

ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 1 | LESSON 05a

The Pentateuch – The Promise Given Through the Royal Gift Covenant

God is a PROMISE Making God




God 1) **CREATES** a place where 2) He will **MEET** with his People 3) for their **JOY**. 4) His People reject Him. 5) God binds Himself through **PROMISE (i.e. The Royal Gift Covenant)** to 6) **RESCUE** His people from their sin and 7) **RESTORE** them to Himself for their **JOY**.

“Cain and Abel”

The Promise Pictured and a Counterfeit Gospel

Genesis 4:1-16, 25-26

Gen. 4:25 And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, “God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.”

	<p>THE HEAD - To Know how the promise of God in Genesis 3:15 and 21 is always under assault by the Devil. Q – After looking at this Lesson, “Has anything changed concerning your thinking?” What do you now know that you might not have known?</p>
	<p>THE HEART - To Choose the biblical record as to these two competing forces. Q – How does knowing this shape our understanding of God’s Word?</p>
	<p>THE HAND - To Pray we will accept this cosmic tension and believe in the SEED PROMISE and BLOOD PICTURE. Q – How does this affect how you view the world around us?</p>

EMPHASIS

In chapters 1 and 2, we learned how Adam and Eve were the pinnacle of God’s good earth. In chapter 3, Adam and Eve reject God’s invitation for joy and separate themselves from God through their rebellion. Now, in chapters 4 and following, we will learn of sin’s catastrophic impact on Adam and Eve’s descendants, the insidious attack against the SEED PROMISE by the Serpent, and God’s faithfulness to fulfill His promise to the Serpent, to Adam, and to Eve.

The serpent’s seed would assault the woman’s seed in order to stop the promise of God. This pattern of assault tracks through the entire Bible.

The sin of Adam and Eve impacted their entire offspring. All of their children are destroyed by sin resulting in death. In the following lessons, we will read of sin’s devastating consequences to Adam and Eve and their offspring.

In this initial story following the events of Chapter 3, Cain and Abel are invited by God to bring an offering of worship. Cain's offering represents "works righteousness" and Abel's offering represents "the fruit of the Spirit." Cain's offering rejects God's SEED PROMISE and BLOOD PICTURE.

As we can see, Abel and Seth are children of promise (Gen. 3:15). Cain is of the serpent's seed and his killing of Abel is an attack by the serpent against the SEED Promise and BLOOD Picture.

God is making good on His promises to provide a SEED that will save His people from sin and death and restore them to joy. The offerings brought by the brothers represent the BLOOD Picture.

Sin spreads throughout the hearts and actions of His people.

Cain kills his brother Abel. The human heart is wicked and sin is destructive. Only God can save us from sin and death. Cain did not believe the promise and the picture. Abel did.

1. In this *Story*, we see the continuing of some to solve their own sin problem. It began with Adam and Eve attempting to cloth themselves and it continued with the offering brought by Cain. His offering illustrates "work's righteousness."
2. Abel believed God's promise and trusted in God's picture. His offering was a result of faith.
3. Cain's offering was the work of the flesh, whereas Abel's was the fruit of the Spirit.
4. Any who would abide in God's presence for joy must come to Him along His pathway. All who refuse to listen to God will perish and be removed from God's presence.

LITERARY CONTEXT

In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve sin and thrust all of humanity under a curse of death. Yet, God makes a promise that one will come to redeem humanity from this curse (i.e. the Seed Promise found in 3:15) and then demonstrates that this will require a blood sacrifice (i.e. the Seed Picture found in 3:21).

What follows are three pictures of Satan's attempts to thwart God's promise. The Seed Promise comes under assault:

- **Genesis 4: Cain and Abel – The promise pictured and a Counterfeit Gospel**
- Genesis 6-9: The Flood – The promise preserved and a Counterfeit Seed
- Genesis 11: Tower of Babel – The promise protected and a Counterfeit Garden

In Chapter 12, God's plan is narrowed to Abraham and his seed.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Did this story actually happen? Although we do not wish to get ahead of ourselves, the New Testament does cite this event in several passages (Matt. 23:35; Luke 11:51; Heb. 11:4; 12:4; 1 John 3:12; Jude 11).

- Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.
- 1 John 3:12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.
- Jude 1:11 Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

BIBLICAL CONTEXT

Cain's name only occurs in Genesis 4. Beyond this event, he is not mentioned in the Old Testament. As noted above, he is mentioned three times in the New Testament.

Like Cain, Abel is only mentioned in Genesis 4. There is, however, a town called "Abel" in 2 Samuel (20:14, 15, 18).

The blood or death of Abel is mentioned in Matthew 23:35 (Luke 11:51), Hebrews 11:4 and 12:24.

STRUCTURE

There are four points we will note in our current study.

- I. Cain refused to listen to God and sought his own ways (Gen. 4:3-5).
- II. Abel listened, obeyed God's **Seed Promise**, and carried out the **Blood Picture** (Gen. 4:4, 5).
- III. The Serpent seeks to stop God's PROMISE by killing Abel (Gen. 4)

A. Sin begins in the heart (Gen. 4)

- Gen. 4:5-7
⁵ but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very **angry** and his **countenance** fell. ⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you **angry**? And why has your **countenance** fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will not your **countenance** be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

B. Sin ends in our hands (Gen. 4)

- Gen. 4:8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that **Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.**

IV. God preserves His PROMISE through the birth of SETH (Gen. 4:25, 26)

- Gen. 4:25, 26

²⁵ Adam had relations with his wife again; and she gave birth to a son, and named him **Seth**, for, she said, "God has appointed me another offspring in place of Abel, for Cain killed him."

²⁶ To **Seth**, to him also a son was born; and he called his name Enosh. Then men began to call upon the name of the LORD.

JESUS IN THE TEXT

In recording the genealogy of Jesus, Luke traces Jesus back to and through the son of Adam, Seth (Luke 3:38).

The author of Hebrews speaks of Jesus as a mediator of a new covenant through blood as better than the blood of Abel (Heb. 12:24). This comment suggests Abel was functioning in some kind of mediatorial role or that his blood offering although forming an atonement for him is only a shadow of good things to come.

"God accepted Abel's sacrifice, and, was well pleased with it; for Abel was a righteous man, and offered his sacrifice by faith in the great promise. But the blood of Christ's sacrifice was infinitely more precious than the blood of Abel's sacrifice, as Jesus is infinitely greater than Abel; and the blood of Christ avails for the sins of the whole world, whereas the blood of Abel's sacrifice could avail only for himself." (*Adam Clarke's Commentary on Hebrews 12:24*).

It is evident how the story of Cain and Abel represent the cosmic conflict between the Seed of the Woman and that of the Serpent. God is faithful to fulfill all He promised in a Seed and a Sacrifice and the serpent is determined to stop the promise from being fulfilled.

APPLICATION

To know God is to believe God and to obey God. Abel believed God and Cain did not. It is for this reason that Cain killed his brother Abel. God is always going to keep His word to provide a SEED that will save His people from sin and death and for joy and glory. Seth is the godly line that will call upon the name of the LORD (4:26).

One of the ways God protects His promise to His people is in community, in family. The church is a family where we find encouragement and help against the serpent's daily assault. You and I need to go to church so that we might enjoy the presence of God in the people of God.

VISUALS

MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 4:25

And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him."

RESOURCES