



The Uprising

Genesis 4

Pastor John Sloan

Introduction: *Violence between brothers.* Not a terribly surprising concept for anyone who's been part of a decent-sized family. That's why the phrase "sibling rivalry" has become common parlance. But the sort of premeditated violence that we see in the fourth chapter of Genesis, in only the second generation of human history, is shocking. What caused such a display of hateful fury? And what can we learn about God from this conflict?

01.

02.

03.

IN THE BEGINNING ... GRACE
[A Study through the First Half of Genesis]



1. What does the phrase “sin is crouching at the door ... its desire is for you but you must rule over it” mean in v. 7? What does this say about our ability to stand firm against temptation?
2. Is it possible to strictly obey God and still completely dishonor Him in the process? How so?
3. Why is God so concerned about the reason behind our obedience? What are some sinful motivations that we often display?
4. Cain’s presenting problem was jealousy, but there was a deeper issue that he had with God. What was it?
5. Where do we see God’s grace on display in this passage? How does his pursuing love give us hope when we fail Him?

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1. "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.
2. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks." - *Hebrews 11:4*
3. "It was by his sacrifice that Cain hoped to build credit with God." - *Henri Blocher*
4. "Cain's sin was tokenism. He looks religious but in his heart he is not totally dependent on God, childlike or grateful." - *Bruce Waltke*
5. **01. God looks first at the heart—at a person's motivation—before he considers a person's worship or service.**
6. Far too many believers and their churches succumb to the logic of moralism and reduce the Gospel to a message of moral improvement.
7. In other words, we communicate to lost persons the message that what God desires for them and demands of them is to get their lives straight. - *Al Mohler*
8. "For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." - *Psalms 51*
9. "What made Cain beside himself with rage was that the Lord showed himself to be the Lord."
10. **02. Mankind has always struggled with a God who acts without consulting us, and who upsets our ideas of justice and fairness.**
11. **03. God is a merciful God, which means he delights in providing a solution to the needs of mankind, even for the most hardened criminals.**
12. "God's concern for the innocent is matched only by his care for the sinner. Even the querulous prayer of Cain contained a germ of entreaty; God's answering pledge ... is almost a covenant, making him Cain's protector. It is the utmost that mercy can do for the unrepentant." - *Derek Kidner*

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