



Abel Still Speaks Today **Genesis 4:1-16**

If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it (Genesis 4:7—ESV).

From what we know about the love and grace of God from the whole Bible, we know that God did the best that could be done after Adam and Eve rebelled against God. God provided them with the best clothes possible, probably the soft hide of a lamb. The lamb had to die, which pointed toward the future coming of the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Most probably, Adam and Eve taught their children how to make the right sacrifices for their sins. Instead of making the right sacrifice with a right attitude, Cain sacrificed what was convenient for him—some of his crops. On the other hand, Abel sacrificed one of his firstborn animals, probably the blood of a lamb. God properly acknowledged Abel's sacrifice because Abel obeyed God. When Cain became angry, God did not condemn him. God graciously warned him that his anger could lead him to sin. God told Cain if he did well his future sacrifices would be accepted, but Cain did not heed God's warning. With the coming of Jesus Christ, we know that none of our sacrifices are sufficient to take away our guilt and sin. Only the sacrifice of the Lamb of God on the cross can take away our sins when we receive Jesus and believe in His Name and become children of God (John 1:12). As children of God, we love Jesus and obey His commandments (John 14:15). Rather than obey God, Cain killed his brother. In grace, God did not kill Cain, but gave Cain the opportunity to repent by sending him away to the land of Nod where he would need to hunt to eat and might learn to depend on God daily. We do not learn if Cain repented, but we do learn, "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. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks" (Hebrews 11:4).