

Setting the Stage

- A. Cain and Abel (Gen. 4).
1. They both came to offer a sacrifice (Gen. 4:1-4).
 2. They had to have knowledge about sacrificial offerings.
 - a. Their parents had to know (Gen. 3:7, 21).
 - b. According to almost all commentaries the skins God clothed them with were probably from a sacrificial offering (Heb. 9:22).
 - c. One of the offerings was accepted and one was not (Gen. 4:3-4).
 - d. Why? One was what God asked for and the other was not (Gen. 4:4-7; Heb. 11:4; Mt. 14:24; Rom. 5:9; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:20; Eph. 2:13; Acts 20:28; Rev. 1:5).
 - e. There is only one way to be saved and it is through Jesus (Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 4:11-12). There are many organizations and groups that attempt to teach something else but according to the Bible there is only one way.
 3. One of the offerings was accepted and the other one was not (Gen. 4:4-7).
 - a. God told Cain that if he did well he would be accepted but if not sin was waiting at the door (1 Jn. 3:4).
 - b. If this was a test for Cain and Abel then one passed and the other did not.
 - c. God had a test for Adam and Eve in the garden and it was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:3)
 - d. God has a test at the end of time to see if his followers will be true to him (Rev. 14:9-10).
- B. What in the story of Cain and Abel shows us God is setting the stage for his 2nd coming?
1. There is a division of sentiment portrayed in this story. Two clearly different pathways. Do we see that today where it seems like there are two very different ideas and pathways being presented before our eyes?
 2. Cain's liberal views led him to stray from God's proscribed guidelines, while Abel was obedient to God's plan for salvation. Do we see others putting forth ideas that are different and destroying lives?
 3. Cain's anger directed at his brother led him to sin and be rejected by God (Gen. 6:8; 1 Jn. 3:10-12). Do we see that today with those that are putting forth liberal ideas trying to force others to believe their views? Cancel culture?
 4. Joel 3:14 says there will be many in the valley of decision at the end of time.
 5. What part will you play?