because of any crime against Cain. No, Cain, because his works were evil and his heart

wicked, killed his brother who by faith believed and obeyed God. He was angry with his brother without cause. “Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

Going the Way of Cain is to go the Way of Manifest Hatred.

B. The Justification

Instead of Cain repenting and asking forgiveness of God under the LORD’S searching inquiry, Cain continued to rebel and show forth hatred to God and the things of God (vv. 9-10).

Genesis 4:9-10

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.

Cain tried to justify his sinful actions. We read in Job 9:20:

Job 9:20

²⁰ If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: *if I say*, I *am* perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.

Close:

In an attempt to prevent to birth of the Messiah, Satan used Cain to slay Abel.