

Introduction

- Title: The spread of sin
- Main passage: Genesis 4:1-5
- Open verse: Hebrews 11:4
 - By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Message outline

- Summary of chapter 3
 - The fall of man
 - God's response to the fall
 - The accountability of fallen man
- Main passage
 - The children
 - Their offerings

The fall of man

- Forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
- Serpent tricked the woman
- Adam and his wife disobeyed God and ate of that forbidden fruit

Man's fallen state

- 3:7 Aprons
 - Adam and Eve's eyes were opened
 - - They knew that modesty was good
 - - They knew that nakedness was not good
 - They acted on this new knowledge
 - - they sewed fig leaves together and made aprons.
- 3:10 Fear
 - Adam and Eve feared God
 - - They were afraid of because they were naked
 - - They hid from God

God's Response to the Fall

- We also read about God's response
 - The Curse
 - The prophecy
 - The offering

God's Curses

- Summarize the curse
 - God cursed the serpent: walk on belly and to eat dust
 - God cursed the woman increasing her labor pains
 - God cursed the ground for Adam's sake: thorns and thistles and in sorrow he shall eat of it, by the sweat of his face

God's Prophecy

- v 3:15
 - Seed of the woman
 - shall bruise the serpent's head
 - His heel will be bruised
- Expectations vs reality
 - Eve no doubt expected that her first child would be this promised seed
 - God never said her child would be the promised seed.

God's Offering

- God made Adam and Eve Coats to cover their nakedness, which caused them to fear and hide from God
- Coats of skins
 - - the coats were made from the skins of an animal
 - - God killed the animal(s) for its skins
 - - Adam was in charge of naming and keeping the animals. [Genesis 3:19-20 + 1:28]
 - - This was the first time Adam and Eve would have witnessed the death [Romans 5:12]
- Substitute
 - God said they would die that very day
 - They did not die that day
 - God made an animal sacrifice to act as a substitute

The accountability of fallen Man

- Man has changed
- God's dilemma
- God's solution

Man has changed

- 3:22 Man's fallen state

- Man no longer innocent
- Man knows good and evil
- Man must now be held accountable for sin

God's dilemma

- Consequences for sin
 - God instituted the consequences for this sin in 2:17
- Potential Loophole
 - If they eat fruit from the tree of life then they will live forever
 - Sin would go unpunished
- God is righteous - God makes just laws and enforces them correctly
 - He must enforce the law he put in place over Adam. He cannot allow sin to go unpunished.
- God is holy - God is set apart from sin
 - He can not allow sin to remain in his presence.

God's solution

- 3:23-24 Separation
 - sent him forth from the garden of Eden
 - So he drove out the man
- A manifestation of his shekinah glory
 - Cherubims & A flaming sword which turned every way
 - - similar to the pillar of smoke by day and pillar of flame by night that led Israel through the wilderness for 40 years [Exodus 13:21-22]
 - - similar to the glory that rested upon the mercy seat of the tabernacle. [Hebrews 9:1-5]
- Barrier - to keep the way of the tree of life

Good Bible Study Practice

- You may remember that I said the main passage of this message was Genesis 4:1-5
- But I have spent a lot of my time and I have not even begun to read that passage
- I recently read a book on how to have better bible studies
- I have learned that one of the keys to understanding what ...the Bible is saying... is CONTEXT
- What we have done this far is set the stage for the main passage in our minds based on context. Not presumption, not bias, not even a particular doctrine; But on context
- This practice requires more thoughtful time spent on your studies
- A quick and careless Bible study is no more spiritually nutritious than a fast food meal. While it is fast and convenient, it is full of junk and missing a lot of good nutritious substance.
- Just like a well prepared steak offers a more substantial meal than a chicken nugget happy meal so does a well prepared session offer a more substantial Bible study than a

quickie

Main passage: Read Genesis 4:1-5

- The children
- Their relationship
- Their offerings

Cain

- Means - possession
- Eve said - I have gotten a man: the Lord.
 - - The structure of the phrase is the same: compare 1&2
 - - 1.) I have gotten a man: the Lord.
 - - 2.) She again bare his brother: Able
 - - This Hebrew structure indicates that Eve expected Cain to be Divine. Much like [Isaiah 9:6]
- She assumed - Cain was the prophesied seed who would defeat the serpent
- Reality - he would not defeat the serpent. He would be the first murderer
- Profession - tiller of the ground \ farmer. He took on this responsibility from his father. [Genesis 2:15 + 4:2]

Able

- Means - vanity. Same word used as in Ecclesiastes 1:2.
- Eve must have realized that her 1st son was not the Messiah. So she named her second son, vanity.
- Profession - keeper of sheep \ Shepherd. He took on this responsibility from his father. Genesis 2:19 + 3:21 + 4:2
- - they did not eat the meat of these animals as they were under a vegetarian diet Genesis 1:29.

Their relationship

- Presence
 - 4:3 In the process of time it came to pass. There was a time set, perhaps a reoccurring practice
 - 4:3 offerings were brought to God. They had to bring the offerings because they were not in his presence.
 - 4:5,6 God indicated that he respected Abel's offering but not Cain's
 - 4:6 God verbally spoke to Cain
 - - they were not in God's direct presence unlike before the fall [Genesis 3:8] but were able to have some limited interactions.
- The Lord

- They knew the story of the fall, the curse, God's prophecy, and God's sacrifice. We know this even though it doesn't explicitly say it because the peak tradition of this story made its way to Moses the author.
- They knew how God acted mercifully towards their parents by sacrificing an animal as a substitute

The offerings

- Timing
 - Selective - we have no indication of how much time passes between Genesis 4:2 & 4:3
 - Genesis 4:25 Adam knows his wife again and bears a third child seems to indicate Seth came after Cain slew Abel
 - We do know Adam was 130 years old when he begat Seth.
 - Cain slew Abel sometime in this 130 year window
- Location
 - Brought ... Unto the Lord
 - Likely located at the gate to the garden of Eden
 - A cherubim and a manifestation of God's shekinah glory (sword like rotating flame) guarded the entrance into the garden.

Cain's offerings

- Cain's offering
 - Substance - Fruit of the ground. Notice it does not say the first fruits or even the best fruits. It's clear Cain thought his terms were good enough.
 - Approach - Cain attempted to approach God on his own terms, not the way his parents would have instructed him, with a blood sacrifice.
 - Cost - Cain's offering required sweat, Genesis 3:19. A work of his own hands, and does not illustrate faith but instead pride.
 - Mimicry - When Cain's parents sinned, they hid themselves from God, creating aprons of fig leaves. Genesis 3:7
 - Feedback - God indicated that he did not respect his offering Genesis 4:5

Abel's offerings

- Abel's offering
 - Substance - Firstling of his flock and the fat thereof. The word rendered fat is also rendered: choicest, best part, abundance (of products of the land)
 - Approach - Able approached God as he was taught to by his parents
 - Cost - Abel's offering requires a blood sacrifice, a better picture of Jesus. The cost was not his, but the lambs.
 - Mimicry - When Abel's parents sinned, God sacrificed an animal to make a covering of skins. Genesis 3:21
 - Feedback - God indicated that he respected his offering Genesis 4:4