

TWO BROTHERS, TWO OFFERINGS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

AUDIO

VÍDEO

sc.

01

Cain and Abel represent two classes of professed believers in God who will exist until the end of time. Both learned directly from their parents that the slain lamb symbolized Christ, God's means of saving humanity. They also learned that they should express their faith in the coming Savior through the system of offerings specified by God. But their reaction to this learning was completely opposite.

sc.

02

Abel saw justice and mercy in the fact that, after their fall, God removed his parents from the Garden of Eden. "Even though they were promised death, they were only removed from the garden and were promised a Savior," he thought! In contrast, Cain thought, "Why was God so harsh and strict, removing my family from the Garden of Eden just because of a small failure?" He believed he would have handled his parents' sin differently. His distrust of God's goodness led him to resentment and rebellion.

sc.

03

His rebellious spirit manifested when he brought his offering to the Lord according to his preference and not God's specifications. Instead of bringing a firstborn of his flock, symbolizing Christ and His death for sinners, He brought what he thought to be a better, cleaner sacrifice, avoiding that repugnant blood.

AUDIO

sc. **04** By doing this, he failed to recognize himself as a sinner in need of a dying Savior. He also failed to see that God's primary interest with that offering was to cleanse the offerer. Consequently, the Lord "did not respect Cain and his offering. (Genesis 4:4)."

sc. **05** On the other hand, the Bible says that "the Lord respected Abel and his offering." The fire descending upon Abel's sacrifice was God's way of saying, "Yes, I accept you. You are forgiven."

sc. **06** This biblical account clearly states that the Lord only accepts an offering after the giver acknowledges God's sovereignty over their lives. An offering, then, becomes a spontaneous, voluntary act of worship that expresses gratitude and allegiance to God.

sc. **07** Those who have surrendered themselves to God no longer need any call or pressure to give offerings. Instead, they will see God's call to honor Him with their tithes and Promise offerings in each financial blessing or income.

sc. **08** As we return the Tithe and Promise offering, may we put our desires last and God first.