

A cosmic background featuring a view of Earth from space, showing the horizon and clouds. The Moon is visible in the upper center, and the Milky Way galaxy is visible in the upper left. The sky is a deep blue and purple.

THE BOOK OF **GENESIS**

RELIGION BEGINS

GENESIS 4:1-5

God desires a relationship by faith resulting in grace, not through religion by works.

He asks us to “trust Him”—you can’t earn His love; it is a free gift. **EPH. 2:8-9; GAL. 3:16; HEB. 11:6**

- The battle of the “Two Seeds”—the difference between religion and relationship.
- Guilt and shame produces the works of religious activity!
- Relationship by grace produces worship!

TWO MEN, TWO ROADS

- 1.** Abel represents that which is acceptable: ***RELATIONSHIP*** by grace through faith—the innocent blood.
- 2.** Cain represents that which is not: ***RELIGION***—works of the flesh, the beautiful but carnal attempt to cover.

This great twofold division of humanity is perfectly illustrated in the first two sons of Adam.

TWO BEAUTIFUL BOYS— SINNERS IN NEED OF A SAVIOR

When Cain was born, Eve exclaimed: “*I have gotten a man from the Lord,*” the blessing of children.

- The farmer “*was of that wicked one,*” (**1 JOHN 3:12**) and thus was the first in the long line of the serpent’s seed—the **Flesh**.
- Abel the shepherd is the very first person mentioned in the long line of men of faith recorded in **HEBREWS 11**—the **Spirit**.

DOING THINGS GOD'S WAY

The offerings described in these verses were not the first ones offered by these two brothers, and Cain had done it right at first!

- It seems likely that God gave instructions, and that Cain was now disobeying them.
- **Cain's heart was not right before the Lord**, and his offering was not in faith as was his brother's; it was works-religion and flesh.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY vs. REAL WORSHIP

GENESIS 4:4 describes the first worship service and God's acceptance of a sacrifice in worship. It also records man trying to please God with flesh!

- God accepted Abel's offering: the blood of a lamb.
- But God rejected Cain's: beautiful religious service.
- The only way for a sinner to approach a Holy God is through shed blood. **HEB. 9:22, 11:4, 12:24**

JESUS WAS THE FINAL SACRIFICE

Praise God that today it is not the blood of lambs, bulls and goats, but the sinless Lamb of God that washes away the stain of sin! **1 PETER 1:18-21;**
2 COR. 5:20-21

- True worship demands the approach based upon sacrifice.
- We can never come to God to worship save by way of the Cross—our only covering is Jesus!