

BEWARE: The Way of Cain

Jude 11

Genesis 4:1-7

1 John 3:4-12



A Letter to Saints (Jude 1)

A Serious Call (Jude 3-4)

Why So Many Warnings?

Cain, Balaam, Korah (Jude 11)

- BEWARE of **the Way** of Cain. (Genesis 4)
- BEWARE of **the Error** of Balaam. (Numbers 22-25)
- BEWARE of **the Rebellion** of Korah. (Numbers 16)

WOE! (Jude 11)

- Jude pronounces **WOE** on false teachers!
- This **WOE** is for those who listen and follow false teachers! MEDITATE!
- (Isaiah 5:20) **WOE** to those who call good evil and evil good!!
- (Isaiah 30:1) **WOE** to those who take counsel, but not from Me, and who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, that they may add sin to sin. MEDITATE!
- The Old Testament is for **OUR** learning. (Romans 15:4)
 - **WOE** unto us if we do not learn!!
 - **WOE** unto us if we ignore the consequences these three men brought upon themselves.

Two Men; Two Offerings

Cain and His Offering (Genesis 4:1-7)

- First son of Adam and Eve who had **HOPED** that this son would be the promised Messiah. (Genesis 3:15)
- He is called "**the wicked one**" in 1 John 3:12. (See Ephesians 2:1-3)
- Cain was a **religious** man.
- Cain was conscious of his duty toward God. (Genesis 4:7)
- Cain was the **first** to bring his offering.
- Cain offered his offering as an act of **worship**.

- Cain was a **hard** working man. Cain brought the fruit of **his** labor.
- Cain committed the same offense as his parents: **UNBELIEF**.

Abel's Offering

- Abel brought his offering unto the Lord in **faith**. Faith comes from hearing and doing the Word of God. (Hebrews 11:4; Romans 10:17)
- Abel not only heard the Word of God but he also did the Word of God. (James 1:22)
- Abel brought the "**firstling**" (the firstborn) of his flock.
- Abel brought unto the Lord a **gift** from God.
- Abel brought an **innocent substitute**.
- Abel knew that **blood** had to be shed. (See Hebrews 9:22)
- Abel put **BLOOD** between himself and God.
- God found Abel's offering **acceptable**.

The Way of Cain

- Cain's way is the way of **UNBELIEF**, while Abel's way is the way of **FAITH**.
- Cain's way is the way of one's own **WORKS** in believing one can please God by what they do; while Abel's way is **TRUSTING** in the works of Christ.
- Cain's way is **WITHOUT BLOOD**, while Abel's way is **WITH BLOOD**.
- Cain substituted his **opinion** for the **TRUTH**. He established his own righteousness. He did what was right in his own eyes - not God's sight. (Rom 10:2-3; John 17:17; 8:32; Psalm 119:142, 151, 160; Proverbs 12:15; 14:12)
- ★ THIS IS THE WAY OF **ALL** RELIGIONS. MAN REFUSES TO SUBMIT TO THE REVEALED WILL OF GOD AND APPROACHES GOD AS HE PLEASES!
- Though his offering was **sincere** God found Cain's offering **unacceptable**. Cain's offering did not please God. God **rejected** Cain's offering and Cain! (Genesis 4:5)
- Cain refused to **submit** to God's way. This is **pride**. (Genesis 4:7)
- Cain was **cursed** by God and went out from the presence of God. (Gen 4:11)

The Way of Abel (Hebrews 11:4)

- FAITH must have a foundation to rest on.
- FAITH comes from hearing the Word of God. (Romans 10:17)
- FAITH presupposes divine revelation.
- There are two kinds of hearing . . .
 - ① An outward hearing - which simply informs.
 - ② An inward hearing - which transforms!
- There are two kinds of faith . . . ➤ **WARNING:** Acts 16:31
 - ① **Superficial Faith:** An acceptance of mere facts.
 - ✗ The devil believes a lot of FACTS about God and Christ. (James 2:19)

✘ **MANY** “sincere believers” will be cast into hell believing facts about Christ. (Matthew 7:21-23)

- ② **Real Faith:** Something that “**works**” - **OBEYS** (James 2:14-26). It changes the mind and heart, and therefore, the will.
- ✓ Biblical faith motivates to live according to God’s ways!
 - ✓ Biblical faith causes one to say, “NO” to ungodliness. (Titus 2:12)
 - ✓ Biblical faith causes one to REPENT! (Luke 13:1-5; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 24:47; Proverbs 28:13)
 - ✓ Biblical faith justifies! (Romans 5:1)
 - ✓ Biblical faith purifies the heart. (Acts 15:9)
 - ✓ Biblical faith works by love. (Galatians 5:16)
 - ✓ Biblical faith overcomes the world with its temptations and lies. (1John 5:4)
- Faith is a **GIFT** of **GRACE** from God. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - Faith **motivates** me to **live** in accordance with God’s ways. (Hebrews 11)
- We can conclude two things by Abel offering his offering and God accepting his offering:
- ① God revealed His will.
 - ② Abel acted on that will. (See Matthew 7:21; James 2:14-26)

Abel Was Assured by God (Hebrews 11:4)

- God gave witness; God testified; God gave the report that Abel was righteous.
- Those who HEAR God and ACT faithfully according to His precepts (His Law) can have the assurance that they are righteous in the sight of God. (1 John 2:28-3:10) **THERE IS NO ASSURANCE FOR THOSE WHO DISOBEY.**
- God honors those who honor Him! (1 Samuel 2:30)
- There is a **GREAT REWARD** in keeping God’s commandments/word/precepts. (Psalm 19:11; Proverbs 28:19; Hebrews 11:6)

What Must We Do - AVOID Cain’s Way

- ① Cain’s way is without the CROSS - BLOOD!
- ② Cain’s way is the foolish thinking that I can please God with my works.
- ③ Cain’s way is a sincere way but a wrong way.
- ④ Cain’s way is approaching God as I want, not as He has commanded.
- ⑤ Cain’s way is the way of SELF-WILL.
- ⑥ Cain’s way leads to ENVY, HATRED, and MURDER. (1 John 3:12)
✘ Cain was of the wicked One! (John 8:44; 1 John 3:10)
- ⑦ Cain’s way is one of UNBELIEF in the **written** Word of God - in God Himself. (2 Samuel 12:9-10)
✘ Disobedience to God’s Word is UNBELIEF that God is God!

What We Must Do – Follow Abel's Way

- ① Abel heard the Word and DID IT. (James 1:22)
- ② Abel's way is the way of FAITH! Faith **always** works/obeys. (James 2:14-26)
- ③ Faith **submits** to and does the will of God. (Matthew 7:21; 12:50; Luke 11:28; 1 Peter 4:2)
- ④ Abel's way was to approach God in worship God's way - not tradition, imaginations, good ideas, etc. He approached God and worshiped God "in spirit and truth". (John 4:23-24)
- ⑤ Abel's faith says, "Not my will but Yours will be done."
- ⑥ Cain's way is the way of **RELIGION**, while Abel's way is an **INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP** with God through Jesus Christ.

What We Must Do - Follow Christ's Example

- Christ came to do the WILL of the FATHER – NOT His own. (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; Philippians 2:5-8)
 - ✘ Christ LIVED to DIE on the Cross for others because it was the will of the Father. (John 10; Psalm 40:6-8; Hebrews 10:5-6)
- Christ PLEASED God in **all** that He did. (Romans 15:3; John 8:29)
- Christ's way is the way of BELIEF (believing, trusting, obedience, doing) the Word of God - in God Himself.

"The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned. The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away. I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. **For the Lord GOD will help Me**; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed. **He is near who justifies Me**; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me. **Surely the Lord GOD will help Me**; Who is he who will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up.
(Isaiah 50:4-9; see also Isaiah 42:1)

- God commands us to walk/live in HIS ways - NOT ours. (Deuteronomy 10:12-14; Joshua 22:5)

**THOSE WHO BELIEVE OBEY.
THOSE WHO OBEY BELIEVE.
THOSE WHO DO NOT OBEY DO NOT BELIEVE.
DO YOU BELIEVE?**