

The Sin Offering

Genesis 4:1-15

Genesis 4:1-10

v.1 Now Adam knew Eve, his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have ~~acquired a man from the~~ LORD.” [better:] **I have gotten a man: YHWH!**

v.2 Then she bore again, this time his [Cain’s] brother Abel.

Thinking that Moses needed a bit of help in expressing himself, the translators have added phrases such as the with the help of the LORD, or I have acquired a man from the LORD. However, the Hebrew literally reads “I have gotten a man: YHWH.” It is important to retain exactly what the Hebrew reads, because the Hebrew shows that Eve’s understanding of Genesis 3:15 was that the Redeemer who would come of the Seed of the Woman was to be a God-Man: **“I have gotten a man: YHWH.”**

First: With Mother Eve

Second: In Relationship with the LORD

Third: Their Relationship with each other

Fourth: Consequences

In **Genesis 3:15** we read

And I [the LORD God] will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your [the Serpent's] seed and her [the woman's] Seed; He [the seed of the woman] shall bruise [hit hard, crush] your head [which would be a death blow to the head of the serpent], And you [the Serpent] shall bruise [hit hard, crush] His heel [a death blow, but not a permanent death blow, because it is the heel]."

The Hebrew construction is the same as 4:1. It literally reads, **“she bore his brother: Abel.”** The Hebrew word for Abel is **hevel**, which means “vanity.” Literally, his name is “a breath,” emphasizing the brevity of human life. It is used in that way

Job 7:16 “I have rejected everything; I will not live forever. Leave me alone, for my days are but a breath [hevel = Abel].”

Psalm 144:4 Man [Adam] is like a breath [Abel]; His days are like a passing shadow.

This shows that by the time Abel is born, the curse of the Fall had begun to make itself felt in the lives of Adam and Eve. Therefore, the birth of Abel came during a time or a sense of vanity, and the hope of Cain being the promised seed that would crush the serpent's head had failed or left her thinking. By the time of Abel, she had realized that whatever Cain was, he was no God-Man. He was something, but he was not the God-Man that was promised.

1 John 3: 12 ...not as Cain, who was of
the evil one...

John 8:44

You [Pharisees] are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

v.2b Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

v.3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering [to an appointed place] of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. **v.4a** Abel also brought [to the same appointed place] of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat [better: 'choice' or 'best'].

v.4b And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,
v.5a but He did not respect Cain and his offering.

v.5b And Cain was very angry [because he & his sacrifice were not accepted], and his countenance fell.

Hebrews 11:4

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which [sacrifice] he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts [his sacrifice]; and through it he [Abel] being dead still speaks.

Dr. Arnold again says this about the sin offering:

The Sin Offering—Leviticus 4:4–5:13

The fourth Levitical offering is the Sin Offering. The first three offerings were voluntary, dedication offerings. The last two, the Sin offering and the trespass offerings, were **mandatory**. The basic purpose of the Sin Offering was to deal with the issue of mandatory offerings for sins done unwittingly. In Leviticus 4:1, we have God's second utterance. The first three offerings were largely voluntary offerings, but the last two offerings are mandatory sacrifices. These last two, then, are mandatory and expiatory regarding various aspects of sin

1. We all are all born sinners, all miss the mark of perfection, and we do not reflect His glory at birth.
2. We all have a sin nature, which is not something we acquired through any actions of our own.
3. We all sin unwittingly. We either did not know the rules or we offended someone and did not know it
4. When we sin unwittingly, then learn the specifics of our sin, we are no longer ignorant of that sin.

**You did not know: Sin offering.
Now you know: Trespass offering.
Both, covered under: Christ's offering.**

v.6 So the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? v.7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, [your] sin [nature] lies at the door [of your throne room, crouching like a lion]. And its [sin's ruling] desire is for you, [to rule over you,] but you should rule [have dominion] over it [your sin nature].”

Romans 6:10-14

10 For the death that He died, He died to sin [the fact, the principle, the nature of] once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead, indeed [separated from the bondage] to [your] sin [nature], but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let [your] sin [nature] reign [or rule] in your mortal body, that you should obey it [as a subject is to a King] in its [our sin nature's] lusts.

How do we do this?

13 And do not present [to temptations] your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but [instead] present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For [our] sin [nature] shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under [the rule of the Mosaic] law but under [the laws of] grace [that stem from Christ Crucified].

8 Now [after some time] Cain talked with Abel his brother [and lured him to a field away from the presence of the LORD]; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper [to watch over]?” 10 And He [YHWH] said, “What have you done [or manufactured/premeditated]? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground [the very ground you till].

v.11 So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

v.12 When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.” v.13 And Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! v.14 Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face [where they met between the Cherubim]; I shall be a fugitive [everyone will know what I did] and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.” v.15 And the LORD said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD set a mark [a sealing] on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

Romans 4:15

...the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.

1 John 3:11-12

For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain, who was of the wicked one and murdered [not just killed] his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.