

- e) Cain and Abel had similar upbringing
    - Same home with same parents
    - Worshipped the same God
- Prayed at the same altar

The had different occupation: Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd

- f) The main difference between them was their offerings to God
  - Both offerings were associated with their Occupation
  - Cain brought an offering from the ground (v. 3)
  - Abel brought an offering from his flock with the fat portions – Animal was slaughtered (v. 4)
  - But Cain's offering was rejected (v. 5) – Why?

- g) Abel's offering was done with the shedding of blood and the taking of an innocent life
  - Cain's offering didn't involve this
  - This is what God demonstrated to Adam & Eve (3:21)
  - So there must be faith for acceptance with God and forgiveness of sin (Heb. 11:4)
  - The Lord let each one know where they stood before Him (vv. 4-5)

5) Cain becomes angry with Abel and with God

- a) Abel had done nothing wrong against Cain – It was his own fault
- b) God now personally warns Cain about the condition of his heart (v. 6)
- c) God tells Cain about the blackness and outcome of sin – And he has the power to master it (v. 7)
  - If he doesn't – It will master him

But God doesn't force Cain to do it – People have the free will to resist what God directs

6) Cain ignores God's Warning – Kills Abel in a fit of rage – and lies to God about it (v. 8-9)

- a) As soon as he does – God is right there to question him (v. 9-10)
- b) God isn't interested in information – But in confession

7) Since he won't confess – God pronounces judgment upon Cain for murder (v. 11-12)

- a) God could have taken Cain life for taking Abel's life
- b) Yet God shows mercy upon Cain by allowing him to live

Even when God personally warned Cain – Even when Cain knew better – Even when he blatantly ignored God

8) Even at this act of sheer mercy – Cain rebels! (v. 13)

- a) Cain tells God that he knows better what punishment is suitable for him! (v. 14)
- b) God sets a limit on the judgment upon Cain (v. 15)