

# The Offerings of Cain and Abel

**Key Verses:** “*So the LORD said to Cain, Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door.*”

—**Genesis 4:6,7**  
*New King James Version*

**Selected Scripture:**  
**Genesis 4:1-25**

Cain now had competition for parental affection and attention. This may have been an initial contributor to his jealousy toward Abel.

The Scriptures note that Abel kept sheep and Cain was a tiller of the ground. In course of time Cain presented a sacrifice of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. He was the first on that day to offer to the Lord. He may have felt much satisfaction in the preeminence of his offering. Abel then offered the Lord his sacrifice. Abel’s offering was of the firstborn of his flock and its

## **ENDEMIC IN FALLEN**

humanity, jealousy reared its ugly head from the very beginnings of our race. The great moral drama that unfolds in the account of Cain and Abel is deeply instructive to all. Pondering its lessons fosters and empowers a righteous life. Our Key Verses focus on the crux of the story’s instruction. Cain was the firstborn of Adam and Eve. Doubtless his parents were thrilled and awed at the result of God’s gift of procreation. Soon, however, Adam and Eve had another son, Abel.

fat. The Lord respected both Abel and his offering; Cain and his offering were not. Infuriated by the personal slight and the rejection of his sacrifice, Cain's countenance fell.

Abel's offering was not accepted over Cain's merely because it was an animal sacrifice and not "fruit of the ground." Obviously, grain, oil, and wine were offered in Israel's Tabernacle arrangements and were acceptable to God. Cain and his sacrifice were rejected because Abel was righteous and he was not. Jealousy burned in Cain's heart, leading him to hate his brother. We know that brotherly love is essential to a Godly life, "For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous."—I John 3:11,12, *NKJV*

The cause of the Lord's rejection of Cain is thus made apparent—he "was of the wicked one"! His works were evil. However, the Lord, ever merciful, gave Cain encouragement saying, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."—Gen. 4:6,7, *NKJV*

All of us would benefit from the Lord's instruction of Cain. Sin lies at the door. It is so close to every one of us, but we must rule over it! We must resist it in every instance of life. As the Apostle's teaching in Hebrews counsels Christian people: "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, ... consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin."—Heb. 12:1-4, *NKJV* ■