Episode 6

The First Two Boys Born

Review

* Now when God created Adam and Eve, they were created adults, so they didn’t go through childhood. And we know from previous episodes that:

1. they sinned against God,
2. they ran away from God,
3. they were found by God,
4. they lied to God,
5. they tried to pass the buck and to blame each other and to blame God as well,
6. they were punished by God and then they were clothed by God, and the animal killed to obtain their clothing was a picture of the coming Saviour who would die for us.

Cain And Abel

* Open The Review Scroll

1. Use the review scroll to give a brief review of what we have studied to date.

* Now the first two people born into this cursed world were boys called Cain and Abel, and in this episode, we’re going to learn about their relationship with God.

1. We know from what we’ve learnt in our studies so far that they were NOT born in the perfect garden of Eden but were born outside, under the curse.
2. They were born with natures tainted with fear, shame, anger and sin.
3. They were born into a dangerous and difficult place. The wild animals were a danger, there were weeds and thorns everywhere, they wouldn’t survive unless they worked hard, there was sickness and everything was under the effects of sin and death.
4. They faced a lot of hardships, but the worst thing was that they were born cut off from God and headed for the lake of fire UNLESS they accepted and believed in the Saviour that God had promised.
5. Let’s read about these two guys in God’s powerful and unchangeable Word.

* Picture Of Cain And Abel
* Genesis 4:1-12

1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” And again, she bore his brother Abel.

Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

6 The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel 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?”

10 And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground. And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”

* Ok so what offering did Abel bring to God?

1. Did God accept Abel’s offering?
2. How about Cain, what offering did he bring?
3. Did God accept Cain’s offering?
4. Why do you think God accepted Abel’s offering but not Cain’s?

* God tells us more about Cain and Abel in the New Testament which was written at a much later time and as we continue studying God’s word, he keeps giving us more understanding and more information.

1. So let’s go to the New Testament and find out what Abel believed and what the significance of his offering was.

* Hebrews 10:4

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

* So here God tells us that people’s sins cannot be removed or taken away by killing animals and shedding their blood. From this, we can know for a fact that Abel wasn’t saved through the blood of the lambs or the goats that he sacrificed.

1. So how was Abel saved then, and why did God accept him?
2. Let’s study so we can work it out.

* In Luke 11:50-51, God tells us that Abel was a prophet.

1. Prophets are people who God speaks through. They are his spokespersons and preachers.
2. Let’s read in the Bible what God had the prophets teach about salvation, as this will show us what Abel taught and believed as he too was a prophet.
3. We’ll read about a time when the apostle Peter was teaching how a person can be saved.

* Acts 10:37-43

37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

39 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.

43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

* Ok, so here in these verses, the apostle Peter was teaching a family about salvation.

1. First Peter taught this family about Jesus and the things he did and about his death and resurrection.
2. Then Peter said that he himself and the other apostles had been commanded to preach about Jesus.
3. And then Peter said that ALL the prophets taught that everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins through his name!
4. This is VERY, VERY important as God tells us here what ALL the prophets taught, and hence this is what Abel taught and believed.
5. So Abel believed that everyone who believed in Jesus would receive forgiveness of sins, or in other words, would have their sins forgiven.

* Now the prophets may not have known everything that Jesus was going to do when he came to earth, but they all knew and preached that forgiveness of sins was only through him.

1. This is what Abel believed and preached.
2. Forgiveness of sins is only through Jesus and this has been the only way of salvation from the very beginning.
3. And because Abel preached about the Saviour, he would have also taught this to his brother Cain as there weren’t that many people in the world at this time.
4. Let’s read more about Abel.

* Hebrews 11:4

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

* This verse tells us that Abel had faith. He believed God, and because of this, he sacrificed lambs or goats from his flock and didn’t bring produce from the field like Cain did.

1. Now in the verses that follow this one, in Hebrews 11:5-12, we can read of other people who also believed God, namely Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and a few others.
2. These people all believed God, but let’s read verse 13 as in verse 13 we can read what each of them had in common.

* Hebrews 11:13

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

* So God tells us here that they all had faith, and they all greeted God’s promised Saviour from a distance. Or in other words they knew he was coming and were welcoming him and wanting him to arrive.

1. When the Saviour came into the world, Abel and all these other people had already died, so they never actually received him, but they knew that they were just strangers and exiles on earth because through faith in the Saviour, they knew that they were going to heaven.
2. Now in Hebrews 11:17-38, we can read of a great multitude of other people who also believed God and were saved, namely Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, David and the prophets.
3. All of them also had something in common with Abel which we’ll read about in verse 39.

* Hebrews 11:39

And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised,

* So all of these people died before the promised Saviour came to earth, but they also were waiting for him and they knew that they were saved because of him.
* So how was Abel saved?

1. Abel was saved because he believed in the promised Saviour.
2. He may not have known everything about the Saviour, maybe he didn’t know what his name would be and what year he would come, he might not have had a clear picture of what the Saviour would do while he was on earth, but he saw him and greeted him from afar.
3. Abel knew that he was just a stranger here on earth and that his real living place was heaven!
4. The lambs that Abel sacrificed were just a picture of the Saviour. Jesus was the real sacrifice.
5. God loves faith and he wants people to believe in the Saviour so they will be saved, but he also wanted there to be a picture so that people could see in real-life what was going to happen to the Saviour whom they were waiting for.

* A lamb is gentle and meek, it does not cry out or struggle even in death.

1. Jesus is gentle and meek like a lamb, and he did not struggle or run away from dying on the cross but he willingly gave his life. When he was wrongfully accused, he didn’t cry out or say a word.
2. He allowed his blood to be shed so that our sin could be paid for.

* Now, John the Baptist was the prophet who introduced Jesus to the world. Let’s read what John said when he identified Jesus.
* John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

* Jesus is the true lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

1. The lamb Abel killed was just a picture of the true lamb.
2. Abel ‘s believing in Jesus was what saved him, and his lamb was a picture of Jesus who he was waiting for.
3. On the altar Abel built, he offered a lamb, but he was looking to Jesus because he knew that the Saviour was the one who would come to take away the sin of the world.

* Now what about Cain, what happened with him?

1. Why didn’t he believe God and bring a lamb and why didn’t he believe in the Saviour?
2. Let’s read what it says about Cain in the New Testament.

* 1 John 3:12

We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous.

* Here God tells us that Cain belonged to the evil one, or in other words, he believed Satan rather than God.

1. Cain’s thinking had become increasingly twisted and dark because he was influenced by Satan until eventually, he even killed his own brother.
2. Maybe Cain was thinking,

* “What’s wrong with me? I brought an offering to God.”
* “I called on God and prayed.”
* “I’ve offered up some of the fruits of the soil which I worked hard for; God just has to accept me!”
* “My sacrifice took more effort than Abel’s, Abel just watched his sheep from the shade of the trees, but I on the other hand had to till the soil in the hot sun, wipe sweat out of my eyes and endure cuts and blisters on my hands.”
* Maybe Cain thought that God should appreciate all his effort and accept him because of it.

1. Cain was elevating himself and not humbling himself.
2. Cain wanted to negotiate with God and for God to accept his way of coming.
3. He didn’t want to have to just follow God’s way, he wanted to come the way he thought best.

* Cain’s problem though is that nobody can negotiate with God.

1. God makes the rules.
2. God is the owner of each one of us and he has declared that if someone wants to go to heaven then he must believe in the Saviour and if he does not, then he simply CANNOT go to heaven.
3. Believing Jesus is the pre-requisite for heaven!
4. Even if a man’s way looks good and is reasonable, he still CANNOT go to heaven unless he believes in Jesus, the Saviour.
5. Let’s read what Jesus said about this fact.

* John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

* And when God says “no one,” he means absolutely “no one” with no exceptions.

1. There is no other way and no negotiation.
2. Abel didn’t go to heaven through the animals he offered, but he went to heaven through Jesus who is the ONLY WAY.
3. In fact if it was possible for a person to get to heaven by merely sacrificing an animal, then Jesus would not have had to come to earth.

* The apostle Peter said:
* Acts 4:12

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

* If you want God,
* if you want to be saved,
* if you want a relationship with God,
* if you want to be joined back to him,
* then you need to believe that Jesus died and made the payment for all the sins that you have already done and all that you will do in the future.
* Believe this and you will be saved this very moment!
* Remember, he wants you and he’s waiting for you with outstretched hands to save you.
* Run to him and not away from him as he wants you!
* Just in closing, let’s do a quick revision:

1. Abel was a prophet who taught about Jesus and no doubt he had told Cain that he needed to trust in the coming Saviour.
2. Cain did not believe what Abel preached. He believed Satan and he probably became greatly jealous of Abel.
3. Hate entered Cain’s heart inspired by Satan, so he killed his own younger brother.

* God tells us that it takes no effort on our part to obtain salvation because it is simply a gift from him and all we can do is reach out and accept his gift.
* Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

* Abel accepted Christ the Saviour and we need to also.

1. God will not accept us by any deed that we do but only if we place our trust in Jesus.