

# Genesis 4:1-15 – Are All Religions Essentially the Same?

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Handfuls, Henry, Gill, INT, Whyttock, Calvin, Gill, Pulpit, Poole, PASN, Delitzsch, Geneva, JFB, Gaebelein, Trapp, Gray Beloved in Jesus: Is there really much difference between religions? Don't all religions speak of doing good things? Don't they all point people to God? Hear what the Bible says about this today.

Our headings are:

Examination of a False Religion

Exposure of a False Religion

Our goals are: That you will see clear distinctions between those who love Christ and those who don't, and that you will be moved to bring Christ's revelation to those who hate him so they can be changed from enemies to friends.

## Examination of a False Religion

1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "**I have acquired a man from the LORD.**" 2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

### 1. Eve gave birth to 2 sons, the first being Cain, and the second, Abel.

Eve expected Cain to be the Savior and this is apparent because "Cain" is better translated: "I've gotten a man—the Lord." She expected him to be the Messiah. Cain was a farmer.

Eve probably called her 2<sup>nd</sup> "son futility" Abel, because she saw Cain's wicked life and gave up on Abel being the Savior. Abel was a shepherd.

### 2. How bad was Cain? Cain was far from being the "Lord" and showed it by bringing an inappropriate offering to Yahweh.

Cain was a headstrong. He worshiped God the way he wanted. He ignored what God required. Instead of a blood sacrifice to picture Christ's coming in the future to save the world, Cain brought an offering of the Garden – fruits and vegetables. I have no doubt the fruits and vegetables were good, but they were unacceptable. It may have seemed to him to be a reasonable way to worship, but who was he to talk back to God who demanded blood for forgiveness?

3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

### 3. Cain's sin was exacerbated because he knew better but still brought a wrong offering to the Lord.

God had already given the picture of sacrifice to Adam after he sinned, so Cain knew of worship through sacrifice. The blood of a clean animal represented the coming work of the true Savior.

1John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life--

### 4. Cain's sin was even more exacerbated because it was not only was the wrong sacrifice, it came with the wrong attitude.

Cain was trying to be acceptable to God without confessing or acknowledging his guilt. Maybe his name ("the Lord") may have gotten to his head.

Proverbs 15:8 **The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,** But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

Cain's false worship was really self-worship.

Jude:1:11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. 12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit...

1John 3:11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 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. 13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

### 5. Abel's worshiped with a blood offering which was acceptable to the Lord.

Hebrews 9:22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Maybe his name "futility" reminded him of the impossibility of pleasing God by human error.

Psalms 39:5 Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. Selah

Abel saw the hopelessness of his position and knew he had to make right with God.

Hebrews 11:4 **By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain,** through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

If something were not done from faith in God, it is sin to God. Abel had faith.

5 but **He did not respect Cain and his offering.** And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 **"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."**

**6. God rejected Cain's offering, but even as he did, he encouraged Cain to doing right, and reminded him of the reward for doing so.**  
God was telling him if he came with a proper offering, that that was the only way to open the door to the repentant sinner.

**7. Instead of looking at his heart and his infidel status and seeing his sins, Cain responded to God with anger.**

Cain had the form of godliness but he was a stranger to the power of God.

**8. Lessons:**

**a. Names are not insignificant. Name your children wisely.** It is one way to teach them something all their lives. Don't name your children Busy, Apple, Orange, Blue Ivy, Dream, Stormi, or Extra. Give them good names.

**b. Worship only as God says!** The worse kind of deception the Devil uses today is to use churches **to look Christian**, but there is no true Gospel there. More, **the most dangerous religions in the world use part of the Bible and ignore the rest of it.**

**c. God doesn't want ritual worship either. He wants you to worship him the way he says...inwardly and outwardly.**

**d. If you want to live and worship the way you desire, you have made yourself God...but not the real one.**

**e. Only blood sacrifice would remove sins...the blood sacrifice of Jesus.**

## **Exposure of a False Religion**

8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain **rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.**

**1. Cain, killed his brother ...committing fratricide.**

This is one of the worst kinds of murder - to murder someone close to you whom you should love more than others.

**Cain did not want to acknowledge his sinfulness.** Malice leads to murder at the hands. He reflected his **true father**, the Devil—a murderer-enemy of God. The Devil always tried to destroy the line of promise and kill the Seed of the woman.

**Cain's love of his god – the Devil – was greater than his love for his own family member.**

**Cain hated God.** To show his hatred for God, since he could not attack God, he attacked God's son.

**2. While Cain and Abel were both covenant children and received the same privileges and opportunities, they were most dissimilar.**

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "**Where is Abel your brother?**" He said, "I do not know. Am I **my brother's keeper?**"

**3. God asked Cain the whereabouts of his brother (he knew) in order to give Cain opportunity to confess his sins. (Confrontation)**

**To show mercy, God wanted Cain to let go of the apple branches he was hanging so he could catch him. He held on!**

But Cain pled innocence. He committed a deliberate murder and covered it with a deliberate lie.

**He was the first man to question God.**

10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of **your brother's blood cries** out to Me from the ground.

11 "So now you **are cursed from the earth**, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 "When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A **fugitive and a vagabond** you shall be on the earth." 13 And Cain said to the LORD, "**My punishment is greater than I can bear!** 14 "Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; **I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth**, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me." 15 And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

**4. God told Cain what he had done to his brother and the evidence that was against him. (Conviction)**

**5. Unable to reply, Cain was condemned to even harder work, in being a fugitive (always watching over his shoulder, and in being a wandering vagabond. (Condemnation)**

Being a fugitive was a horrible punishment. And even though **Cain complained** about his sentence, **God ratified it and executed it anyway.** He should have been executed, but there was no government to do it.

**Yet there was a measure of hope for Cain.** God marked him to protect him from vigilantism. This would still give Cain a chance to repent and make things right with God.

## 6. Lessons:

**a. Expect hate.** There are many children of Satan in false religions. **If you don't experience hate, thank God.** And yet, **some people are not persecuted because they are refusing to let people know they are children of Christ by their lives and their lips.** Are you one of those?

**Luke 6:22** Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast **out your name as evil,** For the Son of Man's sake.

Jesus singled out the persecution of Abel as a prophet to warn you to watch out for persecution from people of false religions if you live a godly life.

**Matthew 23:34** "Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, 35 "that on you may come all the righteous blood **shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah,** son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

**b. Moslems may claim to be, but they are not your brothers.** They don't love your God so they would kill you in many countries (like Saudi Arabia) if you tried to evangelize or if you tried to worship Yahweh. You are called "infidels" and "dogs" in the Quran. You can't build a place to worship in many Moslem countries or even meet privately in your home. If someone were converted through your evangelism you would be executed. **Hindus aren't your brothers.** If they were, they would not try to make laws to stop you from evangelizing (like in India or Sri Lanka) or put you in prison for evangelizing (like in Nepal). A letter warning of "dangerous Christian meetings" was just sent out by the government to the police there. **Buddhists are not your brothers,** for they wouldn't threaten their own people for becoming Christians. **The government of Canada isn't your friend,** or they won't promote a bill now that will criminalize what God commands you to do. **Your God is Yahweh, theirs is the Devil.** Pray for their salvation.

**c. Covenant doesn't save.** This privilege doesn't make you a Christian. It is only by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone that saves. The **Pharisee in Luke 18, was arrogant** and boastful, but the **commoner showed his absolute need for help.** **Both were covenant children, but only one understood his need for help!** The same is true today.

**d. Expect as Cain (repeated for Israel in Canaan) if you refuse to do well, the land will spit you out.** In other words, if you live wickedly, **you will lose even the temporal blessing of God also!**

## Conclusion:

The false religion of Cain was exposed, graphically exposed. He worshiped how he wanted. He did what was easy. He did not care what God wanted. He served the Devil. All false religions are of the Devil. The true religion was grounded in faith in the coming Savior and was pictured by sacrifices of the coming Savior.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. Get a full sense of your inabilities to please God and therefore cling to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as your own. Your name should have been "Futility," but it isn't.** He gave you a new name.

**2. Live your life now as a sacrifice to the Savior. Love him and love his people.** Don't follow what other religions teach. They don't have the same God as you. Praise your God with passion, not half-baked praise. Let the world see Christ living in you.

**3. Those who live as Cain are acting like gods and will incur the wrath of God. Help save them.** Confront them so they are convicted, or they will be condemned to hell.

Finally, what is your religion? **Is it to do what you think is best?** If so, you are your **own god** and you have rejected the true God. If God were your God, you would do what pleases him. **May you come to your senses and realize there is only one God** and that you can **only begin to please him when you offer the life and death of Jesus as your own.**