

The First Brothers

Gen. 4:1-17

I. Brothers At Home

A. The First Home

1.) For Increase of Human Family

of all creatures, offspring of man least suited to care for self
calves - walk within hours, birds fly within weeks, turtles hatch from eggs when parents hundreds
of miles away
without the shelter of home the children would die
ancient custom to limit family size was to lay children out after birth

2.) Happiness of Man

Adam's need even before sin came was companionship

Gen. 2:20-24 "And the man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every
beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his
ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place.

22 And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and
brought her to the man.

23 And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called
Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

24 For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they
shall become one flesh."

The home as God would have it one the best places on earth to be

*at home labor is contributed and its gain divided,
security is granted and structure provided
words of comfort and wisdom recited,
and its members united*

Ecc1. 4:10-12 "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.

10 For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when
there is not another to lift him up.

11 Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm *alone?*

12 And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three *strands* is not
quickly torn apart."

3.) Children Are Trained

the work of parents is absolute essential because to the needs of the child
they must be taught and trained in every aspect of life
man is the most adaptable creature under heaven
the power of this great versatility is awesome - and can be used for good or ill
the pliant life, given of God, is a great responsibility
the work of the father to provide, counsel and train

the work of the mother to nurture, succor and care

Prov. 19:18 “Discipline your son while there is hope, And do not desire his death.”

Prov. 29:15 “The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.”

B. A Pious Home

The home was founded in the garden of Eden

after sin, the location changed, but the home remained

Adam served God and raised godly off-spring

Yes, Adam and Eve had sinned, but were pardoned sinners in the fellowship with God

The structure of the house may not have been much, and it certainly wasn't as comfortable as Eden was, and Adam's garden wasn't as grand as the Lord's,

but the Lord's hand was still with them

Gen. 4:16 Cain left the presence of the Lord -

the others where still in His presence, where they had been all along.

Presence of the Lord - the godly people, and their influence and the protection God gave them

C. A Happy Home

The home had all the elements of a blessed home

1.) True Foundation of Religion

Ps. 112:1,2 “Praise the LORD! How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who greatly delights in His commandments.

2 His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed.”

2.) Divine Favor

Prov. 18:22 “He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD.”

Adam had his wife directly from the Lord.

Prov. 3:33 “The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the dwelling of the righteous.”

Ps. 127:3 “Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain.”

3.) Blessed with Children

Ps. 128:3,4 “Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine, Within your house, Your children like olive plants Around your table.

4 Behold, for thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD.”

Ps. 127:3-5 “Behold, children are a gift of the LORD; The fruit of the womb is a reward.

4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.

5 How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They shall not be ashamed, When they speak with their enemies in the gate.”

II. Brother's At Work

A. Necessary

Man worked even before sin

now they would work harder to make their way

Gen. 3:18,19 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you shall eat the plants of the field;
19 By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."

B. Various

4:2 "...And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground."

here are brothers involved in different areas of work

division of labor

people have different abilities, tastes, etc.

with specialization can come excellence in workmanship

realize both are necessary tasks and worthy of their hire

Matt. 10:10 "...for the worker is worthy of his support."

not all hires the same, not all work the same,

C. Useful

both chose useful jobs

this should be considered when training and instructing children

guide them 1.) according to their own interests and talents

2.) but also into the practical application of it

Acts 18:2,3 "And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them,

3 and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working; for by trade they were tent-makers."

how many times did even the apostle have to support himself with his own labors?

what are the first work related words spoken by a man with a masters of philosophy degree?

"do you want fries with that?"

what did the art appreciation major say on her first day on the job?

these burgers would look a lot more appealing if why moved this light source over *there*

do work that will be necessary even if hard times come

make yourself indispensable to those who work for

III. Brothers At Worship

Brothers from the same home, same parents, same examples, same education, same moral & religious instruction

worshiped the same God, at the same alter, at the same time, at the same place, by same commands of God

A. Offerings Different

Cain - fruit of ground

Abel - first fruits of flock, and their fat

one with blood, one not

each was seemed appropriate to their own work

Prov. 3:9 "Honor the LORD from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce"

but what is pleasing to man is not to to God!

worship is not about what seem appropriate, but what is authorized

B. One By Faith

Heb. 11:4 "By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks."

faith caused obedience

man not free to make his own religion, or religious service

Col. 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."

C. One Obeyed

the most beautiful, costly and sacrificial offering is of no avail if not prescribed by God

2 Sam. 15:20-22 "Then Saul said to Samuel, "I did obey the voice of the LORD, and went on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

21 But the people took *some* of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal."

22 And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams."

D. One Accepted

one righteous and justified

this was in some way made obvious to them

today the book of God tells us the same thing - what is accepted and what is not

for those who care to do the research, what God accepts or rejects is just as clear today

Isa. 8:20 "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn [light]."

IV. Brothers Separated

they had divided labor, but this did not separate them
their attitudes and actions toward God are the only thing recorded as coming between them

A. This Unseemly

brothers from the same home, maybe sharing the same bed, toys and table now so far apart
brotherly love is to continue - but it should begin first at home

Ps. 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity!"

thankful there are also friends and spiritual brothers who will stand this close with us

Prov. 18:24 "Aman of *many* friends *comes* to ruin, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

B. Unjustifiable

This all stemmed from Cain religious error - and his envy resulting from it

Gen. 4:6 "Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

God caused worship for His glory and the uplifting of man

when properly practiced it produces peace, harmony and good will among men

but corruption of the human heart and the opposition some have to what God has revealed had forever brought war

Matt. 10:34-36 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

35 For I came to SET AMAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND ADAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND ADAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW;

36 and AMAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD."

For Cain it was pure envy - Cain could not let his brother be accepted and him not

C. Wrathful and Murderous

Gal. 5:20,21 "...strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying..."

but Cain's mind dwelt on these things

Cain was warned - that sin was lying and his door and and would master him **4:6**

the thought gave way to action

1 Jn. 3:15 "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."

Prov. 23:7 "For as he thinks within himself, so he is..."

the evil inside Cain won, He found Abel in the field and killed Him

V. Brothers Judged

A. Both Accountable

1.) Abel

went unexpectedly, early, tragically - but prepared in spirit as the first martyr
innocent - scriptures say his innocent blood cries out for vengeance **4:10**

2.) Cain

would live long, have time to accomplish in this world, have children, etc.

but still a murderer marked by God

B. Both Sentenced

1.) Abel Counted as Righteous

Heb. 11:4 “By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous...”

Matt. 25:46 “And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

2.) Cain Cursed Fugitive

4:12-16 “When you cultivate the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you; you shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.”

13 And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear!

14 Behold, Thou hast driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Thy face I shall be hidden, and I shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and it will come about that whoever finds me will kill me."

15 So the LORD said to him, "Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD appointed a sign for Cain, lest anyone finding him should slay him.

16 Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.”